VTrans Better Roads Program Officially Open!

For the 20th year in a row, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has made funding available for the Better Roads Program. This program provides technical assistance and funding to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while enhancing and protecting water quality around the state. Four different categories of grants are available:

**Category A.** Planning grants to conduct an inventory of roads and/or culverts and identification of road-related erosion and/or stormwater problems affecting water quality. Sites identified must be prioritized for future repair with a budget plan to correct these problems over a period of time.

*Maximum award: $8,000.*
*Local match required: $2,000 or 20% of total project cost.*

**Category B.** Correction of a Road-Related Erosion Problem and/or Stormwater Mitigation/Retrofit for both gravel and paved roads. Examples include stone- or grass-lined ditches, road drainage turnouts, stone check dams, splash pools, catch basins, and Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) management practices.

*Maximum award: $20,000.*
*Local match required: $5,000 or 20% of total project cost.*

**Category C.** Correction of a slope-related road erosion problem. Examples include stream bank stabilization, lake shore stabilization, retaining walls, or road bank stabilization.

*Maximum award: $40,000.*
*Local match required: $10,000 or 20% of total project cost.*

**Category D.** Structure/culvert upgrades. Eligible projects include repair, replacement or upgrade of an existing large structure or culvert, or replacement of a series of smaller culverts.

*Maximum award: $40,000.*
*Local match required: $10,000 or 20% of total project cost.*

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**Commission Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Full Commission Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>TAC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>ACSWMD Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting</td>
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Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.

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*This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.*
Grants, Workshops & Other Opportunities

The deadline to submit a grant application is Friday, March 17, 2017. Download a grant applications from the VTrans website here: http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads.

New to the program this year is an additional technician and regionalization of program assistance. Linda Blasch, who was the Better Backroads Technician at the Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council from 2005-2010, will be the contact for municipalities in VTrans districts 1, 3, 5, and 8; and Alan May will be the contact for municipalities in districts 2, 4, 7 and 9. However, both Linda and Alan will cross lines to help ensure that all towns can get the help they need.

During February and March, the Better Roads Program will be hosting workshops around the state for towns to learn more about grant funding opportunities and the Better Roads grant application process. Details and locations are on the Better Roads website, (http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads).

For more information, questions, or help with Better Roads grants, please contact Linda Blasch (802-498-7216 or linda.blasch@vermont.gov) or Alan May (802-828-4595 or alan.may@vermont.gov).

You may also contact Josh at ACRPC with any questions or to request assistance with an application at 388-3141 or jdonabed@acrpc.org.

Downtown Transportation Fund

The application deadline for the next round of Downtown Transportation Fund grants is March 6, 2017. This year, $335,000 is available to designated downtowns with a maximum award of $100,000 per community.

The program funds streetscape improvements, bicycle and pedestrian projects, electric vehicle charging stations, transit facilities, utility relocation, way-finding signage, street lighting and ADA access improvements. For more information about the Downtown Transportation Fund, including program description, application guidelines, and examples of past successful projects, please visit here: http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/downtown-transportation-fund.

Town Plans That Matter

Join the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development for a webinar on Wednesday, February 15 at 12:15 pm and check out the Vermont Planning Manual for advice on crafting a plan that drives town decisions towards achieving goals, from safe and walkable neighborhoods to protecting forest blocks and revitalizing villages. For specific guidance on plans that can influence Section 248 permitting for energy generation facilities, see the Department of Public Service website (http://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/act-174-recommendations-and-determination-standards) and participate in your Regional Planning Commission trainings (http://vapda.org/Publications.html).

You may register for the webinar here: http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant/training.


Agency of Commerce & Community Development Resources


Municipal Planning Database: http://planningatlasdatabase.vermont.gov/Resources/Show-Resources-Table.aspx
Grants, Workshops & Other Opportunities

Training Opportunities & Conferences: http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/events

Funding Opportunities: http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding

Aquatic Nuisance Grant Program
~ Last Call! ~

The Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-aid grants program is now accepting applications for project year 2017 projects addressing aquatic invasive and nuisance species. The applications are due no later than Wednesday, February 8th, 2017. These grants provide financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic invasive and nuisance plant and animal management programs – control, spread prevention, and educational projects. Funding for Grant-in-aid Grants comes from a portion of annual revenues from state motorboat registration fees and often federal funds. For the 2017 program, an estimated $500,000 is available.

For a project to be considered for funds in 2017, a completed application package should be submitted in electronic format (PDF preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to David Pasco (david.pasco@vermont.gov) by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

The 2017 application and instructions are available on line at: http://www.dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/aquatic-invasives/funding. To request an application or for further information, you may also contact Ann Bove directly at 802.490.6120.

2017 Addison County Legislative Breakfast Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Town</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Grange Hall</td>
<td>Bridport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>American Legion</td>
<td>Middlebury</td>
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<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>King Street, Vergennes</td>
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<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Whiting</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>American Legion</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Pratt Memorial Library (279 Main St.)</td>
<td>Shoreham</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td><strong>Governor’s Breakfast</strong></td>
<td>Middlebury</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>Congregational Church</td>
<td>Maple Street, Salisbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td><strong>Ag Lunch</strong></td>
<td>Bridport</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Congregational Church</td>
<td>Weybridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>American Legion</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Parish Hall</td>
<td>King Street, Vergennes</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Grange Hall</td>
<td>Bridport</td>
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- All events are sponsored by Bridport Grange #303 and Addison County Farm Bureau, with support from the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and Addison County RPC
- All breakfasts start at 7:00am, with programs running 7:30 - 8:45am
- Luncheons will run from 12:00 - 1:45pm
- Purchase of breakfast is not required to attend, but helps to defray costs incurred by event event hosts
Give your HOME some love this February

Looking for some Valentine’s Day ideas?
Have a drafty home?
Live in Addison County?

Call HEAT Squad today to heat up your February with a HALF OFF Energy Audit - JUST $75!

Let HEAT Squad help you fall in love with your home all over again, and learn how to receive up to $2,500 in rebates from Efficiency Vermont for energy efficiency upgrades. Mention this ad when calling. Valid for Addison County homeowners only when scheduled between February 14th-28th, 2017.

heatsquad.org    (802) 797-8604