

ACRPC

update February 2018

Downtown Transportation Fund & Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Grants

The Department of Housing and Community Development is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$335,000 in Downtown Transportation Fund Grants (DTF) to support revitalization efforts in Designated Downtowns and approximately \$20,000 in Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment funding to support DC fast charge and Level 2 charging stations on publicly owned property in both Designated Downtowns and Designated Village Centers.

The Downtown Transportation Fund is a financing tool which assists municipalities in paying for transportation-related capital improvements within or serving a Designated Downtown. Past projects include streetscape improvements, bicycle & pedestrian amenities, utility relocation, street lighting, way-finding signage and other transportation related projects. Investment in the infrastructure of public spaces stimulates public investment and creates a sense of identity and pride in downtowns across Vermont. Since its inception in 1999 the program has awarded over \$10 million for 116 capital improvement projects in 22 designated downtown communities leveraging \$48 million in investments.

Commission Calendar

January 2018

14	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting
15	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
21	6:30pm	TAC Meeting
28	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.

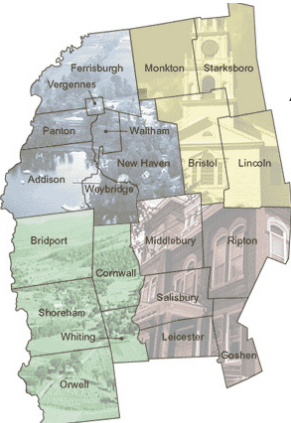
Grant applications for both Downtown Transportation Grants and Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment grants are due March 19, 2018.

See the 2018 Downtown Transportation Fund Grant Program Description for eligibility, funding and application requirements. Any municipality with a Designated Downtown may apply for funding and must be submitted by the municipality. The maximum grant amount is \$100,000 in any fiscal year. Grant funds may not exceed 50% of the overall project and a 50% match is required. Projects must demonstrate the ability to start the project within 18 months and be completed within 30 months.

Here are a few changes to the Downtown Transportation Fund Grant:

- Municipalities with two or more active Downtown Transportation Fund Grants will be ineligible to receive funding.
- Projects that have been identified, described, and

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.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

Local Events

well supported through a downtown area master planning process such as Better Connections or other planning process focused on the downtown, will receive an additional bonus point.

- 2017 Downtown Reinvestment Statistics must be submitted prior to grant application deadline to be eligible.
- In FY19, \$200,000 in clean water funding from Agency of Natural Resources may be available to Downtown Transportation Fund within or serving a designated downtown for projects that help control flooding, reduces erosion, and improves water quality. Funding is pending approval by the legislature.

See the attached 2018 Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Grant Guidance Document for eligibility, funding and application requirements. Any municipality with a Designated Downtown or Designated Village Center may apply for funding and must be submitted by the municipality. The maximum grant amount is \$20,885. Grant funds may not exceed 75% of the overall project and a 25% match is required.

Please contact Gary Holloway, the Downtown Program Coordinator, if you have questions or need assistance with the Downtown Transportation Fund or Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment grant application. He can be reach at 802-828-3220 or gary.holloway@vermont.gov.

Vermont Climate Action Communities ~February 15th Informational Workshop~

Town energy committees are invited to attend an informational workshop on Vermont Climate Action Communities (VCAC). The workshop is being held as part of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Local Government Day on February 15th. VCAC is designed to engage Vermont municipalities to make and fulfill commitments under the Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition – a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions levels from 2005 by 26-28% by 2025. Under the program, municipalities are encouraged to achieve deep energy efficiency savings, reduce local

emissions, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and provide locally supported renewable energy generation for municipalities and the communities they serve. The workshop will include an overview on how municipalities can participate, along with presentations from municipalities who are implementing creative solutions.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, February 15th from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. Click here to register for the workshop: <https://www.vlct.org/mac-workshop-registration>.

Questions: feel free to contact Lisa Goodell, VLCT at (802) 229-9111 or info@vlct.org.

2018 Addison County Legislative Breakfast Schedule

- Feb. 12th – Grange Hall (82 Post Office Hill Rd.), Granville
- Feb 26th – Parish Hall, Vergennes
- Mar. 5th – Town Meeting Day, No Breakfast
- Mar. 12th – Fire House, Orwell
- Mar. 19th – Platt Memorial Library (279 Main St.), Shoreham
- Mar. 26th – American Legion, Middlebury ~ Governor's Breakfast
- Apr. 2nd – Congregational Church (Maple St.), Salisbury
- Apr. 9th – Ag Lunch, Grange Hall, Bridport
- Apr. 16th – Congregational Church, Weybridge
- Apr. 23rd – Congregational Church, New Haven
- Apr. 30th – Town Hall, Whiting
- June 4th – Grange hall, Bridport

All breakfasts begin at 7:00am, with program running from 7:30 - 8:45am. Luncheons begin at 12:00pm and end at 1:45pm.

Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps our hosts to defray the cost of opening their hall. Sponsored by Bridport Grange #303 and Addison County Farm Bureau; Supported by Addison County Chamber of Commerce and ACRPC.

Funding Opportunities

Drinking Water & Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Priority Applications Are Due February 16th

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

The (DWSRF) provides low interest loans to municipalities and privately-owned public water systems for planning, final design and construction of water system improvements that protect public health and facilitate compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Drinking Water Project Priority List (PPL) is adopted each year to identify drinking water projects qualifying for available funding through the DWSRF Program. All projects seeking funding for construction for the Summer 2019 construction season must be on the adopted priority list to receive funding. Applying to be on the priority list is not applying for a loan and does not guarantee a loan. The priority list application is to be filled out annually and once completed, emailed to anr.dwsrfplist@vermont.gov. Applications are due by Friday February 16, 2018.

The remaining schedule for the Federal FY18 Capitalization Grant award process is as follows:

- 2/16/2018 - Priority List Application Deadline
- 3/2/2018 - Draft Intended Use Plan (IUP) available and distributed
- 4/5/2018 - Public Hearing at National Life Building, Montpelier, The Montpelier Room, Davis B, time 9:30AM until 12 Noon
- 4/20/2018 - Public Comment Period Ends
- 5/4/2018 - Final IUP and Project Priority List
- 10/1/2018 - Funding Available for Projects

It is strongly recommended that any project anticipating construction during the FY18 PPL funding cycle apply for a Planning Loan to ensure readiness-to-proceed criteria is met.

If you have questions regarding the project priority list application or have general loan program questions, please contact Ashley Lucht at 802-585-4904 or by ashley.lucht@vermont.gov.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Similar to the DWSRF, a Priority List Application must be completed for each existing and new project each year. The completed applications must be submitted via email to ANR.CWSRFplist@vermont.gov.

The CWSRF provides low interest loans to municipalities for planning, final design and construction of wastewater and stormwater system improvements that protect public health and the environment. All projects seeking funding for construction from 10/1/2018 through 10/1/2020 must be on the adopted priority list in order to receive funding. Applying to be on the priority list is not applying for a loan and does not guarantee a loan.

The timeline for this year's priority list is:

- 2/16/2018 - Priority List Application Deadline
- 3/2/2018 - Draft Intended Use Plan (IUP) available and distributed
- 4/5/2018 - Public Hearing at National Life Building, Montpelier, The Montpelier Room, Davis Building Basement (D026), 10AM to Noon
- 4/20/2018 - Public Comment Period Ends
- 5/4/2018 - Final IUP and Project Priority List
- 7/1/2018 - Funding Available for Projects

Example Clean Water projects include wastewater collection system and treatment facility construction, upgrade, or refurbishment projects; combined sewer overflow (CSO) elimination; stormwater treatment; water and energy efficiency or environmental innovation; and community decentralized wastewater disposal systems.

If you have questions regarding the draft IUP or have general loan program questions, please contact Tom Brown at thomas.brown@vermont.gov or by phone at (802) 622-4205.

2018 Tiny Grant Program

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is seeking applications for its 2018 Tiny Grant program. The objective of the grants is to provide seed money and/or matching funds for specific conservation projects at the local level.

“Throughout the years, AVCC’s Tiny Grant Program has supported small projects that have had big impacts for local communities,” said Nancy Jones, AVCC Board Secretary. “Conservation commissions and other volunteer groups spend countless hours working to safeguard our natural resources each year and we’re thrilled to be able to support these efforts each year through the Tiny Grants Program.”

Last year, AVCC awarded grants to groups in Bethel, Bolton, Burke, Johnson, Putney, and Warren. Projects included developing a forest management plan, constructing bat houses, a community climate change presentation, printing trail maps, and marking wildlife corridors.

Individual grants are available in the range of \$250-\$600. Applications are due April 13, 2018 and awards will be announced May 4, 2018. Projects must be completed and a final report submitted by May 4, 2019. Extensions may be considered.

Conservation Commissions and groups working to become conservation commissions are eligible. Groups must also be members of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. To become an AVCC member, read more and apply online at <http://vtconservation.com/join-us/>. For more information about the grants and an application visit <http://vtconservation.com/tiny-grants/> or email vtconservation@gmail.com.

Conservation Commissions are non-regulatory bodies designed to advise planning commissions and select boards on natural resources issues. Often these commissions get involved in natural resource inventories and land management of town-owned lands as well as many other types of projects.

Local Agency Training and Technical Assistance Needs Assessment

The Federal Highway Administration, Center for Local Aid Support, invites you to participate in a Local Agency Training and Technical Assistance Needs Assessment. Local agencies own seventy-six percent of the U.S. road network. In this ownership role, many face challenges in maintaining and operating their network, including the need to find and retain a skilled workforce. For agencies with limited budgets, looming retirements, and the need to stay current and embrace new construction technologies, it may be difficult to maintain a skilled workforce.

Over 35 years ago, Congress recognized the challenges of Local Public Agencies (LPA) and the need to provide access to surface transportation technology, technical assistance and training. As a result, Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) centers have been established in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. FHWA is currently revisiting its strategic plan for this program. The strategic plan describes general and long-term goals the program aims to achieve, what actions FHWA and the LTAP Centers will take to realize those goals, how to deal with challenges and risks that may hinder achieving results.

Key to setting goals in the new strategic plan will be your input on your workforce needs. We appreciate your taking the time to complete the following survey. The survey results will be a foundational document that informs the new strategic plan. It will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete the needs assessment. Responses are voluntary and confidential, and will not be identified by individual. If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Andy Byra at Andy.Byra@dot.gov or by phone at (720) 963-3522.

Leftovers...

~ Webinar Series

Implementing Act 171: Land Use Planning To Address Forest Fragmentation

Beginning in 2018, Vermont's Act 171 requires that municipalities and regions that are updating their municipal and regional plans identify areas that are important as "forest blocks" and "habitat connectors" and plan for development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation. As town and regional plans come up for revision, many communities are now attempting to create the required maps and write appropriate language. This webinar will provide background, tools, and samples for this implementation process.

What will be covered:

- What Act 171 requires of towns and regional planning commissions
- Sample town and regional plan language
- Guidance on finding, interpreting, and creating the required maps using the VT Agency of Natural Resources' BioFinder website
- Case studies of policies that maintain and protect forests and connectivity

There will also be time to respond to questions. The panel of presenters includes: Jens Hilke or Monica Przyperhart, VT Fish & Wildlife; Jamey Fidel, VT Natural Resources Council; Clare Rock, Central VT RPC.

The webinar will be offered on the following dates and times:

- February 12, 2017, 2-3:30pm
- March 1, 2018, noon – 1:30 pm

To register please visit: <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/events/list>.

Save the Date!

2018 Vermont Walk/Bike Summit

In partnership with Vermont Agency of Transportation, and a number of other participating organizations

and sponsors, the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee and Southern Windsor Regional Planning Commissions will host the 2018 statewide Vermont Walk/Bike Summit on May 4th in White River Junction.

The Vermont Walk/Bike Summit is an excellent opportunity to connect with community members, employers, planners and researchers from throughout the state for in-depth sharing on current efforts, new ideas, and networking to advance more livable communities.

This year's Summit will include interactive mobile workshops, peer exchanges, a highly-acclaimed keynote, and a variety of dynamic presentations and topics including advocacy and education, public safety, economic development, and the built environment. For further information about the event visit here: <https://vtwalkbikesummit.com/>.

2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP), along with our co-host, Vermont State Parks, is pleased to announce the 2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference that will be held in Burlington, Vermont, on April 23 through 26, 2018. This four day event brings together 250+ Outdoor Recreation Professionals for: Learning, Networking, Celebrating and Mentoring. This year's conference theme, "Building Resilient Communities, Environments, and Economies" focuses on demonstrating the tangible ways that connecting people with the outdoors improves public health, reinvigorates local economies, and instills a life-long commitment to the environment.

The best way to stay informed is to visit the 2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference website, where you can also sign up for the mailing list: <https://www.2018norc.org/>. You can also connect via Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1481366641928732/>.

AICP Credits will be offered.