

ACRPC

update

January 2016

2015 Year in Review

Happy New Year from ACRPC! We are very excited about the year ahead, but first let's take a look back at some highlights from 2015:

Two Bridge Replacements

- **Bristol** Bridge 6 on Route 116 over Little Notch Creek; 27-day bridge closure period utilizing Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) methods.
- **Lincoln** Bridge 19 (Truchon Bridge) on East River Road over New Haven River; 50-day bridge closure period utilizing ABC methods.



Truchon Bridge Before Construction - April 2015

Commission Calendar

January 2016

13	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
20	7:00pm	TAC Meeting
21	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
27	6:30pm	Executive Board Meeting

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



Truchon Bridge After Construction - September 2015

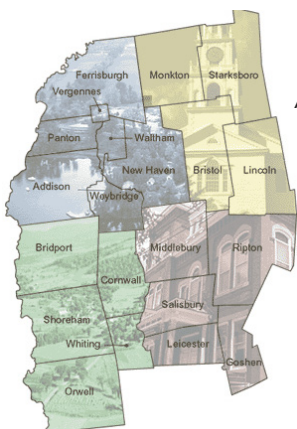
Roadway Projects

- **Shoreham & Orwell** - Route 22A Resurfacing
- **Bridport & Addison** - Route 22A Resurfacing

Grant Projects

- **Vergennes** Strong Communities, Better Connections (SCBC) grant for a Complete Streets Master Plan to better connect the downtown and basin areas.
- **Middlebury** DEC Ecological Restoration Program grant to do a Stormwater Master Plan for a

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problem area near Washington Street, focused on Green Infrastructure retrofitting.

- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):** following two years of wrangling, ACRPC was finally granted a Hazard Mitigation Program Grant to assist 14 additional communities in our region in developing plans. These plans put towns in position of receiving more money during disasters and can be integrated into the town planning process.
- **Addison and Waltham** received Municipal Planning Grants for town plan updates.

Miscellaneous

- **ACTR** logged it's two millionth ride and the Community Transportation Association of America named Executive Director Jim Moulton as the 2015 Community Transportation Manager of the Year!
- **Emergency Planning** was provided to all 21 towns.
- **Planning & Zoning Assistance** provided to 17 towns.
- **Culvert Inventory** work provided to 4 towns.
- **Traffic & Speed Counts** completed for 4 towns.

ACRPC to Host DEC Panel on Vermont Clean Water Act

The January 13th public program of the ACRPC will feature a panel of senior staff of the VT Department of Environmental Conservation focusing on the Vermont Clean Water Act and its implications for municipalities. The panel will discuss potential impacts to local road construction and maintenance, stormwater systems, wastewater systems and tactical basin planning. Funding sources for municipalities will be discussed, including the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Panel members will include: Kari Dolan, Program Manager, DEC Clean Water Initiative, Neil Kamman, Program Manager, DEC Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program, Bryan Redmond, DEC Facilities and Engineering Division (CWSRF) and Rebecca Ellis, Senior Counsel for Governmental Affairs, DEC Commissioner's Office. A link to the municipal fact sheet is available here - <http://cleanwater.vermont.gov/cwvt/docs/CWI->

[municipalities-fact-sheet-9-8-15.pdf](#)

Through a grant provided from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) has initiated an enhanced outreach effort focused on improving water quality in the Otter Creek and its tributaries under the Vermont Clean Water Act (VCWA) which was enacted by the legislature in 2015. This discussion on municipal implications and requirements will be followed by other presentations in the coming year.

ACRPC will be working with municipal staff and boards to provide information about the requirements for municipalities triggered by the VCWA and assist with land use policy options such as stronger municipal protections against flood hazards and river corridor erosion, stormwater master planning, and other town plan or zoning changes to improve water quality. ACRPC staff will assist municipalities with compiling existing information to use in developing implementation plans under the municipal roads general permit. In addition, ACRPC will provide funding to the Addison County River Watch Collaborative to facilitate a review of their water quality sampling sites with municipalities in focus watersheds. In addition to facilitating municipal input, the ACRPC will assist in identifying areas of high phosphorus run-off.

Contact Kevin Behm, Assistant Director/GIS Manager: kbehm@acrpc.org or (802) 388-3141.

FY2017 Vermont Better Roads Grant Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is pleased to announce the 19th year of funding to support projects on municipal roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The grant funds are provided by the VT Agency of Transportation with partnership through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Roads Program's goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams. Funds, subject to availability, will be

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distributed as grants to municipalities to address town erosion problems.

Program Changes for FY2017

Additional funding is anticipated from the Transportation Bill through Act 40 and from the Clean Water Fund through Act 64. This year's grant application features additional categories to reflect this additional money as well as increased grant amounts. With these changes the Better Backroads Program has undergone a slight name change to the Better Roads Program to reflect the inclusion of paved roads into the program for the first time.

Applications due by 5pm on Friday April 15th, 2016.

The application may be downloaded at the following address: <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/better-back-roads>. Paper copies of the applications will be mailed to all towns. Please contact Alan May, Better Roads Coordinator at (802) 828-4585 or alan.may@vermont.gov if you have any questions.

2016 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grants

DEC – Watershed Management Division

These grants provide financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic nuisance species management programs. Grant awards are made to priority projects to the extent funds are available. First priority is to projects designed to manage new infestations of aquatic nuisances. Second priority is to projects to prevent or control the further spread of aquatic nuisance species. Third priority is to recurring maintenance projects. A grant for 75% or less of the total estimated project cost may be awarded. Grant recipients must contribute at least 25% of the final eligible project cost through in-kind labor (unpaid personnel), in-kind services and/or actual cash expenditures (all from non-state sources). If federal funds are awarded, the match requirement may be greater than 25%. Only in-kind match accrued in the grant project year is eligible. If a grant is awarded, up to 90 days of pre-award costs are allowable.

The 2016 application and instructions are available

on line at: <http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/grants.htm>

You may also contact Ann Bove directly at 802.490.6120 or ann.bove@vermont.gov to request an application. For a project to be considered for funds in 2016, a completed application package should be submitted in electronic format (Portable Document Format preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to David Pasco (david.pasco@vermont.gov) by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 3, 2016.

VTrans and ACCD Announce \$200k in Planning Funds to Increase Transportation Options That Build Vibrant Community Centers

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) are pleased to announce the second round of the Strong Communities, Better Connections (SCBC) Grant Program, aimed at supporting vibrant community centers and increasing town and regional transportation options. Annually, the program grants approximately \$200,000 in planning funds to help cities and towns (outside of Chittenden County) build more livable, walkable and strong communities. Grant Applications are due January 15, 2016 with all applicants required to participate in a pre-application meeting with SCBC Program Managers prior to December 18, 2015.

“We know how critical transportation is to the economic vitality and overall health of our communities,” said Transportation Secretary Chris Cole. “By providing resources to communities to better plan their public infrastructure that also supports economic development at the community level, we are empowering communities to imagine and build their own future.”

“This exciting agency partnership is helping our transportation system serve the needs of more people while fostering economic vitality for our businesses and communities,” said Housing and Community Development Commissioner Noelle MacKay.

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Last year's pilot round of the SCBC Grant Program funded three projects that are in progress: Mad River Valley Towns (Warren, Waitsfield) are developing a multi-town plan for walking, biking and active recreation in the valley; the Towns of Rutland and West Rutland are developing a plan to create and enhance opportunities to bike, walk, live and work along the US Route 4 corridor; and the City of Vergennes is developing a master plan to improve the biking and walking connections between the downtown and Basin Harbor.

For more information, contact Jackie Cassino, at 802-272-2368 or Richard Amore at 802-828-5229 and visit the grant website <http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/programs/scbc>.

Grant Timeline

January 15	Application Deadline
February 19	Award Decisions
March 25	VTrans Grant Agreement due
May 27	Consultant Procurement Due
January 27, 2017	Mid-project Report Due
September 1, 2017	Project Completion & All Funds Spent
September 29, 2017	Project Close-out Report & Final Project Reports Due

Citizens' Institute on Rural Design: 2016-2017 Request for Proposals

The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design 2016-2017 Request for Proposals is open to rural communities facing design challenges, from Main Street revitalization to art-based community development. CIRD will select up to six communities, with populations 50,000 or less, to host a two-and-a-half-day design workshop aimed at solving local design challenges and planning for the future. Selected communities receive a CIRD stipend of \$10,000 dollars and in-kind professional assistance to organize the workshop and follow up activities. The workshops are interdisciplin-

ary and feature a wide range of design, planning, and creative placemaking professionals, bringing together local leaders from non-profits, community organizations, and government agencies to develop actionable solutions to a community's pressing design challenges. To apply and learn more, visit here: <http://rural-design.org/>. The application deadline is January 12, 2016.

Forest Service Grant Opportunity: Community Forest Program

The USDA Forest Service is seeking applications for the Community Forest program. The Community Forest Program provides financial assistance grants to local governments, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribes to establish community forests that provide defined public benefits. Projects considered for this funding opportunity must include:

- Lands with at 75% forested cover
- Provide public access
- At least 5 acres in size
- Threaten by conversion to a non-forest use
- Provide economic and ecological benefits to the community
- Community engagement in the development of a community forest plan
- A 50% non-federal funding match

Additional requirements are outlined in the attached request for applications and summarized in the fact sheet. Applications are due to State Foresters and Tribal officials on January 15, 2016. Please note: entities submitting applications must submit an email to communityforest@fs.fed.us confirming an application has been sent to the State Forester or Tribal official. For additional information, visit here: www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/cfp

Safe Winter Driving in Vermont

Safe Roads at Safe Speeds. During the winter months, Vermont's Snow and Ice Control Plan calls for "safe roads at safe speeds" – NOT "bare roads". That means that during a storm, roads are plowed, sanded and salted to keep them open for traffic and provide a safe surface on which to travel, though road surfaces may be snow covered at times during the

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storm. Roads will be returned to bare pavement only when the storm is over. Drivers must be responsible for driving their vehicles according to conditions, which includes reducing speeds as needed to ensure safe travel. Note that this policy means that there will often be snow covered roads during a storm. As most travel occurs daily between the hours of 4 a.m. until 10 p.m., a majority of Vermont's resources are deployed during that time frame. Motorists should anticipate reduced coverage and varying road conditions at night and drive accordingly.

Snow and Ice Control. VTrans uses a time tested approach to maintaining Vermont's roads in winter, which includes using carefully calibrated equipment to spread a measured amount of salt early in the storm, and as necessary throughout, to prevent the snow and ice from bonding to the road. The end result is our ability to achieve bare pavement much sooner after a storm has ended.

Anti-Icing. Just prior to a storm, VTrans equipment may be seen spraying a liquid onto the road surface. This practice is known as "anti-icing" with salt brine. Salt brine is a 23% mixture of salt and water that will dry within about 45 minutes, leaving a thin, white film of salt that is ready to start working when the first snowflakes fall.

Pre-wetting. Pre-wetting refers to the application of liquids onto salt as it is applied to the road surface. Liquids can include salt brine, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, or a blend. The benefits of pre-wetting include keeping solid materials on the pavement, increase salt activation efficiency, melt snow and ice at lower working temperatures, and melt snow and ice with less salt.

For the latest information on road conditions, weather, construction, accidents or major delays, dial 511 or log on to www.511vt.gov.