

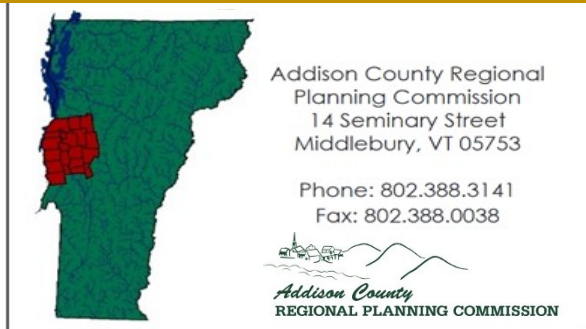
ACRPC *update*

November 2020

This Month's Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wed. 11	6:00pm	Natural Resources Committee
Wed. 11	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting (Zoom)
Thurs 19	6:00pm	ACSWMD
Wed. 18	6:30pm	TAC Meeting
Wed. Dec 2	6:30pm	ACRPC Exec. Board (Zoom)

Meetings held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary St, Middlebury, are currently postponed. Virtual meetings are open to the public and call-in information is provided by invitation and request. Digital calendar located at <http://acrpc.org/calendar/>



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.

Communications Union District

ACRPC continues to support the creation and development of the Addison County Community Union District (ACCUD), a new entity created to bring fiber broadband connectivity to all of the Addison Region. In recent months, ACCUD has been working hard to get up and operating. To date it has:

- Recruited 16 member communities in the Region;
- Secured over \$100,000 in grants to start the organization;
- Held its organizational meeting, two Full Board meetings and 5 Executive Committee meetings;
- Hired ACRPC to provide strategic, administrative and clerical support;
- Hired Addison County Economic Development Corporation to facilitate access to capital markets;
- Issued RFPs, held interviews and hired Consultants to create its website and help it with marketing;
- Issued RFPs, held interviews and hired lawyers to help it establish its organization and network;
- Completed work on a feasibility study determining the business paths by which it can move forward;
- Started work investigating partnerships to build and or operate its network;

Shortly ACCUD will start creating its business plan to build and operate its network. Until ACCUD can establish its own website, ACRPC has developed a temporary page for ACCUD on the ACRPC website containing meeting agendas and minutes. If you are interested in the activities of ACCUD, please see

<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/accud/>

ACRPC Staff Updates

Andrew L'Roe, Emergency Management Planner

Andrew continued working with towns on Local Government Expense Reimbursements and COVID-19 preparation. He is excited to welcome a new Emergency Management Coordinator in Waltham and continue working on Local Emergency Management Plans and Hazard Mitigation Plans with EMC's and EMDs this winter. Andrew is also working on energy-efficiency events and data for municipal Energy Committees and assisting towns with Forest Block planning for their Town Plans.



Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner

In October Katie continued to work with Shoreham on their 2020 Municipal Planning Grant to develop a master plan for the Farnham Property. Based on site analysis work, they have identified potential areas of the site for mixed-use housing scenarios. The Village Connection Area will link the Farnham Property with Main Street Shoreham and have a commercial or institutional component. The Central Residential Area will be a clustered layout around shared open spaces. The concept is to keep housing units small, affordable and linked to amenities, services and open spaces.

ACRPC will hold a ZA Roundtable this month. Please send discussion topics you are interested in to kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org - Thanks!

Mike Winslow, Transportation Planner

Mike has been consulting with VTrans to develop a Scope of Work for a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PELS) for the Vergennes Economic Corridor, a proposed truck route around the City center. The PELS builds upon a 2019 study completed by Stantec to more fully flesh-out means of addressing concerns about trucks. A principal goal of the study is to narrow the alternatives that would need to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement. In other work, Mike has been helping Bristol and Cornwall address concerns about speeding in their villages. In Bristol, he has conducted a series of speed studies and is in the process of analyzing the data collected. Cornwall's situation is complicated by being on state routes and Mike has been advising the town on how best to move forward to VTrans with their concerns. Additionally, Mike has been reviewing invoices for Grants in Aid projects. Towns wishing to schedule pre-construction site visits for FY21 should contact Mike at mwinslow@acrpc.org

Kevin Behm, Asst Director & GIS Data Manager

Kevin has been busy working with Mike and Maddi to finish the Road Erosion Inventories and Capital Highway Budgets for the final 3 towns in the region; Goshen, Whiting and Rip-ton. He continues to assist the Addison County River Watch Collaborative with some mapping and data analysis of sampling results and recently submitted the coming year's FY21 Tactical Basin Planning proposal to the Chittenden RPC, the lead DEC grantee. In addition he is coordinating staff review of ACRPC website improvements with our consultant.

Events and Announcements

AVCC 2020 Conservation Summit:

Conservation in the time of COVID-19

https://vtconservation.com/conservation_summit/

Wednesday, November 11 at 7pm

Keynote by Paul Costello: Resilience & Change:
Conservation & Community in a Renewed VT

Agency of Transportation announces new guidance for demonstration projects

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) announced new guidance for municipalities, businesses, and community groups that wish to implement demonstration projects in State Highway Rights-of-Way. Demonstration projects are part of a concept called placemaking that seeks to improve livability in communities. AOT's new guidance builds on other State efforts underway, such as the Department of Housing and Community Development's Better Places initiative. The guidance document and application describe the options available, issues that need to be considered, and the state approval process, and also provide links to resources with additional information:

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/permitting>

FY20 Grants in Aid Program Summary

Nineteen of the 21 towns served by ACRPC utilized Grants in Aid (GIA) funding during FY20 to complete projects that will reduce pollution from roads entering waters of the state. Projects included stone-lining ditches, removing berms along the shoulder, and replacing culverts. The construction deadline for the FY20 Program was October 15 with October 30 as the deadline to submit invoices. Collectively towns installed 101 Best Management Practices to improve 65 road segments at an average cost of \$3,395 per segment. At a minimum, towns are responsible for 20% of project costs, but in reality, the average town cost-share was closer to 40%. Thank you to all the hours and efforts from town road crews to get this valuable work completed.

Town Highway Aid Program for FY21

VTrans would like to provide an update on the status of the Class II Town Highway and Structures Grant Programs for SFY21. VTrans was without an approved Transportation Bill until the Legislature adjourned on September 25th. Earlier in the summer, the consensus forecast for this state fiscal year was not available and VTrans and the Legislature were not in a position to commit to the funding needed for grant awards in these programs as there was not a clear understanding of the resources that would be available. At this point, considering the continuing forecast of decreased revenues this state fiscal year and understanding that the process of awarding and contracting with towns for Class II Town Highway and Structures grants would take some time and would not likely result in the construction of any projects this construction season, a decision was made and supported by the Legislature that no grants will be awarded in SFY21 for these programs.

With all towns statewide facing potential budgetary impacts, it was jointly agreed by VTrans and the Legislature that it would be more appropriate to provide supplemental TH Aid funding in the amount of \$7,000,000 to support ALL towns, while taking a 1 year pause in awarding the town highway grants. The towns that were in the queue to receive these grants this year, would be moved forward to next year, retaining your place in the award queue. The supplemental aid to towns has been distributed based on the current formula for Town Highway Aid.

For questions contact **Sue Scribner**, Municipal Assistance Bureau Director, at sue.scribner@vermont.gov

Grants

Expanded Economic Recovery Grant

<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/expanded-economic-recovery-grants>

Open until Monday, November 9

A new program for eligible Vermont businesses and nonprofits that have suffered severe financial harm from the COVID-19 public health emergency, this program is an expansion of the Emergency Recovery Grants Program and is administered by ACCD and the Department of Taxes. Information and Grant Guidelines are available on the website listed.

VBSR Small Business Resiliency Fund

<https://vbsr.org/vbsr-small-business-resiliency-fund/>

Applications due Monday, November 16

Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR) has launched the **Small Business Resiliency Fund** to provide grants to small businesses who demonstrate the ability to rebuild, sustain, and grow their operations through a “triple-bottom-line” focused on people, planet, and prosperity. Grantees will receive cash awards of \$10,000 and referrals to VBSR partner organizations for technical and business assistance.

Transportation Alternatives Grants

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt>

Applications due November 27

The Transportation Alternatives program provides funding for a number of eligible activities, including construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas, Community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation activity.

For assistance, contact ACRPC's Mike Winslow at mwinslow@acrpc.org

VT Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program

<https://vermont.force.com/economicrecovery/s/dps-register?covid=false>

Applications due before November 30, 2020

The Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program provides eligible Vermont households with a credit to assist with Internet service subscriptions. Residential account holders who have suffered an economic hardship due to COVID-19 and require high-speed Internet services for a qualifying need may receive a temporary credit of up to \$40 per month toward an Internet service subscription. Applicants must attest to needing an Internet subscription for remote work, distance learning or telehealth services. Payments under the program can be applied retroactively to March 1 (for already-established accounts), through December 20, 2020. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis until funding runs out or the program ends in December.

Better Roads Grant

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>

Applications accepted until December 18th

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is pleased to announce the 24th 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 promotes the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing water quality around the State.

For project and program technical information contact Alan May (828-4585 or alan.may@vermont.gov) For Funding or General Program Questions, contact Ross Gouin (595-2381 or ross.gouin@vermont.gov) or Joel Perrigo (595-4933 or joel.perrigo@vermont.gov)

Grants

Special Funding Round!

**Downtown and Village Center tax credits
available in January 2021!**

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/tax-credits>

Applications due Monday, January 4, 2021

Vermont's Downtown and Village Center tax credit program is one of the primary benefits of Downtown and Village Center designation, and supports revitalization in community centers across the state.

In January 2021, a special round of \$700,000 in state income tax credits will be competitively available to projects that enhance the historic character and improve building safety of older and historic commercial and community buildings in these designated communities. The credits support general rehabilitation work, code compliance work, and façade improvements, and may be combined with the federal program.

The Vermont Downtown Board will make its allocation decisions by the end of January 2021. See the program guidelines and application on the website.

Note: If you applied unsuccessfully to the program in July 2020, we encourage you to re-submit your application for the additional funding now available. You may re-submit your previous application and/or submit a updated and improved application.

Questions about the program or the application can be sent to **Caitlin Corkins**, State of Vermont **Division for Community Planning & Revitalization** at caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov

Grant Deadline Reminders from Prior Newsletters

FEMA Mitigation Funding Programs

<https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation>

State application deadlines of January 6, 2021

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC): for home buyouts, culvert projects, Local Hazard Mitigation Planning grants, etc. In addition, under BRIC, applicants can apply for:

- Project Scoping (previously Advanced Assistance)
- Capability- and capacity-building activities
- Non-financial direct technical assistance

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) to address community flood risk to reduce future NFIP flood claims.

(for interest or assistance, please contact ACRPC's Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org)



Local Government Expense Reimbursement

<https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus/municipal-grants/lger-grant>

**Supporting documentation must be submitted
on or before December 11, 2020**

Eligible expenses must be incurred by Dec 30.

For more info, see <http://acrpc.org/grants/>

(for assistance, please contact ACRPC's Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org)

Trainings and Tools

ANR Community Wildlife Program 2020 Virtual Workshops

<https://anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings>

Understanding Your Land At Different Scales

- 12/02/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Woods, Waters & Wildlife putting the pieces together

- 12/9/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Enhancing your Backyard, Back Forty & Beyond

- 12/16/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Wildlife Road Crossings

- 11/10/20, 10:00am-11:00am
- 12/14/20, 3:00pm-4:00pm

Updating your town plan for Act 171

- 11/18/20, 10:00am-11:00am
- 12/07/20, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Please Register at link to attend. All the sessions of the webinars are live online events that last approximately one hour and offer participants a chance to learn and ask questions of experts. Webinars will be recorded and made available.

New VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Guidance

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped/resources>

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Program goal is to provide safe and convenient facilities for those Vermonters who desire alternative transportation opportunities. The website has design resources for Bicycle and Pedestrian improvements.

Complete Lifecycle of Grants Workshops

by The New England Law Library Consortium and
Grant Writing USA

is offering two 2-day workshops, from 9:30-4:30
each day. Registration is required.

November 9-10: grant writing workshop

This workshop will cover how to write grant
proposals start to finish and how to locate
and track relevant grant opportunities.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3r9nlar>

Enabling Better Places: A Zoning Guide for Vermont Neighborhoods New Manual and Trainings

<https://accd.vermont.gov/content/zoning-for-great-neighborhoods>

This how-to manual promotes practical, small steps that Vermont's cities, towns and villages can take to address widespread regulatory barriers that limit the choice of conveniently located homes available at prices Vermont's people can afford. The manual culminates a year of work with six Vermont communities through the Project for Code Reform, a strategic initiative to support cities and towns as they reform outdated zoning codes in favor of more walkable urbanism. Communities large and small can use the guide to expand access and inclusion in housing, increase vitality and transform into even better places for their residents, businesses, and visitors.

In the coming weeks, printed copies of the guide will be mailed to all cities and towns with zoning regulations. To reserve additional copies, please contact Chris Cochran, Director Community Planning and Revitalization State of Vermont, Department of Housing & Community Development, 802-595-5410

To increase local awareness about the guide and how to use it, the Congress for the New Urbanism will be providing a **two day "train the trainers-style" session** for cities, towns and Regional Planning Commissions. The training will focus on incremental zoning reforms that welcome new housing and small-scale development.

Save the date for the trainings on the
afternoons of December 8th and 10th