

# ACRPC *update*

October 2020

## This Month's Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wed. 14	7:00pm	Full Commission Meeting (Zoom)
Thurs 15	6:00pm	ACSWMD
Wed. 21	6:30pm	TAC Meeting
Wed. 28	6:30pm	ACRPC Exec. Board (Zoom)
Wed. 28	5:00pm	LEPC Meeting

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/>


## Welcome to New AmeriCorps Service Member, Maddison Shropshire!



Maddison is a Vermont native and a current masters student of the Bard Center for Environmental Policy and MBA programs. Maddison will be serving our office and state this year as a Water Quality Planner. She will assist with coordinating and implementing water quality planning functions across watershed planning projects, including municipal stormwater and transportation, for member towns in Addison County. Maddison is eager to serve the Region by advocating for the health of Vermont's waters today and into the future. Join us in welcoming her to ACRPC!


**In addition, ACRPC is Hiring!**

See more information on the next page



Addison County Regional  
Planning Commission  
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*Addison County*  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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# ACRPC Staff Updates

## ACRPC is Hiring!

We are excited to announce 2 position openings– please distribute to interested candidates:

- **Geographic Information Systems Planner and IT Manager**
- **Full-Time Finance/Office Manager**

More info and complete job descriptions are at: <http://acrpc.org/about-acrpc/job-opportunities/>

### **Andrew L'Roe, Emergency Management Planner**

Andrew has been working with municipalities and other local government units to apply for Local Government Expense Reimbursement (LGER) grants. He has also been working with local emergency managers and the LEPC to stay informed about COVID-19, including the recent cluster of cases in Shoreham, and preparations for future responses. And Congratulations to Bristol's Planning Commission for passing their updated Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Plan!

### **Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner**

The last week of September Katie was busy assisting towns with Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) proposals. Salisbury, Panton and Cornwall submitted applications for funding to update town plans, design a local Planning Commission training course, study bat habitat and develop a master plan for the Arnold Bay boat launch and beach area. Good luck to all applicants!

This week Panton's Enhanced Energy Plan will be regionally reviewed and if approved and confirmed, six ACRPC towns will have earned a 'substantial deference' status for Public Service Board reviews of energy projects. Starksboro and Bristol are close to approving their respective Enhanced Energy Plans as well.

ACRPC will hold a Zoning Administrator Roundtable this Fall- Please feel free to send Katie discussion topics! ([kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org](mailto:kraycroftmeyer@acrpc.org))

### **Mike Winslow, Transportation Planner**

The TAC agenda for October will include a presentation on the Vermont Rail and Freight Plans and review of four applications for planning studies from Bristol, Middlebury, Orwell, and ACRPC. In other work, Mike has assisted Bridport, New Haven, and Bristol in developing applications for funding through VTrans. If any community is interested in pursuing a Transportation Alternatives Grant, please contact Mike to review the project idea. Bristol also requested a series of traffic counts to assess concerns about speed in the neighborhood areas around the Village center.

Grants in Aid projects will consume a good deal of time in October, when projects for FY20, FY21 and equipment grants all come together.

For towns wishing to do Grants in Aid construction projects in FY21, letters of intent are due by October 31. Five towns have already submitted their letters. Towns that wish to schedule pre-construction site inspections may do so at any time, but the final grant amount available won't be known until November.

### **Kevin Behm, Asst Director & GIS Data Manager**

Kevin has continued municipal mapping projects and making preparations for an updated ACRPC website. He has been working with Maddison, our new ECO AmeriCorps service member, and other staff members to use the road culvert inventory. He is plugging away!

# Events and Announcements



ACRPC held a ButtonUp kickoff on **October 7**, with recording available at: <http://acrpc.org/buttonup/> and there are many other resources and ButtonUp events at: <https://buttonupvermont.org/events> You can also **Spread the Warmth** to help your neighbors weatherize their homes by making a contribution to the Button Up Vermont Campaign!

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/button-up-vermont-fund>

Your gift lowers utility bills for low-income neighbors who need the help, puts contractors to work, helps us meet our emissions goals, and reduces the money we send out of state for oil and propane.

## AARP Third Annual Placemaking Workshop

<https://aarp.cvent.com/events/aarp-vt-placemaking-workshop-10-29-10-30/event-summary-230e76848d8d456cb5a42b08619f2c6e.aspx>

**Oct. 29th - 30th, 10:00am - 12:00pm each day**  
Join AARP and our partners to learn about Creative Placemaking, a hands-on approach to enhancing public spaces. They will focus on how communities can reopen public spaces safely and make them welcoming and comfortable year-round for all people.

Participants of the workshop will be eligible to apply for one of three \$3,000 grants from AARP Vermont for supplies, promotion, and implementation of a winter demonstration project aimed at building permanent change!

The workshop is free -- bring your ideas and an open mind for collaboration. The full agenda can be found on the registration website.

**For more information or questions, email Kelly Stoddard Poor, Director of Outreach, at [kstoddardpoor@aarp.org](mailto:kstoddardpoor@aarp.org)**

## AVCC 2020 Conservation Summit: Conservation in the time of COVID-19

[https://vtconservation.com/conservation\\_summit/](https://vtconservation.com/conservation_summit/)

- New Conservation Success Stories-  
**Wednesday, October 7 at 12pm**
- Perspectives on Land Access, Equity and Conservation: What Role Can Conservation Commissions Play?- **Wed, Oct 21 at 12pm**
- Agriculture & Clean Water- **Wed, Nov 4, 12pm**
- Keynote: Resilience & Change: Conservation and Community in a Renewed Vermont  
**Wednesday, November 11 at 7pm**

## Vermont Traffic Committee Automated-Vehicle -Testing Permit Guidance & Application

**Thursday, October 15, from 1:00- 3:00 pm**

VTrans has prepared a Automated-Vehicle-Testing Permit Guidance and Application.

The Final Draft and meeting information is at:

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/av-testing>

On October 15 the Vermont Traffic Committee will be conducting a hearing to inform its decision on whether to approve the guidance and application (September 1, 2020 version).

The Guide implements the AV Testing Act, which passed the Vermont Legislature in June of 2019, and describes the process and requirements to obtain a permit to test automated vehicles on state and town highways in Vermont. The Guide is intended for use by applicants municipalities that are considering allowing testing on town highways under their jurisdiction. Traffic Committee approval is required for all automated vehicle test permits in the state.

**If you need assistance with connecting to the meeting, please contact Katharine Otto, 802-917-3451 or [Katharine.otto@vermont.gov](mailto:Katharine.otto@vermont.gov)**

# Grants

## Lake Champlain Basin Program Request for Proposals

<https://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/request-for-proposals-rfps/>

Proposals must be received no later than:  
**Tuesday, October 13th**

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) in conjunction with the NEIWPC is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects to develop and install large best management practices for pollution reduction in the US-portion of the Lake Champlain Basin, and for projects to provide planning and prioritization for future on-the-ground water quality improvement projects.

Eligible projects include installation of best management practices and planning and prioritization of interventions

Direct questions and email proposals to:  
Kathy Jarvis, LCBP Office Manager,  
802-372-3213, [grants@lcbp.org](mailto:grants@lcbp.org)

## SFY 2021 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Opportunity

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

**Applications due by Friday, November 27**

An informational virtual workshop will be held on **October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 10:00am to 11:30am**

The Workshop recording will also be accessible.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact: **Scott Robertson, P.E.**

**VTrans Municipal Assistance Bureau**  
802-793-2395 | [scott.robertson@vermont.gov](mailto:scott.robertson@vermont.gov)

## Request for Proposals: 2021 River Corridor Conservation Easement

<http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidPreview.aspx?BidID=47750>

**Proposals Due: 4:00pm October 12**

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is requesting services to implement priority river corridor easements. These easements are to target critical river corridor and floodplain property to allow for the restoration of channel stability over time to reduce flood hazards, improve water quality and improve riparian habitats. River corridor easements ensure no new structures or development within the river corridor, support passive restoration by restricting intervention of the river adjustment processes, and provide for the development of a riparian buffer of native woody vegetation.

For questions or information, contact  
**Shalini Suryanarayana, (802) 461-6175**  
[shalini.suryanarayana@vermont.gov](mailto:shalini.suryanarayana@vermont.gov)

## Funding to Electrify Diesel Transportation

<http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidPreview.aspx?BidID=46708>

**Applications due by 6:00 pm Tuesday, Nov 3rd**

New \$4 million dollar funding opportunity for projects to electrify diesel transportation.

Funding is available for All-electric replacement or repower of diesel-powered:

- Class 4-8 local freight trucks,
- Class 4-8 school, shuttle or transit buses\*,
- locomotive freight switchers,
- ferries
- airport ground support equipment, and
- forklifts.

For questions or information, contact  
**Maria Davis, (802) 622-4022,**  
[maria.davies@vermont.gov](mailto:maria.davies@vermont.gov)

# Grants

## Local Government Expense Reimbursement

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

**Application deadline: October 15, 2020**

The Vermont Department of Taxes is distributing \$13 million to municipalities and unit of local governments through the [Local Government Expense Reimbursement \(LGER\) Grant](#) of Act 137 of 2020.

Many municipalities and Units of Local Government in Addison County have already applied– **ACRPC is strongly encouraging ALL municipalities to learn more and apply!**

Expenses due to the COVID-19 public health emergency must be incurred by units of local government between March 1 and December 30, 2020 but not included in their municipal budgets as of 3/27.

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hazard pay
- Supplies and equipment (e.g. laptops, microphones, software, Zoom licenses, etc.)
- Sanitation costs
- Facility alterations (e.g. Plexiglass installation, etc.)
- Overtime compensation (but not already budgeted time)
- Redirection of staff for first-response need

**Supporting documentation must be submitted on or before December 15, 2020**

**Eligible expenses must be incurred by Dec 30.**

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

**Or contact Andrew L’Roe, ACRPC Emergency Management Planner at 802-388-3141, or [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org)**

## Grant Deadline Reminders from Prior Newsletters

### Ash Tree Management Grants

**Applications due October 30, 2020**

<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/programs/financial-assistance/2021-ash-management-grants>

### SFY21 Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant Program

**Applications must be received by 1pm, Oct 9**

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>

### FEMA Mitigation Funding Programs

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

**State application deadlines of January 6, 2021**

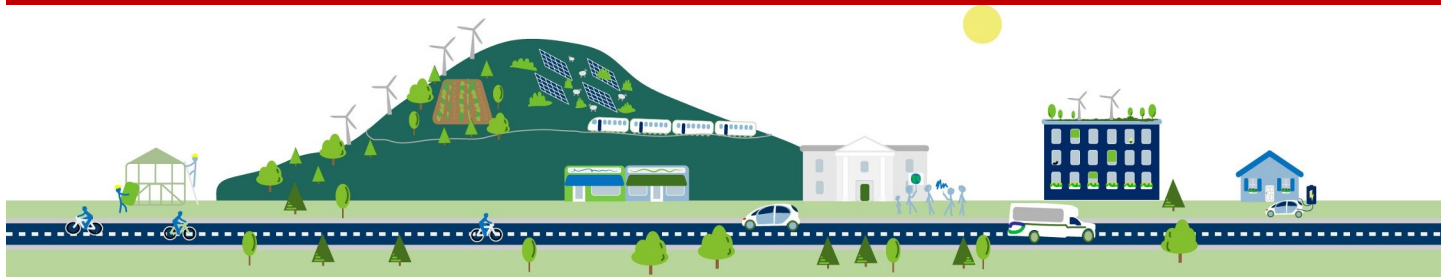
**Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC):** e.g. home buyouts, culvert projects, Local Hazard Mitigation Planning grants, etc. In addition, under BRIC, applicants can apply for:

- 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.



# 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

- 10/13/20, 11:00am-12:00pm
- 12/16/20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

### Wildlife Road Crossings

- 10/28/20, 10:00am-11:00am
- 11/10/20, 10:00am-11:00am
- 12/14/20, 3:00pm-4:00pm

### Updating your town plan for Act 171

- 10/22/20, 2:00pm-3:00pm
- 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.

## VLCT Effective Performance

### Management for Municipal Supervisors

<https://www.vlct.org/event/effective-performance-management-municipal-supervisors>

This webinar will cover the elements that comprise effective performance management, including goal-setting, coaching, accountability, and performance improvement. Selectboard members, town managers and administrators, human resources officials, department managers, and others with hiring and supervision responsibilities are encouraged to attend.

## LiveGreenVT

<https://livegreenvt.org/>

Acorn Energy Co-op (Acorn) and the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County (CEAC) have developed an online guide to help our communities transition to clean energy and resilient ecological and economic systems that promote a healthy climate.

The comprehensive digital database of businesses and organizations is searchable by categories such as:

- Green building
- Transportation
- Gardening/homesteading
- Electric
- Renewable energy
- Resourceful living

It also features timely articles, informational resources and interviews with community members who are passionate about alleviating the effects of the climate crisis.

LiveGreenVT's mission is to help the community transition to clean energy and resilient ecological and economic systems that promote a healthy climate.

This guide is a collaboration between the Acorn Energy Co-op and the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County.

