



ACRPC Monthly Newsletter **April 2025**



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ACRPC April Full Commission Meeting Features Presentation on Vergennes Truck Route Study

The ACRPC Full Commission meeting on **Wednesday, April 9 at 7 p.m.** will feature a presentation on the soon-to-be-completed **Vergennes Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study**. The Study will identify alternative means of moving freight trucks through the region. Presenters will be on hand from both WSP, the consulting firm leading the study, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation.



The [Vergennes PEL Study](#) is meant to identify options to reduce the impacts of through truck traffic on Route 22A in downtown Vergennes, including safety, congestion, noise, vibration, and dust, while also meeting the mobility, safety, and economic vitality needs of Vergennes and neighboring communities. Each day, 430 large trucks and 300 medium trucks pass through Vergennes, an unusually

high volume compared to other roads in the region.

The PEL Study began in 2021 and is nearing its conclusion. Presenters will discuss the options they recommend moving forward, and the next steps needed for addressing this long-standing issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the Date

ACRPC Annual Meeting - May 14, 2025

Details will be provided soon! Please join us!

Act 181 & Future Land Use Planning

We are reaching out to all municipalities now to set up our discussions about Future Land Use mapping. ACRPC serves 21 communities and will have meetings with each of you. We have devoted the time of five different employees to this effort. However, creating maps for each community will take time. We hope to meet with every community by the end of the spring. Our goal is to develop a fully vetted regional draft map by the summer. We look forward to working with each community to accomplish this goal.

In the meantime, please contact the staff member assigned to your community with any questions on this topic.

[Adam Lougee](#)

Bristol, Monkton, Middlebury, Starksboro, Orwell

[Katie Raycroft-Meyer](#)

Addison, Bridport, Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Lincoln, Salisbury

[Danelle Birong](#)

Panton, Shoreham, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge

[Rebecca Elder](#)

Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton, Whiting

Reminder: 2025 Local Emergency Management Plans

Local Emergency Management Plans

(LEMPs) are important resources for responding to a disaster and keeping contact information and resource lists updated and at hand. Having a current plan is also required for municipalities to receive federal preparedness funds and increased state reimbursement through the **Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund**.

Annual LEMP adoption will be due for update and Select Board signature after Town Meeting Day and before JUNE 1st. This year, VEM Regional Coordinator Harry Schoppmann will be reaching out to municipal officials about updating and adopting LEMPs.

Each municipality has an appointed Emergency Management Director (EMD), who has direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and coordination of local emergency management. Some municipalities have an appointed Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) to support their work.

If you are interested in learning more about this position in your city or town, please reach out to Andrew L'Roe at ACRPC (alroe@acrpc.org)



Soak It Up! Stormwater Friendly Lawn Workshop

Did you know your yard can save you money, support pollinators, and slow down stormwater runoff?

The [Addison County River Watch](#) will host this event to help you discover new possibilities for your yard. You'll be able to connect with pollinator experts, contractors, and funding sources.

What You'll Learn

- Creating mini meadows in your yard
- Raising your mower blade and how to mow less
- Building & funding a rain garden
- Using rain barrels and creating flood-resilient yards
- Supporting pollinators

Saturday, May 24, 2025 | 1 -3 PM

UU Church, 2 Duane Ct, Middlebury



New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Preliminary Review Meeting: **April 8**

GET READY FOR NEW FEMA MAPS

The FEMA [Flood Insurance Rate Maps \(FIRMs\)](#) that are used to designate the 100-year floodplain regulated by municipalities are based on paper maps that date back to the 1980s. FEMA and USGS have been working on updating these maps for approximately five years and are nearing completion.

The next step is a presentation of draft Work Maps at a **Countywide Work Map Meeting**. Our Addison County Work Map Meeting will be combined with Franklin and Orleans Counties.

The Workmap meeting advertised in our March newsletter was postponed until **April 8**.

Here's the current schedule:

- **Tuesday 4/8 at 9 a.m. – Workmap meeting (on Microsoft Teams and will be recorded)**
- **Thurs 4/10** – Breakout meeting slots #1 for towns if requested
- **Wed 4/16** – Breakout meeting slots #2 for towns if requested

One or more of officials or your municipality may have received notification from the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), US Geological Survey (USGS), or USGS contractor (T and M Associates) recently about updates to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

We don't know who (or if) the USGS/FEMA contacted at town-level, nor do we have access to any draft maps yet.

Once any appeals have been resolved, FEMA will notify the town of an Effective Date (at least six months later) for the new maps, with a Letter of Final Determination. Maps will go into effect for the entire county at once.

When the new maps go into effect, FEMA requires that town bylaws meet current standards for participation in the NFIP. *If your bylaws are not sufficient, residents will no longer be able to purchase nor renew flood insurance through the NFIP.*

We hope that a representative from each municipality will attend the meeting- RPC staff will also attend. Municipalities are also able to meet one-on-one with USGS to discuss the maps in more detail.

Questions? Contact [Andrew L'Roe](#)



GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

2025 TINY GRANTS

[Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions](#) (AVCC) is now accepting applications for **2025 Tiny Grants**.

The Tiny Grants program provides **seed money and/or matching funds to conservation commissions** for specific projects in the broad categories of land conservation, education and outreach, stewardship and management, and planning.

The maximum award amount is \$700. AVCC looks forward to disbursing twice as much funding as last year. 2025 sponsors: [The Nature Conservancy](#) (TNC), [Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission](#) (TRORC) and [Vermont Natural Resources Council](#) (VNRC).

For more details on eligibility, timeline, and application instructions, visit [Tiny Grants](#)

Applications are due April 18, 2025.



Community Health Funding

Porter Medical Center seeks to address the top community health priorities by investing in local organizations. Top community health priorities identified in Addison County's [2024 Community Health Needs Assessment](#) are **Healthcare Access, Housing, and Mental Health and Substance Use**.

Applicants for funding must be non-profit, municipal or other government organizations.

Join an information session to learn more about the funding on Friday, April 18th at 12pm.

[Additional information here.](#)

Applications are due May 8, 2025.

Community Health Funding application

The Community Tree Fund

The Community Tree Fund is a collaboration with the Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO).

This partnership is dedicated to supporting Vermont's communities by **addressing the need for more flexible funding for small-scale tree planting projects**.

Through this collaboration, VT UCF can provide resources for projects under \$5,000, which are often restricted by traditional grant structures.

Applications are due April 18, 2025.

Cultural Facilities Grants

Cultural Facilities Grants help Vermont nonprofit organizations and municipalities enhance, create, or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public.

Applications are due May 15, 2025.

[Cultural Facilities Grant Info](#)

Arts Project Grants

Arts Project Grants support nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and schools in their efforts to add vibrancy to Vermont communities through projects that provide equal and abundant access to the arts.

Applications are due May 20, 2025.

[Arts Project Grant Info](#)

VLCT Trainings & Webinars

Build a Better Project Training Series

Dates and topics:

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – [Assessing Project Feasibility](#)

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – [Framing Your Case through Storytelling](#)

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 – [Developing Project Schedules](#)

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – [Building a Budget](#)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 – [Recovering from Setbacks](#)



Workplace Matters

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT
MAY 8, 2025 | 12-1 p.m.

[VLCT info & registration](#)

Want to get in touch or
ask us a question?

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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 ADA accessible.

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