

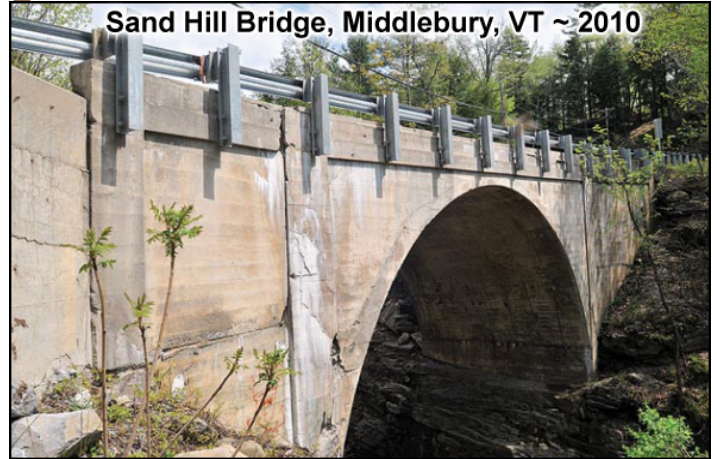


ACRPC

update February 2014

VT 125 Sand Hill Bridge in Middlebury ~ Public Information Meeting

The Vermont Agency of Transportation Construction Section Invites you to attend a Public Information Meeting for the Rochester/Middlebury/Warren Project Middlebury VT 125 Bridge 13 Bridge Replacement Project Middlebury RS 0174(8) – Bridge 13 – VT 125 over Middlebury River (Sand Hill Bridge) on:



Wednesday, 26 February 2014
6:30 – 8:00 PM

Town of Middlebury
Ilsley Public Library ~ Community Room
75 Main Street, Middlebury, VT

The purpose of this meeting is to present the public with an update on the Middlebury VT 125 Bridge 13 Bridge Replacement Project in advance of construction. During construction, the bridge may be closed to traffic for a period of up to 45 days in April/May and traffic will be rerouted onto a detour route. The meeting will provide information on the construction schedule, detour route, and sources of information during construction.

The meeting will begin with an informal open house for viewing project graphics followed by a brief presentation by the project team. After the presentation, the project team will lead a discussion and respond to questions from the public. This public meeting is part of VTrans public outreach program which will provide project information and construction updates throughout the construction period in an effort to minimize

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Commission Calendar			
Feb 2014	12	7:30 p	Full Commission Meeting
	14	8:15 a	ACTR Board Meeting
	19	7:00 p	Transportation Advisory Committee
	20	7:00 p	Addison County Solid Waste District Meeting
	26	6:30 p	Executive Board Meeting
	26	6:30 p	Sand Hill Bridge Public Meeting ~ TBH at Ilsley Public Library, Community Room ~ Middlebury, VT
	27	7:30 p	Energy Committee Meeting

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

Addison County Regional Planning Commission
14 Seminary Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141
Fax: 802.388.0038

disruption to the public.

Construction activities are scheduled to begin in early 2014 to replace the existing bridge, which is in poor condition and does not meet current design standards. The completed bridge will provide wider travel lanes, shoulders, and a sidewalk to meet current design standards. The project will improve safety for motorists and pedestrians. If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact: Joanne Frascella at: Frascella@pbworld.com.

For more information on the Sand Hill Bridge, please visit: <http://acrpc.org/middlebury-vt125-bridge13/>

Lake Champlain Restoration: Vermont Develops a Proposal for a Clean Lake Champlain



Excess phosphorous from a variety of sources has impaired the water quality of Lake Champlain. In 2002, Vermont prepared a plan to reduce phosphorous loadings by developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). This TMDL places a cap on the maximum amount of phosphorous that is allowed to enter the Lake and still meet Vermont's water quality standards.

The U.S. EPA disapproved the Vermont 2002 Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL on 24 Jan 2011, and they are now obligated to prepare a new TMDL. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and other Vermont agencies are now collaborating with the EPA on this endeavor.

Resulting policies are likely to greatly increase regulation upon municipalities, farms, and other sectors in the mitigation of phosphorous runoff into Lake Champlain. Currently there is a scheduled Joint Legislative Committee Meeting On Water Quality Bill: H.586 and the Lake Champlain TMDL, where the EPA will present their response to the Vermont proposed TMDL Plan.

To view the EPA's disapproval letter and the State's current draft TMDL proposal, please visit:

<http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/erp/champlain/>

The House Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Ways and Means, Appropriations, Agriculture and Forest Products, Commerce & Economic Development, Natural Resources and Energy, Transportation and Institutions and Corrections have also been invited to attend this meeting, which will be held at the Vermont Statehouse, Room 11 from 10:00a-12:00p on Wednesday, 12 Feb 2014.

Emergency Planning Updates

Town Emergency Managers and Selectboards take notice: In January, The VT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) rolled out an all new design for their Local Emergency Operations Plans. Tim Bouton, of our staff, is busy migrating information from the most current plans he has, into the new format and hopes to have a draft completed for every town before Town Meeting Day when town officers will be finalized.

In an attempt to get a jump on these draft updates, ACRPC will be hosting a local emergency plan update workshop on Monday February 24th at 7pm. Emergency Managers are encouraged to attend this workshop, bring a laptop if they have one and walk away with a plan suitable for signature. Contact Tim at tbouton@acrpc.org if you have any questions or to reserve a seat.

With these new plans, comes increased responsibil-

ity for local Selectboard Chairs and/or Town Managers. The new plans will require a signature from the Town's Selectboard Chair or Town Manager and must be updated yearly before May 1st. In addition, the person who signs must have taken either an ICS 402 or IS-100b class.



Tim hopes to be able to offer the ICS 402 class at least twice in our region before the May 1 deadline, or take the IS-100b online at:

<http://emilms.fema.gov/is100b/index.htm>

Either of these classes take about 3 hours and students will learn the basics of the Incident Command System universally used to manage emergency incidents.

Updates on the State's Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) for Municipalities

Following the recovery from Tropical Storm Irene, the State of Vermont modified its standard for managing the State's Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). The new standard, which will be effective for any disaster after 23 October 2014, is structured to encourage municipalities to take four basic steps to

prepare their communities before the next disaster:

1. Enact proactive local flood hazard regulations
2. Adopt up-to-date Vermont Town Road & Bridge Standards (found in the VTrans 2014-2016 *Orange Book: Handbook for Local Officials*).
3. Establish an up-to-date Local Emergency Operations Plan
4. Develop and adopt a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

After a federally-declared disaster, federal public assistance funds from FEMA can reimburse 75% of eligible community losses associated with damage to public infrastructure. Typical community losses eligible for public assistance funds include costs to repair or replace transportation infrastructure, debris removal, and emergency protective measures.

Communities that have taken the four basic steps (above) will receive an additional **12.5% state contribution** to cover their damage. Communities which do not take these steps will still receive state aid, but at a **reduced rate of 7.5%**.

To find out what your community needs to do to, or see what it has already done, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/eraf2014>

Additionally, communities **can secure state contribution of 17.5%** by completing the four basic steps, and by taking a fifth step to protect themselves from flood damages.

5. Protect River Corridors from new encroachment; or, protect their flood hazard areas from new encroachments and participate in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS). For further information on the CRS, please visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/community-rating-system>

For further information on the ERAF Rule changes, please contact Milly Archer, VLCT (marcher@vlct.org), or Tim Bouton, ACRPC (tbouton@acrpc.org).

Vermont Transportation Board Releases its 2013 Report to the Legislature

The Vermont Transportation Board (T-Board) this week released its annual “Report to the Legislature’s House and Senate Transportation Committees” for 2013.

The report discusses material covered at the 20 November 2013 public hearing held in Middlebury at the Addison County RPC offices. Topics included; transportation revenues, taxing alternate-fuel vehicles, public transit, the future of passenger & freight rail, bicycle/pedestrian concerns, and highway safety.



The T-Board’s annual report, may be accessed online at : <http://tboard.vermont.gov/>

If you have any questions about this report or the work of the T-Board, please contact John Zicconi, Executive Secretary at : John.Zicconi@state.vt.us / 802.828.2942.