

ACRPC News

July 2002



Municipal Planning Grants

Municipal Planning Grant time is approaching faster this year. Applications should be in the mail to all municipalities. This year the application deadline for FY03 has been moved ahead to **September 30, 2002**.

The Municipal Planning Grant Program funds technical assistance for town planning, implementation of plans and ordinances, encouragement of citizen participation and education, and innovative demonstration planning projects.

Last year, municipalities could apply for up to \$15,000 and six Addison Region communities received a total of just under \$55,000. This year, a similar amount of money will be available for the Addison Region.

All of the region's towns that applied last year received funding. Projects included updating zoning regulations, revising town plans, computerizing permit tracking and working on a build-out program.

For those towns whose plans are expiring within the next year or so, this is an excellent opportunity to receive funds to support the rewriting and readoption process.

Other activities eligible for funding include updating zoning regulations in light of state septic rule changes and working towards a village center or downtown designation.

In order to apply, municipalities must have a current, regionally adopted plan. If you have any questions or would like assistance with applying, please contact Brandy Saxton at 388-3141 or by email, bsaxton@sover.net.

ACRPC Appointments

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission asks its member municipalities to annually appoint delegates and alternates to the commission for a term beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

As of the end of June, we **have not** received appointment letters from the selectboards of the following towns:

Addison	Orwell	Starksboro
Cornwall	Salisbury	Weybridge

Appointment forms were mailed out in our March annual update package. If you need another form, please contact us.

Until we receive written notification of your appointed delegation, your seats will be considered unfilled.

Generator Project

ACRPC completed the two-year long project to provide back-up power to critical facilities and emergency shelters. Congratulations to the Towns of Addison, Weybridge, Starksboro, Monkton, New Haven, Bristol, Lincoln, Ripton, Middlebury, Shoreham, Orwell, Leicester, Goshen, and the City of Vergennes on their increased ability to serve their citizens during disaster.

Indexing Land Records Handbook Available

The VT Secretary of State's Office has just published the *Best Practice Standards For Indexing Land Record Instruments*.

The purpose of this guidebook is to provide Vermont's municipal clerks with a set of best practice standards to encourage uniform indexing of land records in towns across Vermont. With consistent land record indices we

can better serve the public who rely on the land records of our towns, and it will help Vermont towns prepare for a future where indices, and perhaps even land records, will be available on-line.

The guidebook is available from the ACRPC office or online at www.sec.state.vt.us/municipal/pubs/best_practices.pdf.

July

Calendar

August

8 7:00 p.m. ACRPC Natural Resources Committee Meeting . ACRPC Office.
9 9:00 a.m. VT Byways Local Action Committee Meeting. Chamber of Commerce.
10 7:30 p.m. Full Commission Meeting. Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College.
17 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
31 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

22 9:00 a.m. Business to Business Workshop. Middlebury College.
28 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

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Transportation Enhancement Grants

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program is a funding source for transportation-related activities in Vermont such as sidewalks, bike paths, historic preservation, environmental mitigation and more.

This is a reimbursement program requiring a 20 percent minimum match. Applicants must submit a pre-application letter by September 4 and attend an educational workshop this fall.

Municipalities, state agencies, nonprofit organizations and federal agencies are eligible to apply. Final applications must be received by November 6. Applicants will be notified of awards by February 2003.

Eligible projects must be related to surface transportation and fit into one of the categories below.

1. Provision of Facilities for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

This includes activities that enhance the transportation system through the building and improvement of existing facilities to make them more usable and friendly for pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. Acquisition of Scenic Easements and Scenic or Historic Sites

3. Scenic or Historic Highway Programs; Including Tourist and Welcome Centers

Funds are intended primarily for projects that will protect and enhance the scenic, historic, cultural, natural and archeological integrity and visitor appreciation of an existing designated scenic or historic highway and adjacent area or for planning, design and development of new state scenic byway programs.

4. Landscaping or other scenic beautification

This category includes landscape planning, design and construction projects that enhance the aesthetic or ecological resources along transportation corridors, points of access and lands qualifying for other categories of transportation enhancement activities.

5. Historic preservation

Projects in this category should preserve or enhance historic preservation activities as they relate to the transportation system.

6. Rehabilitation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities

7. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)

8. Control and removal of outdoor advertising

9. Archeological planning and research

10. Environmental Mitigation

This category is limited to projects that are in addition to current requirements and procedures for such mitigation. New to this activity is the provision for environmental mitigation to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality.

11. Transportation Museums

12. Safety and Education Activities for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

For more information or assistance in applying, contact Garrett Dague or Brandy Saxton at 388-3141.

Region-Wide Mitigation Plan

The new Addison County Regional Mitigation Plan is in its final stages of completion. Consultants Ross Nagy and Darryl Murdock will deliver a presentation on their efforts at the July 10 Full Commission meeting. A draft copy for review and public comment will be available at the ACRPC offices beginning July 8.

This plan consists of a generalized "umbrella" section addressing mitigation strategies common to the entire region as well as individualized annexes for each town.

The annexes have been developed based on interviews with local town emergency managers, fire chiefs, road personnel and others that identified specific mitigation opportunities within their town.

Upon completion of the draft, copies will be sent to State and FEMA officials for conceptual approval. Ours is the first plan of its type in Vermont and one of only a few in the nation!

Once a conceptual approval has been given, an adoption process will begin and the selectboard in each municipality will be given the opportunity to adopt their annex and its recommendations as policy.

Adopted plans will allow municipalities to apply for implementation funds and be eligible for increased assistance in the event of a disaster. The adoption process is anticipated to begin by October or November of this year and will hopefully be completed before the next round of federal funding.

Summer Traffic Counts

ACRPC is looking for towns who would like a traffic count analysis performed in their community this summer.

Last summer counts were completed in Leicester, Shoreham and Vergennes.

To request a traffic count, call ACRPC's Transportation Planner, Garrett Dague, at 388-3141.

Road Surface Management System

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has agreed to provide the RSMS computer program from VT Local Roads to a limited number of towns.

The RSMS program can help a town assess the condition of their road network, weigh alternatives, and establish long-term maintenance programs and budgets. This program can assist towns who have a completed high-

way structures inventory to inventory their current roadway surfaces and estimate the cost of repair where needed.

Both inventories are required to qualify for an additional 10 percent in matching funds for certain town highway grant programs.

If your town is interested in implementing RSMS, call Garrett Dague at 388-3141.