



ACRPC

update July 2012

ACRPC Launches New Website

Over the past several months we have worked closely with the web firm Union Street Media to redesign acrpc.org to make it more attractive and robust, easier to navigate and maintain, and richer with content / functionality. The site now has search, email sign-up, an online event calendar, and a blog.

We will continue to add content to the site to improve its usefulness to our constituents. In the meantime, please contact Kevin Lehman at kevinl@acrpc.org if you have questions or suggestions regarding the site.

PACE Update

Over the past year ACRPC has worked with a number of Addison County towns on PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), a new way to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. Efficiency Vermont has been putting the final pieces of the PACE process together so that homeowners in PACE towns can begin taking advantage of this unique financing option to help them save energy in their homes.

Enrollment for this new program begins in the fall, but homeowners in PACE towns can get started now by getting an energy audit and lining up project work-scopes from their contractors so they can hit the ground running when the enrollment period begins.

Addison County PACE towns are: Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Middlebury, Monkton, Ripton and Weybridge.

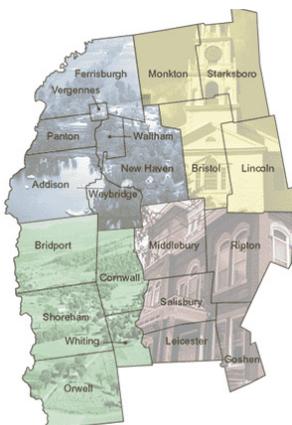
Homeowners and administrators in PACE towns can find out more at <http://efficiencyvermont.com/pace> or by contacting Energy Planner Kevin Lehman at 388-3141 / kevinl@acrpc.org.

Commission Calendar

July 2012

10	6:00	Broadband Workshop, Middlebury VIT (see newsletter article)
11	7:30	Full Commission Meeting
16	7:00	ACORN Energy Coop Board
19	7:00	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Meeting
23	5:00-6:30	ACORN Network Board
23	7:00-9:00	Local Emergency Managers Roundtable
25	6:30	ACRPC Executive Board
26	7:30	ACRPC Energy Committee

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

ACTR awarded \$100,000 grant

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant by Middlebury College. These funds are a contribution towards the 20% local matching requirements of a \$2.85 million federal grant previously awarded to ACTR for the construction of its Community Transportation Center.

“We are honored to receive this gift from Middlebury College in recognition of our contribution to

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.

the economic, social and environmental health of the Addison County region,” said Jim Moulton, executive director of ACTR. “We have now raised 97 percent of the funds needed to create this center, which will enable us to continue meeting the growing community transportation needs in the region.”

During the past 10 years, Middlebury College and its students have been key partners in providing local matching funds for ACTR’s operations. This support has significantly benefited the community as well.

“Middlebury College’s ongoing support of ACTR is an important partnership for both the College and the community,” said Dean George, president of the ACTR board of directors.

ACTR plans to operate out of the new Community Transportation Center by March 2013, shortly after marking its 20th anniversary of service to the region. To learn more about ACTR’s services, or contribute to the capital campaign for the Community Transportation Center, go to www.actr-vt.org or call 388-1946.

Celebrating the History of the Lake Champlain Bridge

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Commissioner Joan McDonald recently announced the launch of the department’s commemoration program of the original 1929 Lake Champlain Bridge, which was replaced by a new span last fall. The program begins with two interpretive displays located in New York’s Lake Champlain Visitors Center and Vermont’s Chimney Point State Historic Site, and the establishment of a new website. Additional displays will be installed in the region later this year.

Vermont Transportation Secretary Brian Searles said, “We are pleased to co-host these commemorative installations. The original Champlain Bridge is an important part of our shared history and like the new bridge, a symbol of the ongoing cooperation between New York and Vermont in maintaining the vitality of our region.”

NYSDOT’s interpretive displays include exhibits of bridge artifacts and memorabilia, as well as sign panels that tell the story of the former Lake Champlain Bridge. The largest exhibit is located at the Lake Champlain Visitors Center. The early American tavern building at the Chimney Point State Historic Site in Vermont will contain displays of newly discovered artifacts collected from the site of a 1731 French fort after an old bridge pier was removed.

The new website features extensive historical reference information about the bridge, including in-depth oral histories from community members, business owners and those involved in maintaining the former bridge; and short films about the bridge’s history.

Visit <http://dot.ny.gov/LCBCCommemoration> to find out more.

Problem Scrap Tire Piles

At the behest of the legislature, the Agency of Natural Resources is attempting to inventory “problem” scrap tire piles around the state, and then estimate the cost and time needed to clean up these sites. The first step is to ask towns and citizens if they know of any problem tire piles, defined as >100 tires. ANR has developed an on-line survey form for collecting this information. It only takes a few minutes and needs to be completed by the end of July:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWP3D9B>

New Transportation-Related RFPs

ACRPC has posted the following RFPs online:

FY 2013 ~ Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Grants: The ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee is requesting proposals for any planning studies which address transportation or traffic-related problems affecting Addison County communities.

Deadline for Submission: 9 Aug 2012

2012 ~ VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program: VTrans is pleased to announce that they are seeking applica-

Grants

tions for new projects under their Bike/Ped Program. A total of \$2 million (Federal, state and local funds) is available for both scoping and design, acquisition of right-of-way and construction of approved bike and pedestrian projects.

Deadline for Submission: 24 Aug 2012

Visit <http://acrpc.org/rfps> for detailed information regarding criteria, bid expectations and project timeline.

Grant Funding for Land Use Challenges

Approximately \$400,000 will be offered in grants this year to help Vermont municipalities address their land use challenges. Applications need to be submitted online by September 28, 2012. Please see FY13 MPG Program Description (<http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cd/mpg/ProgramDescriptionFY13.pdf>) for details.

Grant priorities for this round include:

- Bylaw updates intended to correct clear conflicts with the municipal plan, and to address smart growth principles.
- Infrastructure planning in support of compact centers and smart growth.
- Updating or amending a municipal plan to address inconsistencies with statewide planning goals or the regional plan.
- Planning and implementation for achieving greater flood resiliency.

Applications can be submitted online, but ACRPC recommends that projects be developed offline first. The Department's website provides step-by-step instructions for getting started with your MPG application.

If you are interested in applying for a MPG and need assistance, please contact Land Use Planner Claire Tebbs at 388-3141 / ctebbs@acrpc.org well in advance. For other questions regarding the grants, contact Wendy Tudor (wendy.tudor@state.vt.us / 828-5249).

Connect Your Community to America's Great Outdoors

Are you trying to protect your local rivers, save an unspoiled landscape, or build trails where everyone in your community can enjoy nature?

Every year, the National Park Service helps hundreds of locally-driven projects that create opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation, connect youth with the outdoors, and connect communities to parks. Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance from the National Park Service provides no funding, but their experienced staff can help communities plan for success.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project ideas with a staff member in your area before preparing an application.

Visit www.nps.gov/rtea for complete information and application. Applications accepted until August 1st.

Storm Affected Communities Eligible for Reimbursement

Communities in Addison, Lamoille, and Orleans counties that suffered damage to public infrastructure during the storm of May 29, 2012 are eligible for reimbursement for eligible damage-related costs. Local governments, private non-profits, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for Public Assistance. Eligible applicants that wish to apply for Public Assistance are strongly encouraged to attend one of two applicant meetings on July 10th and 11th.

Vermont received the disaster declaration on June 22nd. The declaration allows eligible applicants to apply for federal funds which pay for 75% of approved Public Assistance projects. Federal reimbursement for Public Assistance projects include emergency protective measures, roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, parks & recreation and more. Specific expenses can include work done by outside contractors, materials, or overtime paid to municipal employees.

Grants / Events

Please send a representative from your local government, your nonprofit, or other eligible group to submit your request for Public Assistance and to start the Public Assistance process. Any interested party is strongly encouraged to attend. State representatives, representatives from FEMA, and other community partners will attend.

The applicant meetings will help communities begin the application process and provide a forum to ask any questions about federal reimbursement.

The Addison County meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2:00 p.m. at the Vermont State Police Barracks, New Haven, 2490 Ethan Allen Highway.

Communities that have questions can call Ben Rose, Vermont Emergency Management Public Assistance Officer at 585-4719.

Funding Opportunity for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

VTrans seeks sought applications for new projects under the Bike/Ped Program. The intent of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.

The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for either the scoping or design/construction of the following facilities:

- Bicycle lanes
- Shoulders
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements, including median pedestrian refuge islands
- Pedestrian signals
- Improvements that address requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Shared-use paths (designed for use by both bicyclists and pedestrians)
- Pedestrian-scale lighting

Projects with the following emphasis will be consid-

ered favorably:

- Facilities that address a documented safety concern such as a high crash location
- Connectivity to other bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Proximity and access to and within village centers and downtown areas
- Facilities that serve multiple uses e.g. access to businesses, residences and schools

Visit <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/progdev/Sections/LTF%20Info/BikePed62011.htm> for application and to find out more. For questions or help with defining or refining your project, contact Transportation Planner Daryl Benoit at 388-3141 or dbenoit@acrpc.org.

VTrans is conducting two informational workshops in Montpelier on July 17th (1-3 PM) and 18th (5-7 PM) about the application process and program requirements. Attendance at these workshops is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged.

Final and complete applications are due on Friday, August 24, 2012.

Workshop Explores Digital Revolutions Broadband Lessons for Rural Towns

Tuesday, July 10, 2012, 6:00 PM

VIT site in Middlebury

(Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave.)

Many Vermont towns have embraced the internet with websites and Facebook pages. A handful of communities in southern Vermont have gone further by welcoming laptops into schools and wireless zones to downtowns while training small business owners and the general public. In Addison County, Bristol and Vergennes benefited from the e-Vermont Community Broadband Project.

On Tuesday, July 10, the general public, select board members, planning commissioners, and town officers are invited to hear success stories from around southern Vermont. Beginning at 6:00 pm at five VIT sites across the region, every day citizens from three

Events

e-Vermont project communities will share individual lessons on bringing new technologies to their neighbors and local institutions. This is a vital opportunity for anyone interested in creating a village or downtown wi-fi network, starting or improving their town website, or helping their local library meet overwhelming demand for technology training and internet access.

The free workshop, delivered live via Vermont Interactive Technologies, will be held at the VIT site in Middlebury (Hannaford Career Center), as well as other locations throughout the state.

A complete set of tools for every Vermont community are available online at <http://e4vt.org>. Residents and businesses can test their speed and find high-speed internet options at <http://BroadbandVT.org>. This free workshop is organized by Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions.

Contact Regional Planner Kevin Lehman with questions at 388-3141 / kevinl@acrpc.org.

Vermont Center for Geographic Information Summer (GIS) Roundtable Conference

Roundtable Conferences are held each spring and summer. The day-long events are comprised of several concurrent sessions each hour, and sessions can consist of presentations by colleagues, vendor product demonstrations, or discussions about issues relevant to the GIS community. Roundtables provide users of GIS technology an opportunity to network and learn from one another. The summer conference is July 17th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. The cost for participation is \$60.

Here is a link for the presentation schedule and registration information. http://www.vcgi.org/commres/?page=../events/roundtable_2012/default_content.cfm.

Contact Leslie Pelch (lesliep@vcgi.org or 882-3002) at VCGI for more information.

