



ACRPC

update June 2013

Governor’s Energy Siting Commission Emphasizes Local and Regional Role

After several months of listening to public testimony, conducting site visits, and reviewing research on siting energy generation facilities, the Governor’s Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission published its final recommendations on April 30, 2013. The Vermont Public Service Department’s press release notes that the report focuses on “bolstering the local and regional energy planning processes and ensuring that local and regional plans receive greater consideration before the Public Service Board (PSB).”

New Environmental Review Requirement for Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Applicants

Starting July 1, 2013, an Environmental Review must be completed by anyone interested in submitting an application to the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). This requirement covers VCDP’s regular funding programs, as well as funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Disaster Recovery program, as well as HOME funds. To learn more about the changes, please read this Letter from VCDP or visit VCDP’s Website.

Commission Calendar		
June 2013	3	5-6:30 Acorn Network
	12	7:30 Full Commission Meeting
	19	6:00 ACSWMD Meeting
	20	7:00 Transportation Advisory Committee
	21	2-4:00 VPA Exec. Mtg

VCDP will be hosting Environmental Review trainings to help grantees understand the process and requirements. If you have questions, please contact Josh Hanford, VCDP Director at (802) 828-5201

How Resilient is Your Community?

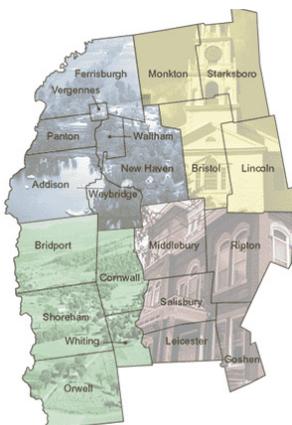
The Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) recently released an excellent planning tool for towns: the *Resilient Communities Scorecard*.

This Scorecard is a checklist of questions to help Vermont communities assess their resilience in key areas including land use, transportation, energy, and healthy community design. Knowing where your community stands is a first step toward developing goals, action steps, and investment strategies that build or reinforce resilience. The checklist is easy to use and full of tips on planning for the future.

We encourage you to download the Scorecard, gather together a group of community members and begin assessing where your town stands in terms of resilience. Questions? Please contact Kate McCarthy, VNRC’s Sustainable Communities Program Director at (802)

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.

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

223-2328 (802) 223-2328 FREE x114.

Starksboro-Hinesburg VT Route 116 Surface Improvements

The Vermont Agency of Transportation has awarded the Starksboro-Hinesburg Road Improvement Project (STP 2930 (1)) to Pike Industries. The project duration is expected to run from 6 May 2013 thru late August 2013.

This project runs continuously along Route 116 from just south of Tatro Road in Starksboro north to the Hinesburg/St. George Town line.

Construction activities will consist of milling existing pavement, paving of leveling course and wearing (top) course, ditching/shoulder work, structure adjustment, guardrail improvements, and installation of new traffic signs, pavement markings and handicap sidewalk approaches. All work performed on the project will be during daytime work hours. Saturday work may be necessary to remain on schedule.

Crews are planning to start repairing shoulders in Starksboro the week of May 6th and work their way north to Hinesburg. Once the shoulder work is complete, crews will then start milling the existing pavement starting in Starksboro and working north to Hinesburg followed by leveling course paving. All other work must be completed before final wearing course paving and line striping.

Motorists will experience traffic delays in and around the project, especially during milling and paving operations. Traffic control personnel will be present to maintain traffic flow. Motorists are encouraged to plan for traffic delays accordingly. Construction work updates will be published, weekly, at a minimum, and posted in various media sources and on <http://www.roadworkupdates.com/>

VT 17 Addison – Culvert Replacement

The Final plans for the culvert replacement project: “Addison STPCULV(14) VT 17, Bridge 2” are now available (see link below). This project is anticipated to go to construction beginning in late summer

through early fall 2013. As discussed in public meetings, the portion of VT 17 roadway at the culvert will be closed for a short duration in order to accomplish the culvert installation. Based on public input and to accommodate recreation in the immediate area, the closure will occur after Columbus Day weekend 2013.

If you have questions, please contact Kristin Higgins at VTrans at 802.828.0053 802.828.0053 FREE or via email at Kristin.Higgins@state.vt.us.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR VT STATE PROJECT BRIDPORT STP CULV(29) ON THE VERMONT ROUTE 125 CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECTS ON MONDAY 10 JUN 2013

The informational meeting will start at 6:15 pm at the Bridport Town Clerk’s Office
82 Crown Point Road
Bridport, VT
Presented by Stantec Consulting and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)

SUMMARY AGENDA: The intent of the informational meeting is to inform the public about the proposed replacement of two culverts on Vermont Route 125 in Bridport. Bridge No. 2 is located 2.3 miles west of the junction with Vermont Route 22A and Bridge No. 5 is located 1.6 miles east of the junction with Vermont Route 22A. This work will result in road closures and traffic detours while rapid construction methods are used to replace the culverts. A review of the existing site conditions, proposal work, traffic detour during the closure of Vermont Route 125 and the overall schedule will be followed by a question and answer period.

Stantec Consulting Services is a consultant engineering firm working for the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) to assist with the permitting, design, and construction bidding for the project. Representatives from both Stantec and VTrans will be available at the meeting to answer questions about the project.

Grants

Tiny Grants for Conservation Commissions!

The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is now accepting applications for its Tiny Grants program through **June 15, 2013**. Awards will be made in the amount of \$250 - \$600 to existing Conservation Commissions or other local groups/committees that would like to become a Conservation Commission and partner of AVCC. Membership dues must be paid by July 1st to be eligible.

Projects should further these goals:

- To assist local committees/groups to become Conservation Commission
- To increase the functioning capacity of existing Conservation Commissions, and
- To provide seed money and/or matching funds for specific projects in the broad categories of land conservation, education and outreach, stewardship and management, and planning.

To learn more, download the information sheet and application on VNRC's website <http://vnrc.org> or contact Jake Brown jbrown@vnrc.org (802) 223-2328 or Claire Tebbs at ACRPC (802) 388-3141.

Application Deadline: June 15, 2013.

The Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions has a new list serve. If you want to join, email: vtconservation+subscribe@googlegroups.com

2013 VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program

VTrans is announcing their solicitations for applications for projects this year through the Bicycle and Pedestrian 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 (on-road facility delineated with

- pavement markings and signs)
- Shoulders (generally a minimum of 3-foot wide to accommodate bicyclists)
- 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 (not likely to rank highly as a standalone project, but eligible as a project component)

Projects may be combinations of any of the above facilities. Projects with the following emphasis will be considered 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

For a copy of the VTrans 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Guide and Application, visit the VTrans website: http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sections/ltf/bike_ped. You may also obtain a copy or ask any questions about the program or application process by contacting Jon Kaplan by phone at 802.828.0059 802.828.0059 FREE or email: jon.kaplan@state.vt.us or Daryl Benoit at ACRPC (802)388-3141 dbenoit@acrpc.org

A Word file of the application form is available by contacting him as well. VTrans is conducting a mandatory training for potential applicants on two different dates: Monday June 3rd (1-3 PM) and Wednesday, June 5th (6-8 PM). The training will review the application process and program requirements. Attendance at these workshops is mandatory for any entity plan-

Grants

ning to apply this year

Final and complete applications are due to Jon Kaplan, postmarked or in-hand by 26 Jul 2013.

5th Round of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Funding

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has extended the deadline for participation in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This 5th round of funding is open to all towns and agencies, regardless of whether you were impacted by Tropical Storm Irene. The Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is now accepting Letters of Intent (LOI) and applications. If interested, please read the funding announcement and download the application.

Letter of Intent Due: June 7, 2013

Application Due: July 12, 2013

Please contact Tim Bouton at ACRPC (802) 388-3141 if you have questions or need assistance with the application.

Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grants

The U.S. Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grants provide 1:1 funding for urban forestry projects. Priority areas for FY 2014 include: making urban trees and forests more resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change; green infrastructure jobs analysis; and utilizing green infrastructure to manage and mitigate stormwater. The deadline for applications is July 15, 2013.

For more information go to the U.S. Forest Service website <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Standard Grants Program provides 1:1 matching grants of up to \$1 million to support long-term protection, restoration and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands migratory bird habitat. The deadline for applica-

tions is July 26, 2013.

For more information go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife website <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/grants/nawca/Standard/US/index.shtm>

Efficiency Vermont Offering Bonus

offering \$500 incentive bonus for home weatherization jobs completed by August 31, 2013. Efficiency Vermont will be offering a seasonal promotion of an additional \$500 completed job incentive to its customers participating in its Home and Building Performance programs. The offer will be extended to qualifying home owners and businesses completing jobs by August 31st, and sending in their paperwork (completed signed incentive form) by September 30th. Along with the customer bonus incentive, a contractor incentive of an additional \$100 per completed job will also be offered. This will be offered to make up for potential extra hours required on the contractors' part to complete paperwork and test-outs for what we hope is a deadline-driven customer "rush" to complete projects.

Contact Customer Support Department, Efficiency Vermont at 888 921 5990 888 921 5990 FREE with questions.