

ACRPC

update June 2015

ACTR's Jim Moulton Named Community Transportation Manager of the Year

A big congratulations goes out to Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) Executive Director Jim Moulton, who has been named the Community Transportation Association of America's (CCTA) 2014 Community Transportation Manager of the Year. The yearly award is presented to honor "a community transportation manager for demonstrating leadership and vision while providing transportation service that is an integral part of the community." As the winner of this award, Jim is recognized as the best among the thousands of other community transportation manag-

ers across the nation. Jim was formally recognized and received his award at the Community Transportation EXPO in Tampa, Florida on June 3rd. Jim's impact on the Addison County region is no secret and there is no one more deserving of this award than him. Congratulations and thanks for all of your hard work, Jim!

Announcing 2015 Downtown & Village Center Tax Credits

Vermont's Downtown and Village Center tax credit program is one of the primary benefits of Downtown and Village Center designation, and supports revitalization seen in community centers across the state.

In 2015, \$2,200,000 in state income tax credits are available to projects that enhance the historic character and improve building safety of older and historic commercial buildings in these designated communities. The credits support general rehabilitation work, code compliance work, data and network wiring, and exterior improvements, and may be combined with the federal program.

This year, legislative changes to the program include updates to make the tax credits more useful and effective. A new tax credit, of up to \$40,000, is now available for affordable elevators known as LULAs (Limited Use Limited Application), and the cap for state building code-required improvements increases from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

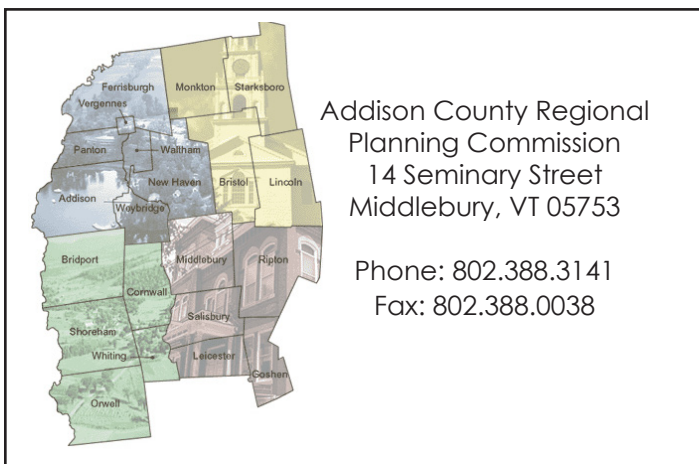
Applications for the next round of tax credits are due July 1, 2015 by 4:30 pm and the Vermont Downtown Board will make allocation decisions when it meets July 27, 2015.

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.

Commission Calendar

June 2015	10	5:00-7:00pm	Essentials in Town Planning 101 Workshop
	10	7:00pm	Full Commission Mtg.
	17	7:00pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg.
	18	7:00pm	ACSWMD Board of Supervisors Mtg.
	24	6:30pm	Executive Board Mtg.

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



The application is now available here: <http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cpr/2015HTCGuidelinesApplication.pdf>. All questions and applications can be submitted electronically to caitlin.corkins@state.vt.us or to: Caitlin Corkins, State of Vermont, Division for Community Planning & Revitalization, One National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501.

Vermont Public Service Department Announces Process for 2015 Update to the Comprehensive Energy Plan

The Vermont Public Service Department today announced its process for updating the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP), which is required to be completed by the end of 2015. The Department will solicit public input through a series of meetings this summer, as well as through written comments, and produce a draft CEP by September. That draft plan will then be available for additional public review and input throughout the fall, with a final CEP to be completed by the end of the year.

“The Comprehensive Energy Plan shapes how government, utilities, and the private sector approach our state’s energy challenges,” said Commissioner of Public Service Christopher Recchia. “In turn, the CEP is shaped by the input we receive from Vermonters. I look forward to hearing and learning from all Vermonters about both our successes and our challenges as we go forward to continue to strengthen Vermont’s energy security, our economy, the comfort of our citizenry and protection of the environment. The CEP update is an opportunity to focus our strategies and priorities toward these goals.”

The current Comprehensive Energy Plan was completed in 2011. It established a state goal of meeting 90% of Vermont’s energy needs from renewable sources by 2050, underpinned by a strategy of virtually eliminating Vermont’s reliance on oil by mid-century through enhanced efficiency and increased use of renewable energy in heating, transportation, and electric power.

Progress toward this goal will foster economic security and independence, safeguard our environment, drive in-state innovation and job creation, and increase community involvement and investment.

In the 2015 CEP update, the Department and its partner agencies intend to identify prioritized strategies to make concrete progress toward energy goals. The updated CEP will incorporate the best current knowledge regarding Vermont’s energy options and their impacts on our economy, environment, and the public health. To gather this information, the Department will host topical stakeholder meetings in Montpelier on June 24 and 30, and public meetings around the state during the month of July.

Along with the plan for public input via meetings and written comments, the Department released a set of questions on which it is especially seeking public input. These questions cover topics such as:

- Whether to set sector-based or economy-wide renewable energy goals for 2025, in addition to the longer-term goal of 90% renewable by 2050 that was established in the 2011 CEP;
- How Vermont energy policy should address the potential use of liquid biofuels (such as biodiesel, ethanol, and bioheat blends) for heating and transportation; and
- How the CEP should address the potential for fostering breakout clean energy firms that can export their products and services.

The full list of questions can be downloaded at the CEP project webpage, <http://www.energyplan.vt.gov/>, where up to date information will be available about the project. The Department has developed an online tool to collect answers to these and other questions, as well as general comments; it is linked from the project webpage.

Bristol Route 116 Bridge 6 Construction Project
Project Location: Town of Bristol on VT 116 at Little Notch Creek, approximately 2.6 miles south of the intersection of VT 116 and VT 17.

News

This project will replace the existing bridge with a new bridge that meets current design standards. The new bridge will be a Precast Prestressed Concrete Voided Slab Bridge, which has a relatively short construction period and comparatively low construction and maintenance costs. It will be 51 feet long and 35 feet wide, with two 11-foot travel lanes and two 4-foot shoulders featuring a 2-rail box beam bridge railing. The bridge will be constructed with Accelerated Bridge Construction methods, which will expedite construction and reduce disturbance to the public.

There will be an allowable 28 day road closure with single lane closures prior to and following the bridge closure period. The bridge closure period is tentatively scheduled to occur from July 20th to August 14th, 2015. Motorists can expect construction activity throughout the summer.

During the bridge closure period, a traffic detour will be in effect and marked with directional signs. Motorists travelling south on VT 116 will be rerouted west on VT 17 to south on US 7 in New Haven through Middlebury to the intersection of VT 116 and US 7. Motorists traveling north on VT 116 will be rerouted north on US 7 through Middlebury and New Haven to east on VT 17 to the intersection of VT 17 and VT 116. Project completion is scheduled for September 2015.

Work updates and press releases will be issued and distributed to various media sources and information will also be available on www.roadworkupdates.com. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, before and during construction, please contact Francine Perkins, Project Outreach Coordinator, at 802-479-6994.



Transportation Survey

The University of Vermont, in collaboration with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council, is conducting a survey to assess the transportation needs of Vermonters who have physical conditions that limit their mobility.

This survey focuses on learning how people in Vermont with varying physical abilities get around outside of their homes to travel locally. By learning from people with physical disabilities about their everyday travel needs, we hope that this work will help decision-makers improve transportation services.

Your involvement in this survey is important! To participate or learn more, please click on this link: <https://survey.uvm.edu/index.php/187282/lang-en>

Grants, Events & Workshops

Failed On-site Wastewater Systems Funding Opportunity

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has announced a new funding opportunity that it is providing for the repair and/or replacement of failed on-site wastewater systems and potable water supplies. The Vermont Wastewater & Potable Water Revolving Loan

Fund (a.k.a. the On-site Loan Program) was authorized by the Vermont Legislature in 2012 and is approaching its second full year of operation. Low interest loans are currently available to assist homeowners.

Program Eligibility:

- The wastewater system or potable (drinking) water supply has been confirmed to be a failed system
- The failed system must serve only one single family residence on its own lot
- Loan recipient must reside in the residence on a year-round basis
- Gross household income of the loan recipient must be equal to or less than 200% of the state median household income (approximately \$130,000 for 2015)
- Recipient has been denied financing for the repair or replacement of the failed system by at least one financing entity

How to Apply

- Obtain potable water and wastewater construction permit from the State Regional Office serving your area (see here: <http://drinkingwater.vt.gov/poregionaloffices.htm#romap>)
- Complete the pre-qualification application (available here: <http://files.ctctcdn.com/a2bee447101/34b909de-ed5c-430e-bba8-bc5ef48a3b6b.pdf>)
- Obtain a minimum of two construction bids for the project

Additional information about the program can be found here: <http://drinkingwater.vt.gov/dwsrf/pdf/onsiteloanfinalfaqs.8.11.14.pdf>. If you have any ques-

tions, please contact Bryan Redmond at (802) 585-4900 or bryan.redmond@state.vt.us.

VTrans opens 2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program for Local Projects

To show its continued support for bicycling and walking, VTrans has issued a solicitation for new bicycle and pedestrian projects. 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. For a link to the VTrans 2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Guide and Application, visit the VTrans website: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/>, and look under the Spotlight heading. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications electronically, but they may submit hard copies. Either must be received, post-marked or in hand by Friday July 17, 2015 at 1:00pm.

For any questions about this year's Bicycle and Pedestrian program or other VTrans initiatives related to bicycling and walking, contact Jon Kaplan, VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, at 802-828-0059 or jon.kaplan@state.vt.us.

Forest Pest First Detectors Training!

Enjoy spending time outdoors? Concerned about the health of Vermont's forests? Then we need YOUR help!

First Detector volunteers are our front-line defense against invasive tree pest infestations. The Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Program is hosting a FREE volunteer training session on Saturday, June 13th, 2015.

We are training volunteers to (1) inform the public about the tangible threat Vermont's primary pests (namely the Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, and hemlock woolly adelgid) pose, (2) prepare their communities for a response in the event of an infestation; and (3) screen potential pest sightings. Early

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detection of invasive pests mitigates the economic and ecological impact to forests and prevents pest populations from becoming established in the state. Come volunteer with us! YOU can help protect Vermont's forests! Learn more about Vermont's First Detector Program. For more information: vtinvasives.org/first-detectors. Questions or to register, contact Gwen Kozlowski at or 802-656-6646 by June 9th.

Vermont DEMHS Training Opportunities

The Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) has updated its training bulletin with the latest training opportunities and helpful tips on registering for courses. DEMHS provides these trainings at no cost. Please refer to the training/exercise calendar for additional course information, locations and any prerequisites here: <http://vem.vermont.gov/event>.

Upcoming trainings in or close to the Addison County region are as follows:

June 15th – ICS 100: Intro to the Incident

Command System, Pittsford, 8:00am-5:00pm

June 24th & 25th – Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program, Waterbury, 8:00am-5:00pm both days

Feel free to contact Kimberly Cruickshank, Homeland Security Training Coordinator, at Kimberly.Cruickshank@state.vt.us with any questions or concerns.

ACRPC Publishes Two Middlebury Transportation Project RFPs

The Town of Middlebury has grant funding to complete two transportation-related projects—a design and construction project and a traffic calming study—and has released Requests for Proposals for each.

The design and construction project is for pedestrian improvements and a small park on Printer's Alley and an adjacent property. The Town requests proposals from qualified consultants to work with the MPM to develop scoping designs, hold public hearings, secure rights

of way and permits, and create engineering plans to bid and construct the proposed pedestrian and park improvements. Proposals must be received by Friday, June 12th, 2015 at 4:00p.m.

For the traffic calming study, the Town requests proposals for consultant services to perform a study that identifies and analyzes two to four residential streets in the neighborhoods surrounding downtown Middlebury and proposes a series of traffic calming techniques that will improve pedestrian and general traffic safety. Proposals must be received by Friday, June 19th, 2015 at 5:00p.m.

Full RFPs available here: <http://acrpc.org/grants/>; please call 388-3141 with any questions.

Safety Matters!—VT Local Roads Workshop

The Vermont Local Roads Program is offering a new workshop titled "Safety Matters." The workshop is over two days, is five hours per day and will cover various techniques on how to identify, control and communicate safety hazards. The primary learning objective will be to establish a strong foundation in safe working habits with an emphasis on recognition of potential hazards and control of those hazards.

The last workshop of the series will be at the Wilmington Town Garage on June 9th and 10th.

Register online at www.vermontlocalroads.org

Grants, Events & Workshops

Blue-Green Algae Monitor Trainings with LCC

Help assess Lake Champlain water conditions around the lake. The following monitor training sessions are free and open to the public. Please pre-register to ensure enough space and materials. Presentations will last about an hour and will provide background about blue-green algae, guidance on how to differentiate it from other lake phenomena, instructions for assessing water conditions, and actions to take to reduce blooms.

Friday, June 5 at 9:00 AM - Kingsland Bay State Park Hawley House - Ferrisburgh, VT

Thursday, June 11 at 10:00 AM - Lake Champlain Committee Office - Burlington, VT

Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 PM - Plattsburgh Public Library - Plattsburgh, NY

Friday, June 12 at Noon - Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge - Swanton, VT

Friday, June 12 at 2:30 PM - Lake Champlain Basin Program Office - Grand Isle, VT

Tuesday, June 16 at 3:30 PM - Crete Memorial Civic Center - Plattsburgh, NY

Contact us at lcc@lakechamplaincommittee.org or (802) 658-1414 to RSVP or if you have any questions.

Foodaroo: Middlebury's 1st Annual Street Festival!

A new kind of community festival experience, FOODAROO, is coming to downtown Middlebury on June 21st. Presented by Middlebury Underground (MUD) and Town Hall Theater, this daytime, family-friendly event unites some of the state's most talented culinary artisans. Food trucks and craft purveyors from across Vermont converge on town square, offering Foodaroo attendees a taste of the best our state has to offer. It's a celebration of summer, shining the spotlight on the farm-to-table lifestyle. The backdrop of this culinary bonanza features a variety of eclectic acts – from street performers and buskers to leading local bands, including The Grift, Josh Panda and Kat Wright & the Indomitable Soul Band. General admission is FREE. Tickets for the tasting experience are available on the day of the event. For more information, please visit www.mudtalks.org.

Merchants Row, Middlebury (in front of Town Hall Theater & on town green), Sunday, June 21, 2015, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Addison County Regional Planning Commission
presents

ESSENTIALS IN TOWN PLANNING


Presentation and discussion
Pizza and refreshments provided

Brush up on your town planning know-how and meet others in Addison County working on planning projects.

Wednesday June 10th

5:30pm -7pm

14 Seminary Street - Parking at side of building



Addison County
Regional Planning Commission