

ACRPC

update October 2016

Transportation Board Announces Public Forum on Rail in Vergennes

As part of a series of seven public forums throughout this fall, the Vermont Transportation Board will be hosting a public forum in Vergennes on October 17th for the purpose of gathering public comment about State transportation policy associated with trains, both passenger and freight.

Working with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the state's 11 Regional Planning Commissions, the Board identified rail as a topic of grow-

ing importance to many Vermonters. The Board wants to discuss railroad issues with the public to determine how future transportation policy can be shaped to best position Vermont's rail interests to meet the needs of the state residents.

"Vermont is poised to significantly expand passenger rail in the very near future, while at the same time the state also is seeking growth opportunities for both the movement and off-loading of freight," said David Coen, Acting Chair of the Transportation Board. "As a result, we want to have a conversation with Vermonters to both hear their suggestions as well as understand their concerns regarding these new services and how the state uses its rail lines."

The Transportation Board each year travels around the state to meet with Vermonters and discuss important transportation issues. While this year's focus on trains will naturally attract citizens who live along or near railroad tracks, the Board encourages anyone interested in the future of rail to attend.

Topics the Board plans to discuss include:

- Living with railroads as neighbors, and the issues they present.
- Passenger rail expansion along Vermont's western corridor between Rutland and Burlington
- Passenger rail expansion from various points in Vermont to Montreal.
- Truck traffic through villages and town centers, and the effect of rail expansion.
- Adjacent rail-side economic development and planning for increased rail activity.
- Starting commuter rail service linking Brattleboro to various points in Massachusetts.

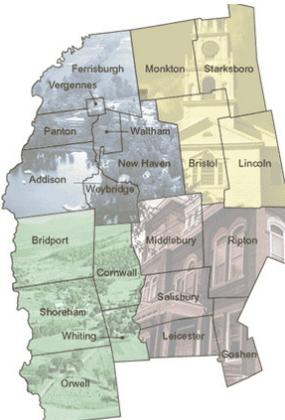
This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.

Commission Calendar

October 2016

12	7:30pm	Full Commission Meeting
19	7:00pm	TAC Meeting
20	7:00pm	ACSWMD Meeting
26	6:30pm	Executive Board 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

Workshops & Other Opportunities

- Rail safety, including crossings, trespassing and response to potential emergency incidents.

The Vergennes public forum will take place on Monday, October 17th at 6:30PM at the Bixby Library, located at 258 Main Street.

People who cannot attend a hearing can submit written comment by visiting the Board's website at <http://tboard.vermont.gov/>.

The forums are being conducted pursuant to Title 19 V.S.A. § 5(d)(8), which charges the Transportation Board to work together with the Agency of Transportation to hold public hearings "for the purpose of obtaining public comment on the development of state transportation policy, the mission of the Agency, and state transportation planning, capital programming and program implementation."

For more information, contact the Board's Executive Secretary John Zicconi at john.zicconi@vermont.gov or by calling 802-828-2942.

Regional Transportation Plan Update ~ We Need Your Input! ~

ACRPC continues to work with DuBois & King in updating and rewriting the Addison County Regional Transportation Plan. The current Addison County Regional Transportation Plan was completed and adopted in May of 2008. This updated transportation plan will be adopted and incorporated into the updated regional plan.

After a series of three public meetings in Middlebury, Monkton, and Shoreham, we are still looking for feedback from residents, commuters and businesses in Addison County on how our region's transportation system is working and where changes or improvements are needed. With that in mind, we have created an interactive "wikimap" intended to solicit public input on issues of regional concern. The wikimap can be accessed here:

<http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/Addison-County-Transportation-Plan-Update.html#.V8B84vkrJD8>.

While any input is welcome, some of the types of input we are looking for includes:

- Where are poor conditions on our highway network detracting from efficient and safe transportation (i.e. congestion, restricted bridge, bad pavement)?
- Where is it unsafe or uncomfortable to walk or bike?
- Where does speeding or noisy traffic impact the quality of life?
- Where would you want to ride a bus if service was available?
- What are some of the recent changes in the transportation network that you think really help?

Please take some time to consider how you use the transportation network in your community and leave a comment or a route that matters to you! If you have any further questions or are having difficulty leaving your comments, please send them to acrpc@dubois-king.com.

Please also feel free to email Josh Donabedian at ACRPC directly with any comments or concerns you might have: jdonabed@acrpc.org.

Rivers & Roads Tier II Roads Scholar Workshop *2-Day Workshop, 16 Environmental Hours*

Participants will gain the skills needed to develop riverside infrastructure maintenance and repair to increase the stability of rivers and the lifespan of infrastructure. This two-day workshop includes lecture and related field work to help accomplish river infrastructure maintenance and development goals.

Locations

October 18 & 19, 2016 - Wilmington Town Garage

For more information or to register online, visit here:

Workshops & Grant Programs

www.localroads.vermont.gov

Apply for a 2017 Sustainable Design Assessment Team Project!

The AIA Center for Communities by Design is now accepting applications for inclusion in the 2017 Sustainable Design Assessment Team Program. The AIA is committed to sustainable design that creates communities and buildings which advance enduring public and environmental well-being. The mission of the SDAT program is to provide technical assistance and process expertise to help communities develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future. The SDAT program upholds the AIA Design Assistance team values of utilizing a multidisciplinary team approach; ensuring the objectivity of all participating team members; and requiring broad, inclusive public participation and support.

The deadline to submit applications for the 2017 SDAT program is Friday, December 9, 2016. To view the application packet and other related resources, please visit the AIA Center for Communities by Design website here: <http://new.aia.org/pages/16091-2017-sdat-application>

New England Stormwater Finance Forum

Water as a Resource: Financing Opportunities and Challenges for Municipal Stormwater Management

Date & Time:

Tue, Nov 15, 2016, 8:30 AM –

Wed, Nov 16, 2016, 12:30 PM

Effective stormwater management is a challenging, yet increasingly important, component of municipal water systems. Municipalities can realize long-term savings and achieve social benefits with an integrated water management approach. This forum will highlight tools, financing options, and local examples to address stormwater compliance costs and help municipalities become more financially and environmentally resil-

ient.

Forum topics will cover integrated stormwater management for municipalities including:

- Maximizing the economic and social value of municipal water resources, and minimizing the costs of stormwater control;
- Creative financing strategies that leverage a variety of funding sources to augment municipal stormwater budgets;
- Practical steps to accurately estimate short- and long-term municipal stormwater needs.

Who Will Benefit from Attending? Municipal administrators, planners, public works officials, community leaders, technical assistance providers, and regional funders.

Registration is Free! For more information, visit here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-as-a-resource-financing-opportunities-and-challenges-for-municipal-stormwater-management-tickets-27293611928>

Lake Champlain Basin Program Seeks Local Grant Proposals

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) seeks proposals for local grants to support the implementation of the long-term management plan for Lake Champlain Opportunities for Action.

The LCBP anticipates awarding more than 50 grants totaling more than \$750,000 dollars. U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont was instrumental in securing funding for these awards, which originates from the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission through agreements with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Senator Leahy said, "I am pleased that the Lake Champlain Basin Program again has made local grants a priority this year. The continuity of delivering these resources each year empowers dozens of organizations to do more to protect and promote Lake

Grant Programs

Champlain.”

The Lake Champlain Basin Program’s 2016 Local Implementation Grant categories include:

Grant Applications due October 27, 2016:

- Education and Outreach Grants (up to \$10,000 per award),
- Organizational Support Grants (up to \$4,000 per award)

Grant Applications due December 15, 2016:

- Pollution Prevention & Habitat Conservation Grants (up to \$20,000 per award),
- Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Grants (up to \$15,000 per award)

Grant guidelines and applications for each category are found on the Lake Champlain Basin Program’s website at <http://www.lcbp.org/grants>. Volunteer peer reviewers will evaluate and rank the proposals, and will develop the funding recommendations for the Lake Champlain Steering Committee to consider.

LCBP’s local grant program is a key component of its work to coordinate and fund efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin’s water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. Since 1992, LCBP has awarded more than \$7.3 million to more than 1,000 projects in New York and Vermont. LCBP Director Eric Howe said, “These grants target the need for on-the-ground work at the local level that addresses water quality and habitat improvement priorities in the Basin.”

Past projects include:

- The Lake George Association Floating Classroom educated 2,412 students, residents, and visitors of Lake George about watershed ecology and water quality issues through practical activities, including using Secchi disks to measure water clarity and plankton nets to collect zooplankton.
- The Warren County Soil and Water Conservation

District installed habitat enhancement structures in and along Warren County’s ponds and tributaries to improve and enhance wildlife habitat, including native bank plantings, amphibian habitat structures, fish habitat and passage augmentation and migratory bird structures.

- Students at St. Albans City School, located within the critically impaired St. Albans Bay watershed, helped design and implement a bio-retention rain garden to mitigate runoff and pollution, and reduce erosion from a heavily used parking lot. The project involved students in every phase of the process, including meeting with environmental engineers, assessing the site, designing the bio-retention garden, choosing the specific plants, planting and maintaining the garden, and communicating about the project with community members and the local media.
- In an effort to stem the adverse effects of road salt on aquatic habitat, the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP) held a Municipal De-Icing Best Management Practices Forum in Lake George. The purpose of the forum was to educate state, county, and local highway crews on improved winter road maintenance techniques and activities.
- The Lake Eden Association operated the Educational Greeter and Volunteer Invasive Patrollers Program at three public boat launches, informing boaters about the threats posed by aquatic invasive species and conducting 1,369 courtesy inspections of boats to ensure that no invasive species were transported into the lake or to another water body.

For further information about these grant opportunities or to obtain hard copies of the guidelines and applications, please contact the Lake Champlain Basin Program office, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, VT 05458 or call at (802) 372-3213 or call (800) 468-5227.

Grant Programs

2016 VTrans Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Program - Deadline Nearing!

VTrans is pleased to announce that the 2016 Transportation Alternatives (TA) program is now open. This year, roughly 50% of the TA funding totaling \$1.1 million is reserved for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways.

The Transportation Alternatives program provides funds to either develop scoping (feasibility) studies or to develop projects that lead to construction. All projects must demonstrate a strong transportation link. There is a required sponsor match of 20% for construction projects and 50% for scoping studies. Applicants may only apply for up to \$300,000 in federal funds for a total project cost of \$375,000. Scoping studies are typically in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 range of federal funding (\$30,000 to \$50,000 total).

For a copy of the VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program Guide and Application, visit the website: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt>. You may also obtain an application, or ask any questions about the program or application process by contacting Scott Robertson at (802) 828-5799 or by email at scott.robertson@vermont.gov. Applications are due in-hand or by e-mail by 1:00pm on Thursday, October 20th, 2016.

2017 Municipal Planning Grants Program

The FY2017 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program has officially been announced, with applications due on October 31, 2016. The MPG program encourages and supports planning and revitalization for local municipalities in Vermont. The MPG program works to strengthen Vermont by funding local planning initiatives that support statewide planning goals.

This program encourages and supports planning and revitalization with grants for up to \$20,000 for a single municipality and \$35,000 for a consortium of two or more towns. Annual funding totals around approximately \$460,000.

For state fiscal year (FY) 2017, the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will grant approximately \$457,000 to municipalities to promote community planning, revitalization and development activities that maintain Vermont's land use goal of compact settlements separated by rural lands. Projects that promote Vermont's historic settlement pattern will be given priority.

The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 for individual municipalities and \$35,000 for consortia. Applicants are required to provide a cash match for any grant request above \$8,000 (or \$15,000 for consortia). Projects requesting \$8,000 or less will require no matching funds. Grant funds are regionally apportioned, based on the percentage of municipalities with confirmed planning processes within each of Vermont's 11 regional planning commission (RPC) regions.

Important Links

- FY2017 Application Page: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/municipal_planning_grants/mpgfy17
- Program Description: <http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cd/mpg/CPR-MPG-ProgramDescription-FY17.pdf>
- Application Questions: <http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cd/mpg/CPR-MPG-ApplicationQuestions-FY17.pdf>
- Instructions & Templates for Starting an Application: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/municipal_planning_grants/mpgfy17
- Guidance on Procurement: <http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strongcommunities/cd/mpg/CPR-MPG-Procurement-Guidance-FY17.pdf>

Other News & Updates

ADDISON COUNTY **CONSTRUCTION UPDATES**

New Haven - River Road Bridge 10 Replacement

The bridge reopened on August 25th two days ahead of schedule and this project is now complete!

Route 74 District Leveling/Resurfacing

Both the east and west portions of this paving project have been completed and the road looks great.

Route 125 Paving

Paving and guardrail installation continues through the first week of October and this project should be completed by the end of the month.

Route 7 Resurfacing - Middlebury to Ferrisburgh

The southernmost segment of this project has been completed and work will resume during the 2017 state construction season.

Statewide Construction Project Information available at the following links:

- <http://vtransparency.vermont.gov/>
- <http://vtransmaps.vermont.gov/projectinfo/map.htm>
- <http://vtranscontracts.vermont.gov/construction-contracting//>