



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

# ACRPC *update*

september 2005

## commission calendar

SEPTEMBER	14	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni, Middlebury Coll. Agenda: Regional Plan Hearing
	21	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	28	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	30	5:00 p.m. MPG Applications Due
OCTOBER	7	Planning and Zoning Forum Location: Cortina Inn, Mendon Info: www.vpic.info
	12	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni, Middlebury Coll. Agenda: Regional Plan Hearing
	26	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission will hold two public hearings on September 14 and October 12, both at 7:30 p.m. at Middlebury College's Kirk Alumni Center on the proposed amendments to the Utilities, Facilities and Services section of the Regional Plan and the readoption of the entire plan.

The draft Utilities, Facilities and Services section is available online at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org) or from the ACRPC office.

Meetings are open to the public.

Minutes are available on-line at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org).  
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

### Funding for Wind Energy Projects

The Department of Public Service recently announced that it will provide over \$300,000 to support Vermont wind energy demonstrations. Grants will be provided to cover a portion of the cost of installing small-scale, net-metered wind systems on farms, school land, and other public areas. Applicants will be required to demonstrate a long-term commitment to maintenance, monitoring and evaluation activities.

There is a maximum award of \$30,000 per project of \$50,000 for farm projects. All projects must occur in Vermont. Municipalities, schools and farms are eligible to submit proposals. Fifty percent matching funds are required (cash or in-kind). Funds will be awarded on a first come, first served basis until all funds have been distributed.

Funding for this program is made available through the Federal Department of Energy. For additional information, contact Robert Ide at (802) 828-4009 or at [robert.ide@state.vt.us](mailto:robert.ide@state.vt.us).

### Planning Grant Deadline Nears

The FY06 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) deadline is September 30. The MPG program funds technical assistance for town planning, implementation of plans and ordinances, encouragement of citizen participation and education, and innovative demonstration planning projects.

This year, around \$65,000 will be available for the Addison Region and municipalities can ask for up to \$15,000. Municipalities that are currently eligible to apply include: Addison, Bristol, Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting

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 and working towards a village center or downtown designation.

If you have any questions or would like assistance with applying, please contact Brandy Saxton at 388-3141 or by email, [bsaxton@sover.net](mailto:bsaxton@sover.net).

# Addison Region Projects Funded from the New Federal Transportation Bill

The Federal Transportation Bill was recently passed after two years of debate. Under the new legislation, Vermont will receive overall approximately \$175 million per year through 2009, for a total of more than \$1 billion over the five-year period.

However, the \$175 million yearly total includes funds for new "earmarked projects," which have specifically named in the legislation. Though the actual numbers are still being calculated, the actual discretionary funds available for project spending after removing the new earmark projects is more likely to be around \$130 million per year.

The Addison Region received six earmark projects in the new legislation for a total of roughly \$15 million. The new legislation also provides additional statewide funding including: \$30 million for small bridges, \$6.2 million for rehabilitation of covered bridges, \$6 million for general transportation and stormwater projects, and \$2.5 million for park-and-rides.

The new "earmark" projects are listed in Table 1 below. Table 2 outlines the region's current Project Priority List compiled in August for the Vermont Agency of Transportation by the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). This priority list does not yet include the earmark projects listed in Table 1, but it will be updated to include these projects at the September TAC meeting.

Our thanks go out to all of our local representatives and senators, and especially to Jim Jeffords for his efforts in procuring this significant boost in much needed transportation funding. For further project information or answers to questions, contact Richard Kehne at 388-3141.

*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.*

**TABLE 1 - ADDISON REGION "EARMARK" PROJECTS**

Town	Project Description	Funding
Bristol	Replace the steel truss bridge on VT 116 in Bristol	\$6,000,000
Cornwall	Replace the bridge on Route 125 over the Lemon Fair River	\$4,000,000
Middlebury Weybridge	Rehabilitate the Pulp Mill Covered Bridge on Seymour Street	\$1,875,000
New Haven Weybridge	Rehabilitate the Route 17 bridge	\$1,340,000
Lincoln	Replace Bridge 24 over the New Haven River on Gove Hill Road	\$1,100,000
Ripton	Widen Bridge 17 over the South Branch of the Middlebury River on Goshen Road	\$660,000

**TABLE 2 - ADDISON REGION PROJECT PRIORITY LIST**

Priority	Town	Project
1	Middlebury	US 7 Signal upgrade & signal coordination in downtown
2	Bristol	Replace bridge & 2 culverts on Route 116 near Cove & River Rd.
2.5*	Vergennes	Roadway project addressing truck traffic on Route 22A
2.6*	Middlebury	Construct new Cross Street connector bridge
3	Middlebury	Replace Sand Hill Bridge over Middlebury River on Route 125 near Ripton.
4	Leicester	Replace Bridge 6 over Otter Creek on Leicester-Whiting Rd.
5	Lincoln	Replace Gove Hill Road bridge
6	Middlebury	Replace downtown railroad bridge #102 on Route 125
7	Middlebury	Replace railroad bridge #2 on Merchants Row
8	Cornwall	Replace Bridge 9 over the Lemon Fair River on Route 125
9	New Haven Weybridge	Rehabilitate the "Rattlin Bridge" on Pearson Road over the Otter Creek
10	New Haven	Roadway reconstruction extending 2.6 miles north of the Middlebury-New Haven town line
11	New Haven Weybridge	Rehabilitate state bridge over the Otter Creek on Route 17
12	Middlebury	Resurface Routes 125 and 30
13	Middlebury New Haven	Resurface Route 7
14	Middlebury	Route 7 corridor improvements, 3 roundabouts
15	Ripton	Widen Bridge 17 on Goshen Road
16	Leicester	Roadway reconstruction at Leicester-Brandon town line
17	Ripton	Rehabilitate Bridge 15 over the Middlebury River on Route 125
17.5*	Middlebury	Roadway project to explore roundabout at Exchange Street
18*	Bristol	Replace the South Street Bridge
18.5*	Addison	Roadway project to address flooding at Route 125 causeway
18	Middlebury	Roundabout scoping study for Route 7-Creek Rd. intersection

**Projects marked with an \* are currently not in the VTrans Capital Program, but are of importance to the region.**