

ACRPC

update

September 2015

ACTR Reaches 2 Million Rides!

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) has reached a major milestone in its service history: its two millionth ride was delivered on Tuesday, August 25, 2015. To thank riders, ACTR's buses operated fare-free that day and gifts were offered to Bus System and Dial-A-Ride passengers.

Community transportation services in Addison County have come a long way in the past twenty-plus years, and ACTR has been at the forefront all along the way. Beginning with a handful of volunteer drivers who offered fee-based transportation services, over

time ACTR has expanded its volunteer workforce, began serving senior meal sites, made all services more accessible, created 6 public bus routes. As of Summer 2015, ACTR has grown to a fleet of 21 buses, created 32 jobs and built a Community Transportation Center.

“Since 1992 ACTR has gone from just an idea to an integral part of many people’s lives,” reflected Jim Moulton, Executive Director. “Our staff and volunteers are all proud to provide services that are critical to the health and welfare of our friends, neighbors and relatives. The two million rides we’ve delivered translate into a healthier community through access to work, school, medical care, social services, food security and more. They have also benefitted the environment by replacing so many single occupant car trips.”

ACTR enhances the economic, social and environmental health of the region by providing community transportation services that are safe, reliable, accessible and affordable for everyone. To learn more about ACTR’s bus and Dial-A-Ride services, go to www.actr-vt.org(link is external) or call 388-2287.

Information for this item was excerpted from Vermont Business Magazine coverage of the milestone

Commission Calendar

September 2015

9	6:00pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Nat'l Resources Committee Mtg. Plan Rewrite Committee Mtg. Full Commission Mtg.
16	7:00pm	Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg.
17	6:30pm 7:00pm	Energy Committee Mtg. ACSWMD Mtg.
23	6:30pm	Executive Board Mtg.
Oct. 1	4:30pm	Act 250/248 Committee Mtg.

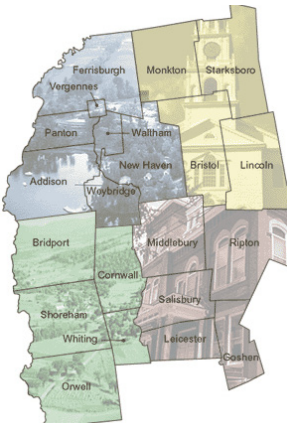
Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.

Bristol & Lincoln Bridge Construction Project Updates

Bristol Bridge Replacement – Bridge 6 on VT 116

- Bridge re-opened to all traffic on August 13th, one day ahead of schedule
- Completion is scheduled for September 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.



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- Adjustments to the guardrail is the last remaining item to complete on the project
- Minor traffic delays can be expected while crews work on the guardrail

Lincoln Bridge Replacement – Town Highway Bridge 19 on East River Road

- Bridge re-opened on schedule to all traffic on the evening of August 27th
- Construction will continue through September, with final completion coming no later than October
- Remaining work on the project includes roadway curbing, guardrail installation, saw cut grooving of the deck, two more layers of new pavement, shoulder gravel, asphalt bridge joints, line striping, clean up and punch list items. The contractor will also be replacing a culvert for the Town of Lincoln off the south end of the project.
- While crews work to complete the project, travel will be reduced to one lane over the bridge daily with flaggers assisting in maintaining traffic flow.

Contact Francine Perkins, Project Outreach Coordinator, FRP Enterprises, LLC with any questions or concerns with regards to the project at 802-479-6994 or for recent updates visit www.roadworkupdates.com.

When Governments Cooperate: State Government Municipal Day

A Day of Workshops for Vermont's Local Government Officials

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), in cooperation with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), invites you to participate in “When Governments Cooperate - State Government Municipal Day” at the National Life Building in Montpelier on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 8 am – 4:15 pm.

This is a day-long event that will include poster

presentations and workshops, and the opportunity to engage with Agency staff members and municipal colleagues from across the state. Space is limited and on-line pre-registration is required.

The day begins with coffee, networking opportunities and poster presentations by a wide variety of State programs. The kick-off plenary session will feature a panel discussion focusing on Vermont's new Clean Water Law. This overview of the recently passed law will cover impacts on local communities around the State and the status of the law's implementation. There is a \$25 registration fee, which includes both morning coffee and a buffet-style lunch by the New England Culinary Institute at the National Life cafeteria.

Agenda, workshop descriptions and general information: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/mtdc.htm>

On-line registration: <http://state-government-municipal-day-2015-registration.eventbrite.com>

Vermont Small Business Continuity Planning Workshop

September 10 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT

Is your business ready for the next disruption? Come to the FREE FEMA Small Business Continuity Planning Workshop to become better prepared! We will help you develop your business continuity plan and provide you with other resources and considerations to keep your business up and running. Plus, we will even provide a FREE lunch sponsored by FTI Consulting, Inc!

Registration ends Friday, September 4th. For more details and to sign up now, visit here: <http://addison-countydc.org/services/events/vt-small-business-continuity-planning-workshop>

Grants, Events & Workshops

FY16 Municipal Planning Grant Announced

Communities all around Vermont are using Municipal Planning Grants (MPGs) through the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development to make villages more vibrant, solve infrastructure challenges and engage citizens in addressing common concerns. This year, thanks to the accomplishments of the towns and cities receiving grants and despite the difficult state budget, the legislature kept MPG funding constant, making \$457,482 available for MPGs statewide.

Up to \$20,000 will be awarded to eligible municipalities chosen through a competitive selection process. See the FY16 MPG Program Description for details on eligibility, funding and the competitive criteria (<http://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accd/files/Documents/strong-communities/cd/mpg/ProgramDescriptionpdf>). Grant applications are due September 30, 2015.

A wide range of municipal planning activities are eligible for funding but projects that fit into one of the following priorities will have a higher likelihood of receiving grant funds.

- A. Municipal Plan updates for the purpose of:
 - Addressing inconsistencies with statewide planning goals or the Regional Plan
- B. Bylaw updates for the purpose of:
 - Correcting clear conflicts with the Municipal Plan
 - Implementing the flood resilience recommendations of the Municipal Plan
- C. Special Projects for Designated Areas (Downtowns, Village Centers, New Town Centers, Neighborhood Development Areas or Growth Centers)

All applications must be submitted through the online grants management system. You are strongly urged to develop the application off-line first. Please use the Sample Application located on the MPG webpage (http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/municipal_planning_grants/mpgfy16) to work out the details of your project and the narratives for your application. As of this year, any person

in a Grant Administrator role may now submit an online application.

If you have questions or need assistance with your MPG application, please do not hesitate to contact

Annina Seiler, Grants Administrator for the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, at: annina.seiler@state.vt.us or 802-828-1948

Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance

Supporting local food production can improve economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses and give residents better access to healthy, fresh food. It can also spur revitalization of a main street, downtown, or neighborhood by bringing new activity. Communities interested in these benefits are invited to apply for technical assistance from the Local Foods, Local Places Program. The application deadline is September 15, 2015 at midnight.

Local Foods, Local Places will provide direct technical support to selected communities. A team of experts will help community members develop action plans that use local foods to support healthy families and communities and to drive downtown and neighborhood revitalization. The assistance process features a community workshop that brings people together to develop shared goals and steps to achieve them.

Representatives of communities (including neighborhoods or main street districts) anywhere in the United States are eligible to apply. We encourage applications from communities that are economically challenged and in the early phases of their efforts to promote local foods and community revitalization. Special consideration will be given to communities in federally designated Promise Zones or USDA StrikeForce counties.

Local Foods, Local Places is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the

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Delta Regional Authority, and the White House Rural Council.

For more information and a link to the application, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/local-foods-local-places>.

Transportation Alternatives Program Grants

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This year, roughly 50% of the TAP funding is reserved for Environmental Mitigation projects relating to storm-water and highways.

The Program provides funding for the following eligible activities:

(A) Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation;

(B) Construction, planning, and design of projects that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.

(C) Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.

(D) Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

(E) Community improvement activities, including rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, vegetation management practices to improve road safety, control invasive species, and provide erosion control, and certain archaeological activities.

(F) Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management related to highway construction or runoff; and reducing vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or restoration and maintenance of connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.

(G) The Safe Routes to School Program.

If you have questions or your town is interested in applying for TAP grant funding, please contact ACRPC

Transportation Planner Josh Donabedian for

assistance with your application: jdonabed@acrpc.org, 802-388-3141

For more information or to download an application, visit here: <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureau/mab/local-projects/transportation-alternatives>

All grant applications are due in hand or by email by 1:00pm on Friday, October 16, 2015 to: Scott.Robertson@vermont.gov

Downtown and Village Center Tool Kit

Vermont's downtowns and village centers define Vermont's identity and brand and play a key role in our economy. These centers have been the heart and soul of Vermont for generations. The state targets incentives and aligns its policies and programs to both revitalize and attract new development to designated downtowns and village centers. This new publication describes strategies and examples of actions that can be taken to support and enhance these special places.

For more information about the design toolkit or downtown/village center design please visit: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities or

Contact Richard Amore with any questions: richard.amore@vermont.gov, 802-828-5229.

Clean Water Fund Board

The first meeting of the Clean Water Fund Board will be held on Tuesday, September 8, at 11:00 AM at the Catamount Conference Room in the Davis Building at the National Life complex in Montpelier. The public is invited to attend. The Clean Water Fund Board was created by Act 64, also known as the Vermont Clean Water Act, which was passed by the legislature during the 2015 session and signed by Governor Shumlin on June 16. As stipulated in the new law, the Clean Water Fund Board will annually develop a proposal for investing revenues from the Clean Water Fund

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towards improving Vermont's water quality.

The agenda of the first meeting of the Clean Water Fund Board will include a review of proposals for program funding submitted by the Agency of Transportation, Agency of Natural Resources, and the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets. The public will have another opportunity to comment when the Clean Water Fund Board releases a draft proposal on approximately October 1. For additional information about the Clean Water Fund Board and the process, please contact Kari Dolan at kari.dolan@vermont.gov or (802) 490-6113.

Forest Pest Detector 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, September 12th, 2015 from 9:30am-4:15pm in Manchester.

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 detection of invasive pests mitigates the economic and ecological impact to forests and prevents pest populations from becoming established in the state. YOU can help protect Vermont's forests!

Questions or to register, contact Gwen Kozlowski at gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu or 802-656-6646 by September 9th. For more information visit: www.vtinvassives.org/first-detectors.

VLCT Workshop on Municipal Budgeting and Borrowing

September 30 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. For an agenda, regis-

tration, and other details, go to: www.vlct.org/eventscalendar.

NNECAPA Annual Conference

October 1-2, 2015 in Portland, Maine

The Northern New England Chapter of American Planning Association is having their annual conference in Portland, Maine. The theme this year is Resource, Engage, Succeed. More information about this conference is available here: <http://nnecapa.org/resources/2015-nnecapa-annual-conference-portland-me/>

VCRD Regional Forum on What's Next for VT's Climate Change Economy.

October 6 at Latchis Theater, Brattleboro.

Area businesses and nonprofits are addressing climate change--both its challenges and opportunities. Their creative solutions are a growing part of our state's economy. What are your experiences? Do you have ideas that can help nurture this sector in Vermont? Join us to hear innovative strategies from a panel of business leaders to boost economic opportunity while confronting climate change and share YOUR ideas to advance Vermont's Climate Change Economy. For more information visit here: <http://www.vtrural.org/>

Envisioning Vermont Conference

October 6, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel in Burlington, Vermont

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board conference will include a mixture of workshops, discussions, field trips, and speakers to provide fresh perspectives and inspiration around themes that cross the boundaries between housing and conservation such as energy, climate action, and food access. More information about this conference is available here: <http://www.vhcb.org/2015-VHCB-Conference.html>

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Leading the Energy REvolution: 2015 Renewable Energy Vermont Conference & Expo

October 8-9, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington, Vermont

This year's conference, Leading the Energy Revolution, will be held at the Sheraton in Burlington. For more information visit here: <http://www.revermont.org/main/events-conferences/re-2014-conference-expo/>

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference 2015.

October 19-21 at Jay Peak Resort.

The conference is sponsored by the Vermont Department of Public Safety's Divisions of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and Fire Safety and draws emergency management professionals from across Vermont to attend educational sessions, hands-on workshops, and two full days of conference presentations, keynotes, and plenary sessions. For more information, go to: http://vem.vermont.gov/home/prep_conferences/.