



7/6/2017

Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program

In a commitment to improving the quality of state waters and providing funding to municipalities to assist in their efforts, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans) is pleased to announce this new grant program.

Grants funded through this program must have a transportation link. The enabling legislation that determines eligibility follows:

Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.

VTTrans has identified the following as potentially eligible project types:

- Planning Studies (stormwater inventories, flow restoration plans, phosphorus control planning)
- Salt/Sand Sheds
- Vactor Trucks/High Efficiency Sweepers
- Bank Stabilization
- Culvert Replacement/ Re-sizing
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Detention Ponds
- Check Dams
- Swirl Separators
- Permeable Pavers
- Infiltration Basins
- Gravel Wetlands
- Subsurface Detention Systems
- Bio Filters
- Bio Retention Systems

The following are eligible applicants:

- A local or tribal government
- A regional transportation authority or transit agency
- A natural resource or public lands agency
- A school district, local education agency, or school
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of the legislation (As of today, RPCs have been cleared for eligibility for non-construction projects.)

(Not for profit organizations are not eligible to receive grant funding per federal legislation)

The program will have almost \$6 million available to award. For stormwater projects, federal funds can only be used to treat the proportion of the runoff from the highway system. However, \$1 million of the available funding consists of state funds through the capital bill; these funds may be used in conjunction with the federal funds to award 80% of project costs for municipal projects that treat comingled stormwater. As an example, if the estimated proportion of the stormwater treated is 50% from the

highway system and 50% from other sources (parking lots, roof, etc.), a grant could be awarded that would consist of 50% federal funds and 50% capital bill funds up to 80% of the total project cost. There is not a program cap on the amount of funding granted to a specific project. However, there is a 20% local match requirement. All projects must be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

All projects shall be developed according to the guidelines published in the *Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Guidebook for Municipally Managed Projects*. The document and appendices can be found at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/general-information/guidebook>

The Federal Highway Administration has an excellent web page available with additional information for federal-aid projects: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/>

Some of the requirements highlighted in the above sources include compliance with the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Uniform Act for Right-of-Way acquisition
- Buy America Provisions*
- Low bid, sealed bid process for construction – Force Account generally not allowed

*Equipment purchases frequently require a waiver.

This a reimbursement program, municipalities must submit invoices for completed work to be reimbursed appropriately up to the grant amount. All projects must be completed or all federal funds will be required to be paid back.

All applications require a letter of support from their Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Projects located in or adjacent to a state maintained right of way must submit a description of the project and/or plans to the District Transportation Administrator (DTA) in that region. A copy of this correspondence to the DTA must be attached to your application.

How to apply:

- Application can be found at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>
- Applications must be received on or before August 15, 2017. A hard copy or electronic submittal via email is acceptable.

Informational workshops will be held via Webex. It is strongly recommended that an official representative of the applicant attend one of these workshops. Workshops will be provided as webinars, and attendees may log on to vtrans.webex.com to fully understand the requirements associated with federal-aid projects. No password or pre-registration is required. Applicants may participate in the training from any computer connected to the internet by clicking on the Municipal Mitigation Workshop link on the above website. Two sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Session 1: Thursday, July 20th from 10:00am-12:00pm
- Session 2: Tuesday, July 25th from 6:00pm-8:00pm



For more information or for questions, please contact:

Joel Perrigo

Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Group

Vermont Agency of Transportation

One National Life Drive

Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

(802) 828-2583

Joel.perrigo@vermont.gov

