



9/21/2017

## SFY 2018 Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Alternatives Program (ACT38 of 2017) stipulates that all program grant funds for SFY18 and SFY19 are reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects.

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 program will have \$2.2 million available to award. Federal funding will have a cap of \$300,000 per project at an 80% federal / 20% local split. For example, for a project that has a total estimated cost of \$375,000, the federal share is \$300,000 (i.e.  $\$375,000 \times .8 = \$300,000$ ) and the local share is \$75,000 (i.e.  $\$375,000 \times .2 = \$75,000$ ). All projects must be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

For projects treating combined runoff from highways and other sources such as roofs and parking lots, federal funds can only be used to treat the proportionate amount of the runoff from the highway system. Please call with any questions related to this.

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/local-projects/transport-alt>
- Applications must be received on or before November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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](http://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 Transportation Alternatives Program Workshop link on the above website. Two sessions are scheduled as follows:

- **Session 1:** October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm
- **Session 2:** October 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-8:00pm

For more information or for questions, please contact:

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