

MEMORANDUM

TO: VTrans Executive Staff

FROM: VTrans /ANR Transportation Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) Research Committee (VTrans members: Gina Campoli, Craig DiGiammarino, Wayne Gammell, George McCool, Dan Dutcher, Jon Armstrong, and Nick Wark and ANR members: Padraic Monks and Christy Witters)

RE: VTrans Stormwater Practices Research Project

DATE: May 7, 2012

Please find attached the final report by VTrans' consultant Comprehensive Environmental Inc. describing research to help identify structural stormwater treatment practices not currently in the Vermont Stormwater Management Manual and suitable for implementation in linear transportation conditions.

The research includes:

- A comprehensive literature search and consultation with DOTs and practitioners throughout the country
- Review and consultation with an inter-agency ANR/VTrans project steering committee. The committee prepared the project scope, selected the consultant, and provided on-going project guidance.
- Identification of treatment practice selection criteria and technical evaluation of practices using the criteria
- A suite of structural stormwater practices for VT roadways - information to support future technical manual revisions

The agencies agreed the research was needed to help inform future updates to the Vermont Stormwater Management Manual so that the manual addresses stormwater solutions that are unique to long linear projects. The research results include several new practices for consideration in future state manual updates.

The research also helps demonstrate that stormwater treatment practices for linear transportation systems are not necessarily unique compared to those for conventional development projects. Consequently, it does not appear that significant cost- or time-saving can be easily gained for transportation projects compared to non-linear developments. However, the research project and future efforts may lead to benefits for all types of projects.

In addition VTrans has for several years been discussing with ANR the feasibility of a statewide roadway stormwater general permit and VTrans stormwater manual, separate but in compliance with the state manual. While the matter remains under study, it is not evident that a separate VTrans manual is warranted at this time. Exploring a statewide permitting system such as a TS4 for state highways may make sense in the future as a way to reduce administrative costs associated with a project-by-project permitting approach, although the operation and maintenance costs should be carefully considered.

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The report does not include specific policy or design recommendations suitable for inclusion in technical manuals. More work will be done in the months and years ahead to implement any report recommendations.

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During the next couple of months ANR will be conducting a comprehensive survey of “low impact development” (LID) and other stormwater practices in anticipation of opening up the Vermont Stormwater Management Manual for revisions in the next 6 to 9 months. ANR’s survey will be followed by a robust stormwater manual update stakeholder process, pending ANR obtaining funding for this effort. The transportation stormwater practices research will be made available to the ANR’s consultant undertaking the survey and will be presented in coordination with the stakeholder process of which VTrans will be an active participant.

Both agencies will make the report available to agency managers and staff, private sector practitioners, and the interested public on the agencies’ web sites.

Questions, comments and concerns regarding the report and future efforts to address transportation and stormwater are welcome.

cc: Deb Markowitz, ANR Secretary
David Mears, DEC Commissioner
Pete LaFlamme, DEC Water Quality Director
John Narowski, VTrans Environmental Section Chief