



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **State of Vermont Accepting Applications for Better Connections Grant Program**

Barre, Vt.— The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) are now accepting applications for the Better Connections Grant Program. The program has \$290,000 available in planning funds for this two-year grant cycle and is designed to help cities and towns outside of Chittenden County build more livable, walkable, and welcoming communities.

“Multi-modal transportation systems are key to the economic vitality and overall health of Vermont communities,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “The Better Connections program provides towns with the tools to plan for inclusive and resilient transportation systems and sets them on a path to make the desired improvements.”

For the past decade, the program has funded planning efforts and provided technical assistance to increase multi-modal transportation options and improve land use, water quality, public health, and economic vitality in Vermont communities.

“The Better Connections Program empowers Vermont communities, especially our smaller towns with limited capacity, to create more accessible, livable, and vibrant places,” said Alex Farrell, Commissioner of Housing and Community Development. “By providing expertise and capacity support, the program helps cities and towns engage residents, plan effectively, and design thoughtful projects that benefit the entire community.”

In 2023, the Better Connections Grant Program funded three projects that are in progress:

- The [Town of Brattleboro](#) is creating an action plan to improve the Canal Street Corridor with pedestrian and safety improvements, strengthen connections to their local assets, and incorporate green infrastructure to improve water quality along the corridor.
- The [Town of Hardwick](#) is creating a plan for East Hardwick village that will guide future economic development, land use, and transportation infrastructure investments and provide better connections to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.

- The [Town of West Windsor](#) is creating a master plan to better connect the village to Mount Ascutney by enhancing the streetscape, exploring redevelopment opportunities, and improving the economic vitality of the village.

Interested parties must submit a [pre-application form](#) electronically and schedule a pre-application interview by January 24, 2025. Grant applications are due February 21, 2025. As this program is offered every two years, applicants are encouraged to respond promptly and scheduled the pre-application interview as soon as possible.

For more information, visit the [Better Connections webpage](#) and contact Faith Dall at AOT or Natalie Elvidge at ACCD (contact information above).

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