



Overview

The Better Connections Grant Program (formerly known as the Strong Communities, Better Connections Program) is a multiagency partnership to align state and local investments to increase transportation options, build resilience, and strengthen economic vitality in Vermont communities. The Better Connections Program is an annual planning grant program administered by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD). Municipalities (located outside of Chittenden County) annually compete for approximately \$200,000 in program funds, inclusive of 10% local match. Applicants are required to set up a pre-application conference call with VTrans and ACCD prior to December 16, 2016 with grant applications due on January 13, 2017.

Website: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>

Program Objectives

The Better Connections Program works in partnership with municipalities and local and regional stakeholders to accomplish the following objectives:

- Provides safe, multi-modal and resilient transportation system that supports the Vermont economy
- Supports downtown and village economic development and revitalization efforts
- Leads directly to project implementation

Grant Timeline

The Better Connections Program projects must be completed within 18 months from the award date. No time extensions are granted.

- Grant Announcement: October 14, 2016
- Pre-application meeting to occur prior to December 16, 2016
- RPC Confirmation of Municipal Planning Process: by December 31, 2016
- Application Deadline: January 13, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m.
- Award Decisions: February 20, 2017
- VTrans Grant Agreement Due: March 31, 2017
- Consultant Procurement Due: June 2, 2017
- Mid-project Report Due: January 26, 2018
- Project Completion and All Funds Spent: September 1, 2018
- Project Close-out Report and Final Project Reports Due: September 30, 2018

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