

## PROJECT TITLE

Nationwide Monarch Butterfly  
Candidate Conservation Agreement  
for Energy and Transportation lands.

## STUDY TIMELINE

10/2019 – 10/2020

## INVESTIGATORS

VHB Consulting Engineers

## VTRANS CONTACTS

Glenn Gingras  
VTrans Senior  
Environmental Biologist

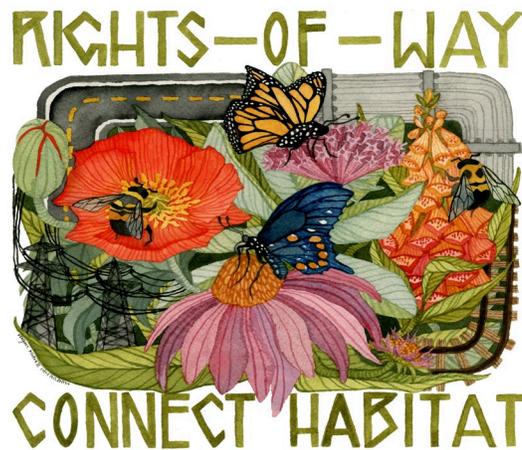
This fact sheet was prepared to highlight recent Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Grants and State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Incentive Awards.

More information about the VTrans Research Program, including additional Fact Sheets, can be found at:  
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>

## Nationwide Monarch Butterfly Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for Energy and Transportation lands

### Introduction or Problem Statement

The Monarch Butterfly is proposed for listing as a federally recognized endangered species. Habitat along transportation infrastructure supports monarch butterflies. Best management practices along/within our transportation infrastructure could provide long term habitat for this species and help in the recovery of this species. If the monarch species was listed additional review would be required for all projects. Entering into this agreement will provide assurances that further review under the ESA is not required.



### Methodology or Action Taken

We have explored all VTrans lands that could be adopted into the agreement without impacting operations. This exercise was mostly a GIS mapping exercise and then extrapolating viable habitat within VTrans ownership. All existing BMP's were also evaluated to determine which are beneficial to this agreement.

### Conclusions or Next Steps

Finalize application for participation into the Agreement. Continue to work to develop/refine BMP's and design practices that can be implemented as part of this agreement. Develop monitoring plan for lands enrolled into the agreement.

### Potential Impacts and VTrans Benefits

Entering the Monarch CAA will be a permit streamlining effort for all VTrans projects if the Monarch Butterfly is listed in 2020. This will provide for regulatory assurances for all VTrans projects under the ESA. If we do not enter the agreement, VTrans would need to coordinate on a project by project basis for potential impacts to the Monarch Butterfly, which could delay projects and add additional cost. Much of the existing BMP's VTrans Operations adheres to will play an important role in administering the requirements within the agreement. VTrans is also examining various other design practices to bolster habitat within our Rights of Way. Many of the practices will also benefit many other species of pollinators as they use the same sorts of habitat.