

For Immediate Release

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\$200k in Planning Funds Available to Improve Transportation in Community Centers

MONTPELIER, Vt.—The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) are seeking applications for the Better Connections (BC) Grant Program (formerly known as the Strong Communities, Better Connections Program).

The BC Grant Program awards approximately \$200,000 funds annually for planning work to help cities and towns (outside of Chittenden County) increase transportation options to support livable and walkable community centers.

“Transportation is critical to the economic vitality and overall health of our communities,” said Transportation Secretary Chris Cole. “Effective transportation infrastructure requires planning and citizen engagement – this program empowers communities to imagine and build their own future.”

“This exciting agency partnership is helping our transportation system serve the needs of more people while bringing new economic vitality to our businesses and communities,” said Agency of Commerce Secretary Lucy Leriche.

All projects must support a safe, multi-modal and resilient transportation system that supports the Vermont economy and downtown and village economic revitalization efforts, and lead directly to project implementation. Awarded projects must support the BC Program Purpose and Objectives, which can be found at vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections, include an effective community visioning process, and develop an implementation plan.

Previously funded projects include: Mad River Valley multi-town plan for walking, biking and active recreation; the Rutland US Route 4 corridor plan to improve safety and multimodal connectivity; the Vergennes downtown master plan to improve biking and walking connections; the Montpelier Complete Streets Design Guidelines; Springfield’s Main Street Corridor Streetscape Plan; and Chester’s Village Center Master Plan.

Grant applications are due January 13, 2017 and all applicants are required to participate in a pre-application meeting with BC Program Managers prior to December 16, 2016.

For more information, contact Jackie Cassino, at [802-272-2368](tel:802-272-2368) or Richard Amore at [802-828-5229](tel:802-828-5229) and visit the grant website vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections.

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