

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Richard Amore, (802) 828-5229, Better Connections Grant Program Announcement

VTrans and ACCD announce \$200k in planning funds to increase transportation options that build vibrant community centers

MONTPELIER, Vt.—October 16, 2017— As part of an ongoing partnership to revitalize community centers and increase transportation options, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) are pleased to announce the Better Connections (BC) Grant Program is accepting applications.

Annually, the program grants approximately \$200,000 in planning funds to help cities and towns (outside of Chittenden County) build more livable, walkable and strong communities. Grant Applications are due January 31, 2018 with all applicants required to participate in a pre-application meeting with BC Program Managers prior to December 31, 2017.

“Vermonters depend upon their transportation system to provide access to work, school, shopping and other activities. We need to collaborate with communities and coordinate public polices and investments in order to grow our economy and improve quality of life for all Vermonters,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “This inter-agency collaboration is doing just that by supporting communities to plan and grow in a way that integrates transportation and land use planning with economic development decision making.”

“This exciting agency partnership aligns state and local transportation investments to strengthen the economy, improve our quality of life and make Vermont more affordable for families and businesses” said Housing and Community Development Commissioner Katie Buckley.

Last year’s round of the Better Connections Grant Program funded three projects that are in progress: the Town of Brighton is developing a plan to improve the streetscape and create more opportunities for residents and tourists to walk, shop and enjoy the scenic beauty of Island Pond; the City and Town of St. Albans are developing a plan to improve safety and accessibility along Route 7, strengthening the connection between the downtown and its northern commercial and employment centers, and improving transportation options for the region’s most vulnerable; and the Town of Windsor is creating an action plan to guide downtown commercial and industrial redevelopment, improving housing affordability in surrounding neighborhoods, and exploring ideas to reconnect to the Connecticut River - making Windsor a great place to live, work and do business

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

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