

Indiana and Northern Long-Eared Bat Guidance For all VTrans Projects and Maintenance Activities (December 2016)

The federal and state requirements for Indiana bat and northern long-eared bats have recently been updated. The following guidelines summarize the implementation of the requirements by laying out the need for coordination with the Environmental Section Biologists and the steps required for review of projects and activities; including survey, impact avoidance/minimization measures, and commitments/special provision language.

Implementation of Requirements:

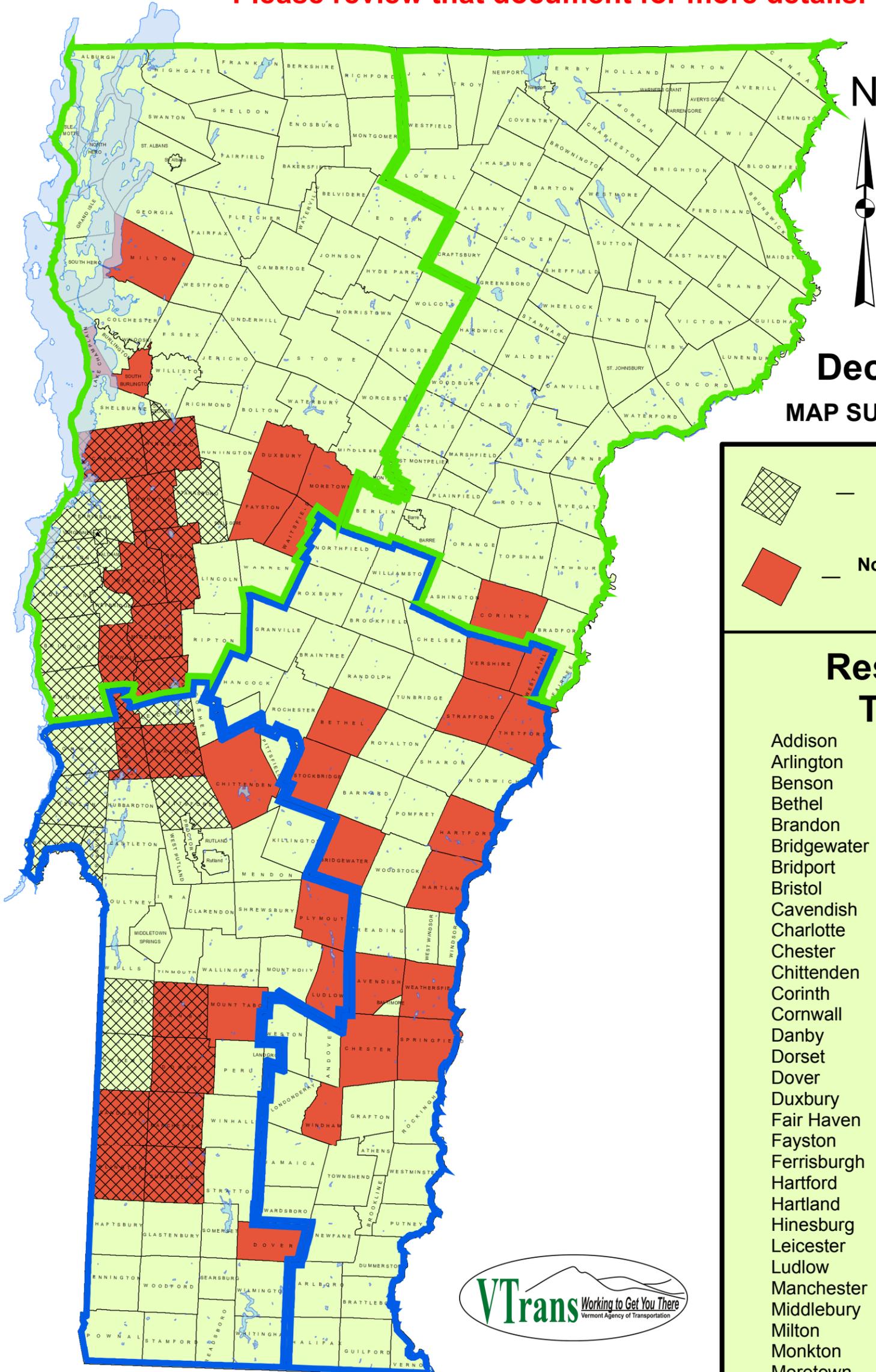
- Tree cutting
 - Hazard Trees
 - ✓ Those trees that are dead and dying **and** pose an immediate threat to public safety may be cut at any time. The trees may be removed whenever they need to be removed and no coordination with the VTrans Biologist is necessary.
 - Non-Hazard Trees
 - ✓ Trees < 3" diameter
 - Those trees that are less than 3 inches DBH (diameter at breast height), may be removed at any time of year and no coordination with the VTrans Biologist is necessary.
 - ✓ Trees ≥ 3" diameter
 - If the activity is not located in restricted towns on the attached map¹ **and** can be conducted between NOV1 - APR15 no coordination with the VTrans Biologist is necessary.
 - If the activity is not located in restricted towns on the attached map¹ **and** does not include cutting greater-than or equal-to 2 acres or greater-than 1% forested area within a 1-mile radius of project area, tree cutting activity is considered cleared for impacts to bats. Trees may be removed at any time of year and no coordination with VTrans Biologists is necessary.
 - If the activity is located within the restricted towns on the attached map¹; **or** includes cutting greater-than or equal-to 2 acres or greater-than 1% of forested area within a 1-mile radius of the project between APR 15-OCT31, consultation with the VTrans Biologist is required.
- Structure (bridges or buildings) work
 - VTrans Biologists will determine presence of suitable habitat. If no suitable habitat, no restrictions apply.
 - If structures are determined to be suitable habitat, VTrans Biologists will:
 - ✓ Implement exclusionary measures if possible, and/or
 - ✓ Coordinate necessary studies to determine presence. If no presence is detected no restrictions apply. However, if presence is detected further consultation/permitting will be necessary.
- Ledge work
 - VTrans Biologist will determine presence of suitable habitat. If no suitable habitat, no restrictions apply.
 - If ledges are determined to be suitable habitat, VTrans Biologist will coordinate necessary studies to determine presence. If no presence is detected, no restrictions apply. However, if presence is detected further consultation/permitting will be necessary.

This guidance is related to reviews for impacts to protected bat species only. All necessary review requests shall be completed through NERD.

¹ Attached map is entitled "VT Towns with known Threatened and Endangered Bat Habitat dated SEPT 2016". The map is subject to change based on best available data from VT Fish and Wildlife and USFWS.

Vermont Towns with Known Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Habitat

This map is a supplement to:
"Indiana and Northern Long-Eared Bat Guidance for all VTrans Projects and Maintenance Activities"
 Please review that document for more details.



December 2016

MAP SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Indiana Bat Restricted Towns

Northern Long-Eared Bat Restricted Towns

Restricted Towns

Addison	Mount Tabor
Arlington	New Haven
Benson	Orwell
Bethel	Panton
Brandon	Pawlet
Bridgewater	Pittsford
Bridport	Plymouth
Bristol	Rupert
Cavendish	Salisbury
Charlotte	Sandgate
Chester	Shoreham
Chittenden	South Burlington
Corinth	Springfield
Cornwall	St. George
Danby	Starksboro
Dorset	Stockbridge
Dover	Strafford
Duxbury	Sudbury
Fair Haven	Sunderland
Fayston	Thetford
Ferrisburgh	Vergennes
Hartford	Vershire
Hartland	Waitsfield
Hinesburg	Waltham
Leicester	Weathersfield
Ludlow	West Fairlee
Manchester	West Haven
Middlebury	Weybridge
Milton	Whiting
Monkton	Windham
Moretown	



For more information:
 Refer to the "State and Federal Listed Bats Guidance for all VTrans Projects and Maintenance Activities" memo
 or contact a VTrans biologist.

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