

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2017

The Transportation Alternatives Program was established in federal transportation legislation— Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) – signed into law on July 6, 2012. The Transportation Alternatives Program in part replaced the former Transportation Enhancements Program. The Transportation Alternatives Program provides funding for the following eligible activities:

- (A) Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- (B) Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.
- (C) Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users.
- (D) Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.
- (E) Community improvement activities, including--
 - (i) historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities;
 - (ii) vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way to improve roadway safety, prevent against invasive species, and provide erosion control; and
 - (iii) archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project eligible under this title.
- (F) Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to--
 - (i) address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff, or
 - (ii) reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or to restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats.
- (G) The Safe Routes to School Program.

In the announcement for new applications for the 2016 TA program it was noted that approximately 50% of the TAP funding was reserved for Environmental Mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways which included (but was not limited to) the following:

- Salt Sheds
- Vector Trucks
- Bank Stabilization
- Detention ponds
- Check Dams
- Swirl Separators
- Culvert Replacement
- Stream Channel Stabilization
- Permeable Pavers
- Planning Study
- Phosphorus Control/Planning
- Supplemental Funding for TE Projects
- Infiltration Basins
- Ditching
- Criteria extended to Sidewalks, paths, etc.

Eligibility for salt/sand sheds was considered on a case by case basis based on proximity of the existing storage location to a major water body (generally within 50 feet).

An important change from Transportation Enhancement Program is that non-profit organizations are not eligible recipients of TA funding. Following is a list of the eligible applicants for TA projects as outlined in MAP-21:

- a local government
- a regional transportation authority
- a transit agency
- a natural resource or public lands agency
- a school district, local education agency, or school
- a tribal government
- any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of the legislation. The only eligible entities that the State, in consultation with FHWA, has determined to be eligible entities are regional planning commissions; we are awaiting further guidance from FHWA prior to other determinations being made.

The TA program provides funds to either develop scoping (feasibility) studies or to develop projects that lead to construction. All projects must demonstrate a strong transportation link. Several the program rules that were in place for the Transportation Enhancement Program are in effect for the TA Program. These include that the make-up of the committee that selected enhancement projects will continue for TA projects. There is a required 20% match of the federal funds and

applicants may only apply for up to \$300,000 in federal funds for a total project cost of \$375,000. Successful applicants may propose that up to one-half of their required match be met by donated goods and services but this will be subject to approval.

The announcement that the Agency would be accepting applications for the 2016 TA program went out in August 2015. Applications were due by October 16, 2015 and the successful projects were identified in a press release on January 13, 2016. The 2016 project awards are listed below (the Williston scoping study award was conditional and eventually redirected to other funding sources):

Project Awards (announced January 2016)

	Project Name/Number	Town/ Sponsor	Description	Local Match (20%)	Federal Request (80%)	Total TAP Grant Funding
Non-Environmental	Waitsfield STP EH08(6) <i>Adding to Existing Project</i>	Town of Waitsfield	Construct a 105 ft. pedestrian bridge, abutments, 50 ft. of new sidewalk, and 494 ft. of reconstructed sidewalk.	\$33,655.80	\$134,623.20	\$168,279.00
	Bennington TAP TA16(1)	Bennington	Create a one-mile active transportation corridor along Benmont Avenue	\$62,736.00	\$250,944.00	\$313,680.00
	St. Johnsbury TAP TA16(2)	Town of St. Johnsbury	Construct 2200 ft. of bike lanes from LVRT parking lot to Railroad St., RRFB crossings, and refuge islands on Main St. and Railroad St.	\$38,340.00	\$153,360.00	\$191,700.00
	St. Albans TAP TA16(3)	City of St. Albans	Construct pedestrian and vehicular improvements at the intersection of Lake, Federal, and Catherin St.	\$75,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$375,000.00
	Wilmington TAP TA16(4)	Town of Wilmington	2,032 ft. of sidewalk on from 24 E. Main St. to 88 E. Main St.	\$75,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$375,000.00
					\$1,138,927.20	\$1,423,659.00
Environmental	Essex TAP TA16(5)	Town of Essex	Retrofit of a detention pond in a wooded area adjacent to Sydney Drive.	\$60,988.36	\$243,953.46	\$304,941.83
	Shelburne TAP TA16(6)	S. Burlington / Shelburne	Construct a Gravel wetland stormwater treatment system to treat runoff from Shelburne Bay.	\$21,750.00	\$87,000.00	\$108,750.00
	Essex Junction TAP TA16(7)	Village of Essex Junction	Construct a gravel wetland for runoff from Creek Condominiums as well as portions of the Village owned road.	\$35,613.99	\$142,455.94	\$178,069.93
	S. Burlington TAP TA16(8)	City of South Burlington	Replace undersized culverts near the Butler Farms and Oak Creek Village neighborhood	\$75,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$375,000.00
	Fairfield TAP TA16(9)	Town of Fairfield	Construct a Salt Shed near the Black River	\$75,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$375,000.00
					\$1,073,409.40	\$1,341,761.75
Scoping	Williston TAP TA16(10)	Town of Williston	Scoping study for North Williston Rd. including shoulder widening and other bike/pedestrian considerations.	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
					\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
					\$2,237,336.60	\$2,815,420.75

In addition to the selection of new TA projects in 2016 there were several projects that were substantially completed in 2016. These included both “scoping” and “construction” projects. Additionally, as noted above, the TA Program essentially replaced the

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program in 2012, however there are numerous TE projects still under development and those are included below with the TA projects that were substantially completed in 2016.

Projects Completed in 2016 (TA and TE Projects)

Scoping Projects Completed in 2016

BENNINGTON TAP TA13(12) - SCOPING STUDY FOR FRANKLIN LANE IN BENNINGTON.

BURKE TAP TA14(11) - SCOPING STUDY FOR BIKE/PED IMPROVEMENTS ON EAST DARLING HILL ROAD IN BURKE.

ENOSBURG FALLS TAP TA15(7) - SCOPING STUDY FOR THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTION OF A SIDEWALK/BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITY ALONG DUFFY HILL RD.

HARTFORD TAP TA14(13) - SCOPING STUDY FOR PROVIDING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ACCOMMODATIONS ON VT14 AND THE QUECHEE-WEST HARTFORD RD.

HYDE PARK TAP TA13(11) - SCOPING STUDY - STREETSCAPE AND STORM-WATER ASSESSMENT FOR VARIOUS ROUTES IN HYDE PARK.

KILLINGTON TAP TA14(15) - SCOPING STUDY FOR A WALKWAY CONNECTING THE EXISTING KILLINGTON ROAD WALKWAY TO THE KILLINGTON SKI RESORT.

MONTGOMERY STP EH12(16) - SCOPING STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF RESTORING THE LONGLEY COVERED BRIDGE IN MONTGOMERY (BR33), ON TH4 OVER THE TROUT RIVER.

MONTGOMERY TAP TA15(6) - SCOPING STUDY FOR RELOCATING AND RESTORING THE HECTORVILLE COVERED BRIDGE

MORRISTOWN STP EH10(16) - FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A SIDEWALK AND BIKE LANE WITH STREETSCAPE, ALONG VT100 IN MORRISTOWN.

SPRINGFIELD TAP TA14(12) - SCOPING STUDY FOR SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS FOR ELM STREET SCHOOL AREA, FOCUSING ON ELM HILL, DOUGLAS AND HOOVER STREETS TO ENHANCE WALKING PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Construction Projects Substantially Completed in 2016



BURLINGTON STP ST EH00(16) - IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BURLINGTON INTERVALE, INCLUDING A KIOSK, SIGNS TO ORIENT VISITORS, AND OTHER AMENITIES.



DOVER STP EH12(3) - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF APPROX. 2000 FEET OF SIDEWALK, ASSOCIATED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND APPURTENANCES, ALONG VT100 IN DOVER.



GUILFORD STP EH11(4) - RESTORATION OF THE GREEN RIVER COVERED BRIDGE (BR13) ON TH1 IN GUILFORD, OVER THE GREEN RIVER.



ESSEX JCT. TAP TA 13(6) - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF 1,175 FEET OF SHARED-USE PATH ADJACENT TO THE RAIL LINE BETWEEN NORTH AND CENTRAL STREETS IN ESSEX JCT. SUPPLEMENTAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR ESSEX JCT. STP SDWK(17).



JOHNSON STP EH10(2) - PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS ALONG SCHOOL ST. AND COLLEGE HILL ROAD IN JOHNSON VILLAGE.



KILLINGTON STP EH11(7) - CONSTRUCTION OF A 1500-FOOT PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ALONG KILLINGTON ROAD. THIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL \$227,174.00 IN TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION.



MONTPELIER STP EH08(8) - IMPROVEMENTS TO CROSSWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES, AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN MONTPELIER.



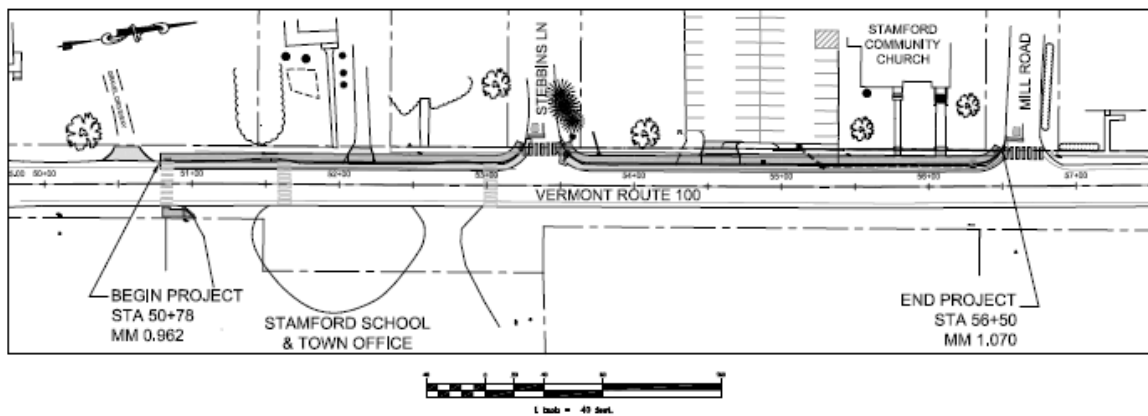
PITTSFORD STP EH09(3) - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK ALONG PLEASANT STREET IN PITTSFORD MILLS VILLAGE.



ROCKINGHAM (BELLOWS FALLS) STP EH10(22) - REHABILITATION OF BR52 ON BRIDGE ST. IN BELLOWS FALLS, OVER THE CANAL.



SHAFTSBURY STP EH10(3) - LINK THE SHAFTSBURY GRADED SCHOOL WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL WITH A SAFE PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALK.



STAMFORD STP EH07(2) - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT APPROX. 1600 FEET OF SIDEWALKS ALONG VT100 IN STAMFORD VILLAGE (no photo available).



WILLISTON TAP TA13(3) -- CONSTRUCTION OF A 10-FT-WIDE, 100-FOOT-LONG SHARED-USE PATH AND 150-FOOT BRIDGE OVER ALLEN BROOK, TO THE SITE OF THE NEW ALLIANCE CHURCH, PARALLEL TO VT2A IN WILLISTON.



WILLISTON TAP TA14(3) – CONSTRUCTION OF 1,325 FEET OF SIDEWALK ALONG HARVEST LANE IN WILLISTON.

The Future

In 2016 the funding opportunities for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program were changed by the newly created FAST Act (“Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act”). The FAST Act eliminates the previous MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) and replaces it with a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding for Transportation Alternatives. These changes, however, do not effectively change VTrans’ program or criteria. These set-aside funds include all projects and activities that were previously eligible under TAP. All projects continue to be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations and must demonstrate a strong transportation link.

The announcement that the Agency would be accepting applications for the 2017 TA program hit the street in August 2016. Applications were due by October 20, 2016 and it is anticipated the announcement of the successful projects will occur in January 2017.