



# FY2026 Vermont Better Roads Grant Program

## **Due by Friday December 27th, 2024**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is pleased to announce the 28th year of funding to support projects on municipal roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The grant funds are provided by the VT Agency of Transportation with partnership through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Roads Program promotes the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing water quality around the State.

Please note that the application scoring of the Better Roads Program is intended to be in line with the State's Clean Water Act (Act 64), as well as the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). In an effort to prioritize funding for projects that are providing significant water quality improvements, applicants must indicate whether or not the projects that they intend to construct will be in full compliance with the MRGP. Please see application and scoring sheet for more information. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Better Roads staff.

Better Roads funding may not be used as match for other state or federally funded programs.

This application may be downloaded at the following address:

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>



# FY2026 Better Roads Grant Categories



## A. Road Erosion Inventory and/or BMP Implementation Planning

Category A applications are currently being solicited for FY2025, and awards are being made on a first come, first serve basis until 12/31/24 or funds are exhausted. If additional funding becomes available, we will solicit via a new (FY26) grant cycle. Please find the current solicitation for FY25 here: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>

## Categories B, C, and D – Current Solicitation

Projects may be enhancements of a scheduled project that provide additional erosion control benefits, such as ditch stabilization in conjunction with a culvert replacement, or may be a stand-alone erosion control solution. Project selection will be prioritized based on the selection criteria attached to this application.

## B. Correction of a Road Related Erosion Problem and/or Stormwater Mitigation/Retrofit for both gravel and paved roads (Maximum Grant Amount \$20,000)

### Example projects:

- ◆ Stone or grass lined ditches
- ◆ Check dams, splash pools or other energy dissipaters
- ◆ Road-side rain gardens
- ◆ Small Culverts (<36")
- ◆ Infiltration Practices
- ◆ Level spreader
- ◆ Stormwater infrastructure installation, rehab or replacement
- ◆ Catch basin outlet stabilization

## C. Correction of a Stream Bank, Lake shore or Slope Related Problem (Maximum Grant Amount \$40,000)

### Example projects:

- ◆ Stream bank stabilization
- ◆ Slope stabilization, retaining walls
- ◆ Lake shore stabilization

## D. Structure/culvert installation or replacement for culverts equal to or larger than 36" (Maximum Grant Amount \$60,000) This Category is intended to fund one single culvert / structure that is not under the MRGP jurisdiction. Linear projects on MRGP eligible road segments should apply as Category B.

Structures or culverts funded in this category must meet size requirements from a hydraulic study or from consultation with an Agency of Natural Resources River Management Engineer (for in-stream culverts). Additional erosion control work may be considered eligible as part of a project in this category but must be within a continuous work area of the 36" or larger culvert.

### Example projects

- ◆ Box culvert or bridge
- ◆ Bottomless arch, round culvert or squash pipe larger than 36" in width
- ◆ Projects may also include other erosion control practices needed.



# Application Material Guidance



All work should be completed in accordance with specifications contained in the *Vermont Better Roads Manual* <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/Better%20Roads%20Manual%20Final%202024.pdf>

All awards will be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in our standard VTrans grant agreements including:

- Attachment C –Standard State Provisions for Contracts and Grants (12/15/2017) (link: [Forms | Buildings and General Services \(vermont.gov\)](#))
- Attachment D – Other Provisions
- Attachment E - DOT Standard Title VI Assurances and Non-Discrimination Provisions (DOT 1050.2A) - Assurance Appendix A and Assurance Appendix E

Please refer to our website at the following link for State and Federal requirements that will be included as part of these agreements. <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>

**Supporting Documentation** will enhance your application. You may acquire supporting documentation from an Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) River Management Engineer, ANR Lakes and Ponds Section staff, ANR Watershed Basin Planner, VTrans District Technical Staff, or Regional Planning Commission staff. **See page 15 for contact information.**

**Permits** – Towns are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable permits for their projects. If you have questions regarding what type of permit you might need or who to contact for a permit, please call one of the individuals on the contact list for assistance.

## Applications must be received on or before **Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Please send completed applications to:

Email: [BetterRoads@vermont.gov](mailto:BetterRoads@vermont.gov)

Phone: (802) 828-4585 (802) 595-6184

**Emailed applications are required**

The deadline to complete work for Categories B/C/D projects is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The deadline to submit final reports and invoices for these Category B,C,D grants will be December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



The grant should represent a maximum of 80% of total project cost. A minimum 20% local match is required and can be met through cash expenditures as well as services such as staff and use of equipment (not funded by state or federal dollars). Final payment of grant award will be made upon submission and approval of invoices.

Municipalities may apply for more than one grant but are only eligible for the maximum grant amount of each category. For instance, a municipality could apply for two small Category B grants if the total of both grants is under the \$20,000 maximum award. Additionally, a municipality could apply for both a Category B and a Category D project, etc.

## Examples of how to calculate the required 20% match/requested grant amount:

### **Total Eligible Project Cost:**

Category B- \$25,000    Categories C- \$50,000    Category D- \$75,000

### **Maximum Grant Award:**

Category B- \$20,000    Categories C- \$40,000    Category D- \$60,000

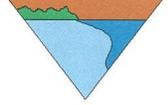
### **Formula:**

If Total Project Cost is **more** than the **Total Eligible Project Cost**, then

$$\text{Match} = \text{Total Project Cost} - \text{Maximum Grant Award}$$

If Total Project Cost is **less** than or equal to the **Total Eligible Project Cost**, then

$$\text{Match} = \text{Total Project Cost} \times 0.2$$



## Cover Sheet

**Please complete this page ONCE and return with your Grant Category Application(s)**

Town/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person (Responsible for Signing Grant Agreement): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

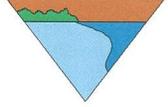
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address* *Town* *Zip*

Primary Contact Person Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

SAM unique ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year End Month (MM): \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk / Admin email: \_\_\_\_\_

Road Foreman Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Road Foreman Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## **CATEGORY B/C/D**

Please complete one application per project you are applying for.

Please check the Category you are applying for:

- B. Correction of a Road Related Erosion Problem and/or Stormwater Mitigation
- C. Correction of a Stream Bank, Lake Shore or Slope Related Problem
- D. Structure/culvert 36" diameter or greater

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Road Name: \_\_\_\_\_ TH #: \_\_\_\_\_ Structure # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Road Type: Paved or Unpaved (select one) Road Class: 1 2 3 4 (select one)

Please provide a thorough description of the erosion/water quality problem (ex. Roadway has steep slope with no ditch which is causing severe roadway erosion, which outlets into the Lamoille River):

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Has the town completed an MRGP compliant road erosion inventory?

- Yes       No       In progress

Project Length (linear feet along roadway): \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Number of structures/culverts replaced/repaired: \_\_\_\_\_

Average slope of roadway:       0-5%       5-10%       >10%

Provide a VERY detailed map of project location showing start and end points:  Included

Provide a sketch of project location showing distances and project details:  Included





# Vermont Better Roads Grant Program



### Environmental Concerns:

All projects require a review of potential impacts by our environmental team. To expedite the review process, please check the boxes below that describe existing structures/conditions to be replaced/maintained (if any) and the project description that applies (if any).

Existing Structures:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Steel/Plastic Culvert	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Box Culvert
<input type="checkbox"/> Stone Culvert – <b>Take pictures</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Bridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Ditch	<input type="checkbox"/> Rolled Beam/Plate Girder Bridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation remains, mill ruins, stone walls, other – <b>Take pictures</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone abutments or piers – <b>Take pictures</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings within 300 feet of work - <b>Take pictures</b>	
Project Description:	
<input type="checkbox"/> New ditches will be established	<input type="checkbox"/> All work will be completed from the existing road or shoulder
<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablishing existing ditches only	<input type="checkbox"/> There will be excavation within 300 feet of a river or stream – <b>Take pictures</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> The structure is being replaced on existing location/alignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Road reclaiming, reconstruction, or widening
<input type="checkbox"/> Excavation within a floodplain – <b>Take pictures</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary off-road access is required
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree cutting/clearing – <b>Take pictures</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> The roadway will be realigned

Please describe the project and how it will create a positive water quality benefit (ex. Reshape 500' of ditch and line with 12 inch minus stone, to prevent sediment from entering the Lamoille River at the bottom of the hill):

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Please list any professionals or partners that assisted with planning this project (ANR River Management Engineer, Army Corps of Engineers, VTrans staff, Basin Planner, RPC staff, etc.):

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Is the project located in the town "Right of Way?" (select one)  Yes  No  Both

Please be aware, Municipalities are required to have an Agreement for Entry & Liability Release for any impacted properties (prior to the start of construction.)



# Vermont Better Roads Grant Program



## Budget:

Please attach a project budget and confirm below that is attached:

Project budget IS attached

Are you applying to other grant programs to help fund this project? If so, what programs? Please note that Better Roads requires a 20% local match and Better Roads funding may not be used as match for other state or federally funded programs.

<b>Requested Grant Amount:</b>	\$ _____.
+	
<b>Local Match:</b>	\$ _____.
=	
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$ _____.</div>

**Requested Grant Amount Max:**

\$20,000 Category B

\$40,000 Category C

\$60,000 Category D

See page 6 for more information on calculating match

Estimated Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:**

Please use the documentation checklist below to ensure that all of the relevant items regarding your application have been included. **It is preferred that your application is a single PDF file.**

- Grant application cover sheet
- Grant application form, including chart with RSID and MRGP compliance before and after project completion
- Itemized Cost estimate for labor, equipment, and materials (see enclosed Cost Estimate Worksheet). If applicable, please break down funding by source (i.e. different grant sources).
- Detailed Project Location Map
- Sketch of proposed project and erosion control measures or other management practices, including distances in feet
  - Also show approximate location of town/other right-of-way and/or property lines and limits of work
- Photos must be color and clear to see.**
  - Please make sure there are enough photos to get a good idea of the project area**
- Other appropriate supporting documents.

By signing this application, I certify that all the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge. We will comply with all the requirements of the grant including making our books available for audit if required.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**MUST BE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/MANAGER OR SELECT BOARD CHAIR**



# Vermont Better Roads Grant Program



## Vermont Better Roads Category B/C/D Grant Proposal Scoring Criteria

All applications will be scored on a sliding scale elected by the Better Roads Grant Selection Committee. Road BMP upgrades are considered the highest priority for grant funding when road segments are “hydrologically-connected,” currently “not meeting” MRGP standards, and road slopes are greater than 10%

- 1. Is the project using Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are proven and likely to maximize long term success, such as practices contained within the new VTrans Better Roads Manual and/or VT DEC MRGP Standards?? [maximum 20 points]**
  - The proposed project utilizes appropriate BMPs and has maximized the likelihood of long-term success (16-20 points)
  - The proposed project utilizes some appropriate BMPs but more could be done to increase the likelihood of success (11-15 points)
  - The proposed project does not utilize appropriate BMPs, or it is unclear whether the BMPs will be used appropriately and the likelihood of success is uncertain (0-10 points)
  
- 2. What are the expected Water Quality Benefits within the watershed? [maximum 25 points]**
  - Project will lead to significant improvements to water quality (21-25 points)
  - Project will lead to moderate improvements to water quality (16-20 points)
  - Project will lead to small improvements to water quality (1-15 points)
  - Project will lead to no obvious improvements to water quality (0 points)
  
- 3. Is the project in or does stormwater runoff from the project area drain into a hydrologically connected segment? [maximum 20 points]**
  - Yes; the entire project is in connected segment(s) (20 points)
  - Partially; part(s) of the project are in connected segments (5-19 points)
  - No; this project is not in a connected segment (0-5 points)
  
- 4. Will the project result in full compliance of one or more segments in accordance with the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)? [maximum 25 points]**
  - All segments within the project will be in full compliance (25 points)
  - One or more segments will be in full compliance, with all other segments in partial compliance (11 – 24 points)
  - One or more segments will be a minimum of partial compliance (1- 10 points)
  - Project does not meet compliance or not applicable (does not have hydrologically connected segments) (0 points)
  
- 5. Is the project cost effective? [maximum 10 points]**
  - The cost of the project is low and the expected benefits are high (8-10 points)
  - The cost of the project is average and the expected benefits are average (5-7 points)
  - The cost of the project is high and the expected benefits are low (0-4 points)





# Vermont Better Roads Grant Program



## Questions and Technical Assistance

For questions regarding this application, general program related questions or for technical assistance please contact Alan May (802) 828-4585 or Dan Judkins (802) 595-6184

For questions related to projects affecting rivers and streams please contact the Agency of Natural Resources, River Management Engineers:

- Chris Brunelle, Northwest VT (802) 777-5328 or [Chris.brunelle@vermont.gov](mailto:Chris.brunelle@vermont.gov)
- Ben Matthews, Northeast VT (802) 498-4570 or [ben.matthews@vermont.gov](mailto:ben.matthews@vermont.gov)
- Scott Jensen, Southeast VT (802) 490-6962 or [Scott.jensen@vermont.gov](mailto:Scott.jensen@vermont.gov)
- Jaron Borg, Central VT (802) 371-8342 or [Jaron.borg@vermont.gov](mailto:Jaron.borg@vermont.gov)
- Josh Carvajal, Southwest VT (802)490-6163 or [Joshua.carvajal@vermont.gov](mailto:Joshua.carvajal@vermont.gov)

For questions related to the Municipal Roads General Permit, please contact Chad McGann, Municipal Roads Program Coordinator. (802) 636-7239 or [Chad.McGann@vermont.gov](mailto:Chad.McGann@vermont.gov)

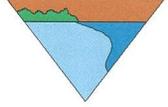
## Project Completion Requirements

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### Categories B, C, and D

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1. Submit a Municipal Invoicing Spreadsheet (available on the Better Roads website): <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>).
2. Four color photos of, during (2 photos) and after (2 photos) the project.
3. Copies of invoices/receipts and time sheets to document expenses and local match.



## River Management Engineer Support Letter

I am providing this letter of support to the Town/City/Village of \_\_\_\_\_ for their Better Roads grant application on \_\_\_\_\_, which will have an impact on \_\_\_\_\_  
Mile Marker, Road Name/TH Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of River/Stream

Stream Alteration Permit Required for this project:  Yes  No

Upon review of the site, I have determined that the proposed project is eligible for a Stream Alteration Permit. Additionally, if this project is constructed according to the recommendations described below (see Comments), the following stream equilibrium and connectivity benefits will be achieved:

- Restores or enhances floodplain/access to floodplain
- Restores or enhances natural channel dimensions
- Establishes tree/shrub buffer
- Restores habitat (including aquatic organism passage)
- No additional benefits
- Further restricts or impacts the stream

Thank you for your consideration,

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Signature

**Comments:**