



Municipal Assistance Section – Salt Shed Grant Application Guide *(Applies to grant applications received after July 1, 2022)*

VTrans - Municipal Assistance Section grant opportunities allow for the design and construction of salt and sand sheds as eligible expenses through the following programs: the ***Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)*** and the ***Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program (MHSMP)***. Salt shed funding is allowed through these programs to mitigate water contamination in association with the Vermont Clean Water Act (Act 64). All projects must be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

The purpose of this funding is to effectively cover salt and sand piles to prevent water pollution. This funding is eligible for a reasonably sized sand/salt shed and allows for the storage of necessary loading equipment. Additional equipment storage, general maintenance of existing salt sheds, or any other amenities are not eligible. Salt and sand sheds that have exceeded their expected useful life is not considered maintenance and may be eligible to apply for this funding.

The maximum amount of funding per project through the VTrans Municipal Assistance Section (i.e., the sum total of MM and TAP grants) is capped at **\$500,000** of federal funding which will require **\$125,000** of local match funding, for a total grant amount of **\$625,000 (i.e., 80% federal or state / 20% local funding split)**. Any additional expenses per project cannot be funded through these programs.

The MHSMP and TAP programs require the following elements to be addressed to successfully receive grant funding:

- A thorough description of how salt contamination is occurring from the existing salt pile conditions to nearby surface and/or ground water (*including the proximity of the closest receiving waters and/or other sensitive resources, such as wetlands*).
- Evidence of salt and sand shed size necessity and annual salt & sand usage.
- A thorough cost estimate of the design and construction of the facility meeting federal requirements.
 - Must include considerations for project design, R.O.W., construction, construction inspection, and project management expenses.
- A clear status of the project development at the time of application.
 - Projects applying for additional funding must have a R.O.W certificate from VTrans.
- A review of existing permits relative to the improvement, a statement of how the project will comply, and if any new permits will be required.
- A support letter from the governing body of the applicant municipality or organization must include:
 - Acknowledgement of the local match financial requirement.
 - Acknowledgement of responsibility for future maintenance costs.
- A support letter from the Regional Planning Commission (RPC).
- A letter of acknowledgement from the VTrans District Transportation Administrator if the project requires a State Highway Work and Access Permit.

Note: Salt and sand shed projects funded through the MHSMP and TAP grant opportunities must include compliance with the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Uniform Act for Right-of-Way acquisition
- Buy America Build America Provisions
- A public interest finding for proprietary products
- Low bid, sealed bid process for construction – Force Account is generally not allowed (i.e., construction completed by municipal staff).

These are reimbursement grants so municipalities must submit invoices for completed work and be reimbursed appropriately up to the grant amount. All projects must advance through construction, or payback provisions will be initiated.

Salt and sand shed projects shall be developed according to the guidelines published in the ***Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Guidebook for Municipally Managed Projects***. Grant applications and additional information can be found at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects>

