

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION



News

June 2014



To receive this newsletter by e-mail instead of hardcopy, please write to:

news@trorc.org

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Regional Plan for
Sustainable
Development

TRORC is working with the East Central Vermont Consortium to develop a vision and plan for a sustainable future.

We want to hear from you!

Share your vision of the future by visiting the website:

www.ecvermont.org

Flood Mitigation Project Awarded in Rochester

With help from TRORC, the Town of Rochester has been awarded \$144,000 for a flood mitigation project on Bean's Bridge Road! The project will employ an innovative flood mitigation concept which involves lowering the road itself to allow flood waters to flow over the road, rather than washing out the road. This concept is often employed in the western states, but according to Vermont officials, will be one of the first implementation projects of its kind in Vermont.



The funding for this project came from a pot of money given to the State of Vermont from U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds, which were received after the damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene. We are looking forward to watching this project unfold!

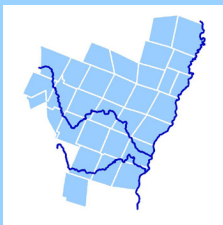
VTrans Pushes for Centerline Rumble Stripes

To help promote and enhance traffic safety VTrans is considering the installation of centerline rumble stripes on every State Highway, either in conjunction with another improvement or as a stand alone project.

This is very good news given the growing amount of distracted driving accidents in the TRO-RC region. In the Spring of 2013 TRORC staff worked closely with VTrans, municipal officials and emergency professionals as part of the Route 4 Regional Safety Forum. One result of this forum, which was brought on by the large number of accidents on Route 4, was to develop centerline rumble stripes as often as feasible to help curtail these accidents. Hopefully the successes of this project will help with future projects across the State!



*To learn more about this safety measure please read the
Rumble Stripe Fact Sheet at trans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/VTrans%20Centerline%20Rumble%20Stripes%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf*



News

Staff

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Bradford

EntreWorks Consulting Presents New Approach to Building Communities

On May 21, Erik Pages from EntreWorks Consulting gave a great presentation regarding New Approaches to Building Communities. Slides from his presentation can be found at <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1111818722674-147/TRORC+VT+2014.pdf>.

Erik also lead three workshops while he was here over the course of three days to take a "deeper dive" into creating an action plan for economic development. Notes from those workshops will be posted to ECVermont.org shortly.



Erik Pages giving his presentation.

Kevin Geiger Tours Irene Damaged Areas with White House Advisor and Governor Peter Shumlin

The White House's top environmental advisor Michael Boots recently toured areas damaged by Tropical Storm Irene with Vermont officials. The goal of the visit was to learn how Vermont is rebuilding stronger and more intelligently after the storm and how to apply these lessons learned to other parts of the Nation.



Kevin Geiger discussing FEMA buyouts. Image courtesy of wcax.com

TRORC's, Kevin Geiger was on hand to discuss the successes and issues in dealing with the FEMA buyouts, which is an on-going process. Mr. Boots and Governor Shumlin were both confident in the buyout process and assured everyone that efforts are in full force to finish the job.

To view a summary video of the visit head over to, wcax.com

TRORC Receives 2014 Preservation Award from the Preservation Trust of Vermont

The award recognizes individuals and organizations who have made special contributions in preserving Vermont's historic architecture. TRORC is proud to accept this award and appreciates the Preservation Trust of Vermont for recognizing our hard work on maintaining and promoting strong village centers while reinforcing the surrounding landscape through the Regional Plan.

A big thanks to all those involved!

To learn more about the Preservation Trust of Vermont and see the award video head over to: <http://www.ptvermont.org/index.php>



THE
PRESERVATION
TRUST OF
VERMONT



TRORC Continues to Assist Towns with Hazard Mitigation Planning



FEMA

TRORC is currently working with Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Hartland and Woodstock to help those towns draft Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Hazard mitigation planning is a process that is strongly supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is a process through which communities assess risks and identify actions to reduce vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. Without a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, a town is ineligible for specific FEMA grant funding opportunities. The most well-known example of the use of one of these grants is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which is currently being used to buy-out properties in our region and across the state that were damaged during Tropical Storm Irene.

*If you would like to know more about Hazard Mitigation Plans, or begin the process for your town, please contact:
Samantha (Sam) Holcomb at sholcomb@trorc.org*

East Central Vermont has Preferred Sustainability Status (PSS) through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, which benefits all the communities in the 40-town region - not just the East Central Vermont: What We Want project. HUD awards 2 bonus points to applicants that are working within us to further the Livability Principles. Other federal entities; such as, EPA and DOT also recognize the PSS points when reviewing grant applications.

Please contact Lorelee Morrow at lmorrow@trorc.org for more information.

Announcements

Remember, New Elements Required for Local Emergency Operations Plan



FEMA

The Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs) this year has two new elements. One is the adoption of the National Incident Management System, or NIMS. After 9/11, it was recognized that there was a need for standardized response and NIMS was born around the core emergency management concepts of the Incident Command System (ICS). Most responders are familiar with ICS and NIMS, but Selectboards have a large role in emergencies as well. A majority of towns probably adopted NIMS several years ago, but if you don't have a record of that, just email Samantha Holcomb at sholcomb@trorc.org for a new adoption template.

Another new item that may be less familiar in this year's LEOP is a "resource typing" matrix, really just a fancy name for a list of what kind of equipment you have. NIMS has created a standardized "typing" list, so that everyone can know what size the machinery is, with Type 1 being the largest. If this is proving to be a challenge, please give us a call at 457-3188.

We would like to thank the following towns who have already completed their Local Emergency Operations Plan: Bethel, Bradford, Bridgewater, Fairlee, Granville, Hartford, Hartland, Norwich, Plymouth, Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, Stockbridge, Strafford, Thetford, Topsham, and Tunbridge. Thank you for your diligent work and commitment to emergency preparedness! The Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) is a newer version of the Basic Emergency Operations Plan, but includes new National Incident Management System (NIMS) sections which require some additional effort.

*If your town still needs help completing the LEOP, please contact:
Sam Holcomb sholcomb@trorc.org for assistance.*

Announcements

Changes for Town Plans Adopted after July 1st

Communities revising or adopting their Municipal Plans after July 1 must be sure to include several new elements. All Plans adopted after July 1 will need to include a Flood Resilience chapter. This chapter must identify flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas; designate those areas to be protected in order to reduce the risk of flood damage; and recommend policies and strategies to protect these areas.



For communities with Downtown or Village Designations (or those that intend to seek it or renewals after July 1st), there are also new requirements. The Plan must include statements that link the goals of the Plan to the purposes of state designation. Any communities seeking renewal will need to explain how designation will help implement the goals of the Plan. Finally, communities with designation will need to include their designated villages or downtowns on a Town Plan map.

*For more information, contact Chris Sargent, AICP at:
457-3188 ext. 12 or at csargent@trorc.org*

Vermont Municipalities and New Energy Efficient Construction



Efficiency Vermont is working with Vermont municipalities to encourage their residents to build more energy efficient homes. As part of this effort, a new Municipal Guide to Vermont Energy Codes and Above-Code Programs, a resource provided by Efficiency Vermont and the Energy Code Assistance Center that provides background information on energy code requirements, explains the energy code process from application through documented compliance, and outlines the support available from Efficiency Vermont for builders and homeowners -- both to simply meet the minimum requirements of the energy codes and to receive technical and financial assistance to exceed codes.

Zoning and planning officials are in a unique position to influence the long-term affordability and environmental impacts of the building that occurs within their town. They can do this by providing critical information to builders and home or business owners about how they can build to meet or exceed Vermont's energy codes. This Municipal Guide to Vermont Energy Codes and Above-Code Programs will make it easier for municipalities to achieve this by providing clear and relevant information so that zoning and planning officials can easily respond to permit applicants.

Efficiency Vermont and the Energy Code Assistance Center have also prepared a Q&A piece, "Enhancing the Role of Vermont Municipalities in Improving Efficiency in New Construction," that addresses specific municipal responsibilities associated with implementing energy code-related requirements under Act 89. For immediate support, builders, contractors and permit applicants can be referred to the Energy Code Assistance Center (ECAC) at (855) 887-0673.

The Municipal Guide can be found here:
efficiencyvermont.com/docs/for_partners/municipal-guide-ecac-programs.pdf

The Q&A piece can be found here:
efficiencyvermont.com/docs/for_partners/municipal-guide-ecac-faq.pdf

VT Standard River Management Principles and Practices

The VT Rivers Program has been under development for a decade but since Tropical Storm Irene, public policy around river and floodplain management has increased sharply. There are now:

Stream Alteration Rules:

watershedmanagement.vt.gov/rivers/docs/rv_SARule_12_24_13.pdf

Stream Alteration General Permit:

watershedmanagement.vt.gov/rivers/docs/2014_04_10_Stream_Alteration_GP.pdf

Standard River Management Principles and Practices:

watershedmanagement.vt.gov/rivers/docs/VT_SRMPP_1st_edition.pdf

These regulations and technical guides center on the principles of fluvial geomorphology. The standards are set for managing our streams and rivers toward dynamic equilibrium conditions. Be on the lookout from the Vermont Rivers Program in the coming months for a companion set of river corridor and floodplain protection in Vermont based on the same fluvial geomorphic principles!

*If you have any questions about river management, please contact:
Pete Fellows at pfellows@trorc.org*



Building Inclusive and Vibrant Communities

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

6:30 - 8:30 PM

318 Main Street, Bethel Town Hall
Bethel, Vermont



Inclusive communities embrace diversity; they provide housing, transportation and employment opportunities for a wide range of people. They include a mix of household income levels and are affordable and welcoming for working households; younger and older people, people with disabilities and families with children; business owners as well as people on fixed incomes. Such communities create opportunities for regional economic growth and stability of businesses, agriculture and tourism; they are supportive of business owners as well as those who work for businesses in the towns.

We hope to engage both policy makers and interested citizens in this discussion concerning the future potential of your towns and neighborhoods. We are confident that this thought provoking presentation and discussion will raise awareness, open conversation, and inspire positive steps towards building the kind of inclusive and vibrant and diverse communities that we and future generations can all live in and thrive.

Panelists: Julie Campoli, Owner of Terra Firma Urban Design; John E. Davis, partner and co-founder of Burlington Associates in Community Development; Ted Wimpey, Director of Fair Housing Project Champlain Valley Office of Equal Opportunity; and Lorelee Morrow, Regional Planner, TRORC.

*For more information, contact Lorelee Morrow at:
lmorrow@trorc.org or 457-3188*

Announcements

New Intercity Bus Services Starting this June



Beginning on June 9th, Vermonters and visitors will have more affordable travel choices to get around New England and beyond, thanks to the launch of new intercity bus routes operated by Vermont Translines. The new routes, funded by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Federal Transit Administration, include service from Burlington to Albany, NY via Bennington and Rutland, as well as service between Rutland and White River Junction and on to Hanover, NH, with connections to Greyhound Lines, Inc. A ticket from Burlington to Albany via Rutland, Manchester, and Bennington will cost approximately \$32, while a ride from Rutland to Hanover will be around \$10.

“Public transit is essential to many Vermonters, and a strong system is in the best interests of the state,” said Gov. Peter Shumlin. “It was clear that we needed to expand intercity service in Vermont, which is why we directed the Agency of Transportation to study the issue two years ago. While this service will allow Vermonters to travel farther, the investment will stay right here at home with a local operator.”

Chris Cole, Director of VTrans Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development Division, agreed, adding, “These new bus routes will work with our existing successful bus, rail and airline services to provide a more robust system of connectivity for Vermonters and visitors alike, ensuring more car-free and affordable transportation options.” Initially, there will be one round trip per route per day. The new service will provide connections to other existing intercity services to New York City, Boston, Montreal and other major northeast destinations on comfortably appointed coaches.

More information including schedule details and instructions on how and where to purchase tickets is available at connectingcommuters.org/bus, or by calling 1-800-685-RIDE.

Expanded public transportation options are a primary goal of the TRORC Regional Plan. TRO-RC has been working steadily over the years to encourage dialogue between both regional and local stake holders to bring these connections to life!

Grants / Funding Opportunities

Woodard & Curran Foundation - 2014 Grant Application

The Woodard & Curran Foundation is a public nonprofit organization dedicated to making grants that empower local and global solutions for a healthier world. In November 2014, the Foundation will award at least two grants (maximum value of \$10,000 per grant) for projects that demonstrate “environmental stewardship through community involvement” by promoting a clean and sustainable environment.



Applications must be submitted by midnight on June 15th. Head to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014WCFGrantApp#_blank to learn more and apply.

FY15 Municipal Planning Grants

Applications are due September 30, 2014 with grants being issued by the end of the year. If you would like assistance with a grant or have a project in mind, contact Chris Sargent at csargent@trorc.org or visit accd.vermont.gov



Upcoming Events

TRORC's mission is to advocate for the needs of our member towns, and to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life.

The Commission's staff provides technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's non-profits and businesses.

To learn more, visit our website: www.trorc.org.

June 11 - Building Inclusive and Vibrant Communities

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

318 Main Street, Bethel Town Hall, Bethel VT

For more information, contact Lorelee Morrow at lmorrow@trorc.org or 457-3188

June 12 - Orange/ Windsor County Road Foreman Meeting

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Woodstock Town Garage

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 457-3188 x13

June 18 - Pavement Maintenance Workshop

7:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Vermont Technical College, Randolph Campus

124 Main St, Randolph Center, Morrill Hall, Rm 128

Vermont Local Roads is hosting the technical workshop on pavement maintenance covering the proper maintenance activity to correct or prevent pavement problems. Performance of various maintenance options will also be illustrated.

Registration is \$30, visit vermontlocalroads.org to register and learn more.

June 19 - LEPC #12 Meeting

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

VA Hospital, Building 44, Room 103B, WRJ, VT

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 457-3188 x13

June 25 - TRORC Annual Meeting

5:00 PM - 8:30 PM

128 King Farm Rd, Woodstock VT

This years guest speaker is Anne Macksoud, co-producer of "The Wisdom to Survive- Climate Change, Capitalism and Community"

For more information, please contact dgish@trorc.org

July 10 - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Location; TBD

For more information, contact Rita Seto at 457-3188 x13

July 15 - ECV Consortium Meeting

9:30 AM

Hotel Coolidge, White River Junction, VT

Comes join us for our second to the last East Central Vermont: What We Want consortium meeting.

Plan Elements up for discussion will be:

Water Supply and Treatment

Tracking: Are we getting closer?

For more information contact Lorelee Morrow at lmorrow@trorc.org



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
128 King Farm Rd
Woodstock, VT 05091