



# TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE

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## REGIONAL COMMISSION

July 2012

### TRORC ORGANIZING FIRST REGIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY FORUM

**Registration: August 2012**

Implementation of Vermont’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) began in 2007 with the ultimate goal of reducing highway crashes, associated injuries, and death on all Vermont public highways.

To assist in achieving that goal, TRORC is partnering with Vermont Local Roads and Vermont Agency of Transportation in hosting a Regional Highway Safety Forum on September 11, 2012 at Lake Morey Inn (Fairlee, VT). The purpose of this forum is to establish relationships between regional safety stakeholders, begin a discussion on resource sharing, and identify safety issues that are specific to this region. Key participants will include local and regional law enforcement, EMS, fire departments, selectboards, planners, engineers, driver’s education professionals, and others. Registration will open in early August 2012.

Please contact Rita Seto (rseto@trorc.org) with questions.



#### IN THIS ISSUE

Regional Highway Safety Forum .....	1
TRORC Updates Regional Plan .....	1
Municipal Planning Resources.....	2
Grants .....	2 & 3
Commissioners & Staff.....	4
Upcoming Events.....	4

### TRORC CONTINUES UPDATING REGIONAL PLAN

**Transportation chapter is next!**

Over the summer and into the fall, TRORC staff will be updating the regional transportation chapter with input from the Transportation Advisory Committee and our member towns. The current plan was approved in 2007. This update will make use of current U.S. Census data and trends, lessons learned from Tropical Storm Irene, information about our current HUD Sustainability Grant, and the essential elements of TRORC’s Regional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

The updated plan will highlight the inextricable link between transportation, land use, and hazard mitigation, and will also explore important regional issues, such as the mobility needs of all citizens. The plan will feature a more user-friendly format and will be made available both in print and on our website (www.trorc.org). Draft sections will be posted to our website for review and comment. Outreach to members of the public and other entities will begin in late fall 2012. Please direct comments or questions to Rita Seto (rseto@trorc.org) or Peter Gregory (pgregory@trorc.org).

### GRANTS



*In a recent survey, town officials requested that this newsletter carry more articles on grants and other funding opportunities. Well, you asked and we listened! Flip to pages 2 and 3 for the latest updates.*

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# Municipal Planning Resources

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## ACCESSING MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL PLANNING STATUTES

### *The inside scoop on how to find the state's planning goals and requirements*

Have you ever wondered what must be included in a Town or Regional Plan? The purpose and requirements are framed by the Vermont State Legislature and detailed in a book entitled "Vermont Planning, Development and Land Use Laws Annotated." While you can buy a copy of the book for about \$50 through LexisNexis' online store, there are FREE online alternatives. For instance:

The *'unofficial version'* can be found on the VT Statutes Online website: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutesmain.cfm>. Once there, click on the first entry for "Title 24 – Municipal and County Government," then click "Chapter 117 - Municipal and Regional Planning and Development."

The *'official version'* is provided online for free by LexisNexis via Michie's Legal Resources. Although the website can prove tedious to navigate, it's worth a try: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/michie>.

com/hottopics/michie. Once there, scroll down to the "Vermont" heading, click "Vermont Statutes Annotated," click "I agree," then click on the plus (+) sign next to "Title Twenty-Four. Municipal and County Government." Then click the plus (+) next to "Part 2. Municipalities," click the plus (+) next to "Chapter 117. Municipal and Regional Planning and Development," and continue to click on the plus (+) signs until you've reached the most detailed level of the statute (then, and only then, will it allow you to link to the statutory language).

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## WATER RESOURCES PLANNING

### *Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) releases municipal planning guide to protect groundwater*

VNRC recently published an Act 199 summary and a guide for towns that want to protect their groundwater (including model town plan and zoning language). Download "Groundwater Protection in Your Town: A Guide" at: <http://www.vnrc.org/water/hot-issues/vnrc-revises-groundwater-manual/>.

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## Grants

### MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANTS

#### *Deadline: Sept. 28, 2012*

Approximately \$400,000 will be offered in grants to help Vermont municipalities address land use challenges. Individual grants may be awarded in amounts of up to \$15,000 (or \$25,000 for consortia), and priority will be given to projects that further smart growth principles. Eligible activities include:

- "Bylaw updates intended to correct clear conflicts with the municipal plan, and bylaw updates that address the smart growth principles.
- Infrastructure planning in support of compact centers and smart growth. Projects could include... facility inventory, mapping and needs identification; conceptual design/visioning; and

developing policies relating to sewer, water, storm water, energy, transportation, green infrastructure and/or communications infrastructure...

- Updating or amending a Municipal Plan for the purpose of addressing the smart growth principles and/or to address inconsistencies with statewide planning goals or the Regional Plan. (A recently expired plan or pending expiration of a plan alone is not considered a priority.)...
- Planning and implementation for achieving greater flood resiliency..."

For more information, go to: [http://www.accd.vermont.gov/strong\\_communities/opportunities/funding/municipal\\_planning\\_grants](http://www.accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/municipal_planning_grants). Questions? Contact Chris Sargent at [csargent@trorc.org](mailto:csargent@trorc.org).

## FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY PROJECTS

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**Deadline: Rolling**

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) gives grants to grassroots community groups working on local energy and environmental projects. NEGEF offers SEED grants (\$250-\$1000) on a rolling basis, so it's never too late to apply. Website: [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org). Questions? Contact Emma at [ezavez@trorc.org](mailto:ezavez@trorc.org).

## 2012 VTRANS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM

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**Deadline: Aug. 24, 2012**

The VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is seeking applications for infrastructure projects that will promote access and safety. Eligible activities (scoping or design/construction) include:

- Bike lanes
- Shoulders
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements
- Pedestrian signals
- Improvements that implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Shared-use paths
- Pedestrian-scale lighting

A copy of the program guide and application materials can be found at <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/>, click "Site Map" (upper left corner), click "Bicycle and Pedestrian Program" (under "Programs"). Questions? Contact Jon Kaplan at 802.828.0059 or [jon.kaplan@state.vt.us](mailto:jon.kaplan@state.vt.us).

Please note that applicants were strongly encouraged to attend one of the two informational workshops on July 17th (1-3 PM) or 18th (5-7 PM); however, attendance was not required. If you did not know about or could not make it to one of these workshops, TRORC strongly encourages you to apply anyway.

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

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**Deadline: Oct. 26, 2012**

The Safe Routes to School Infrastructure program promotes safe biking and walking amongst students at K-8 schools in Vermont. Eligible infrastructure will likely include: new sidewalks, bulb outs (sidewalks) for safety, upgraded signs, bike racks and more. Solicitation materials (including a finalized 'eligible activities' list) will be published on August 17th. Important dates include:

- October 26: Application Due
- December 14: Awards Announced

Website: <http://saferoutes.vermont.gov/>. Questions? Contact Rita at [rseto@trorc.org](mailto:rseto@trorc.org).

## OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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**TRORC keeps up-to-date list of funding opportunities on website**

Municipalities and community groups often have great ideas for projects and activities, but lack the funding for implementation. Don't despair! TRORC keeps an updated list of funding opportunities on its website under 'Regional News & Events.' *Go to [www.trorc.org](http://www.trorc.org) and scroll down to find the latest grants.* We recommend that you bookmark this page and check it weekly for updates.

Additional funding opportunities currently described on our website (but not in this newsletter) include:

- Down payment grants for homebuyers
- Tax Credits through the VT Downtown Program



**what we want**

*Moving Toward Sustainability, Where We Live & How*

**COME PLAN WITH US!**

Check us out at <http://ecvermont.org>



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

## The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

### 2012 TRORC REPRESENTATIVES

- Barnard - Gerald Fredrickson, Gerry Botha (Alt.)*
- Bethel - Yaroslav Stanchak, Olena Stanchak (Alt.)*
- Bradford - Nancy Jones, Bobette Scribner (Alt.)*
- Braintree - Mark Bannon*
- Bridgewater - Nelson Lee, Jr., Norman Martin, II (Alt.)*
- Brookfield - Dee Montie*
- Chelsea - Carl Pepperman, Cherylanne Linaris (Alt.)*
- Corinth - Frank Roderick*
- Fairlee - Ken Gulick*
- Granville - No representative*
- Hancock - Jill Jesso-White*
- Hartford - Lori Hirshfield*
- Hartland - Richard Waddell, Charles Jeffries (Alt.)*
- Newbury - Larry Scott, Scott Labun (Alt.)*
- Norwich - Jamie Hess, Jeff Goodrich (Alt.)*
- Pittsfield - Jerry Drugonis*
- Plymouth - Anne Brown, Jim Allen (Alt.)*
- Pomfret - William Emmons*
- Randolph - Del Thompson, Ken Hafner (Alt.)*
- Rochester - Larry Straus*
- Royalton - David Brandau, Walter Hastings (Alt.)*
- Sharon - Paul Haskell, Deborah Jones (Alt.)*
- Stockbridge - Mark Doughty, Bill Edgerton (Alt.)*
- Strafford - Steve Campbell, Guy Denechaud (Alt.)*
- Thetford - Tara Bamford, Jim Masland (Alt.)*
- Topsham - Thomas Flannigan*
- Tunbridge - Michael Sacca*
- Vershire - Bill Baylis*
- West Fairlee - Nancy Malmquist*
- Woodstock - Charles Wilson*
- Members-At-Large - Christine Walker (UVLSRPC)*
- Jennifer Colby (Agricultural Advisor)*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/9 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at Bradford Town Office, 9:30 – 11 AM.
- 8/13 1st Royalton Energy Committee meeting at BALE (35 South Windsor Street, South Royalton, Vermont 05068), 5:30 PM - 7 PM. This is a new group and all are welcome!
- 8/23 LEPC Meeting at Upper Valley Ambulance in Fairlee, 6 - 8 PM.
- 9/21 VT Environmental Consortium's Annual Meeting: *VT Brownfields' Successes* (showcasing projects in Orange, Windsor, Windham and Bennington Counties) at the Great Hall, 100 River St., Springfield, VT, 8:30AM - 12:30 PM. Contact: [jill\\_michaels@valley.net](mailto:jill_michaels@valley.net).
- 9/26 Next TRORC Board Meeting at the King Farm, 7 PM.

### OUR MISSION

*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.*

### STAFF MEMBERS

- Pete Fellows, CFM - GIS Manager*
- Kevin W. Geiger, AICP, CFM - Senior Planner*
- Dee Gish - Finance Manager*
- Peter G. Gregory, AICP - Executive Director*
- Brian Hamlin - Planner*
- Loralee Morrow, LEED AP - Regional Planner*
- Chris Sargent, AICP - Senior Planner*
- Rita Seto, AICP - Senior Planner*
- Emma Zavez - Planner*

For more information, please visit:  
[www.trorc.org/events.html](http://www.trorc.org/events.html)

To receive a digital copy of this newsletter  
 e-mail: [dgish@trorc.org](mailto:dgish@trorc.org)

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