

News & Notes

June 2016



128 King Farm Road | Woodstock, Vermont 05091 | 802-457-3188 | trorc.org

In this issue: Royalton & Rochester Win National Awards, Irene Buyouts, Stagecoach Maps, 9L Guidance, SAM.gov, General Roads Permit, Draft Energy Plan, Bethel's Community Revitalization Project

Royalton Gilman Road and Rochester Bean's Bridge Win National Awards

The Town of Royalton's Gilman Road Relocation project and the Town of Rochester's Bean's Bridge Road Lowering project, both funded through the CDBG DR program were recognized by the National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) 2016 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award and both were chosen as noteworthy projects showcasing innovative transportation resiliency. The award program is recognizing 30 noteworthy national projects that help meet regional needs in innovative ways, through cooperation with partners, increasing system and community resilience, and in many cases, using creative funding. These award-winning projects serve as models for many different transportation program areas in which regional development organizations engage. TRORC staff, Rita Seto, will be attending the annual National Regional Transportation Conference in June to accept on behalf of the towns of Royalton and Rochester and she will present the awards to the towns at future Selectboard meetings. Congratulations to the Towns of Royalton and Rochester for successful hazard mitigation projects!

A large graphic of the year '2016' where the numbers are filled with a landscape image of a road stretching into the distance under a blue sky with clouds.

**Excellence in Regional
Transportation Awards**

Click here for more information on NADO: <http://www.nado.org/events/rpo2016/>.

Implementing ECV: What We Want Goal E: Ensure public infrastructure supports and sustains a viable economy and environment.

Status Update on Irene Buyout and Reuse Projects

Disasters don't just come and go, they linger. Despite being more than four years past Irene, TRORC continues to facilitate the buyout of properties from Brattleboro to St. Johnsbury. About 120 of an expected 150 sites have been bought. Some of these just took a lot of time, and others had to be flooded again before owners decided that a buyout was their best option after all. TRORC also continues to work with partners and towns on creating some good from the bad, by putting river access and parks on some sites. TRORC was instrumental in working with the state to target some recovery funds for these, and TRORC has been doing all of the administrative paperwork to make these happen. There will be projects underway this summer on several of these green space conversion sites.

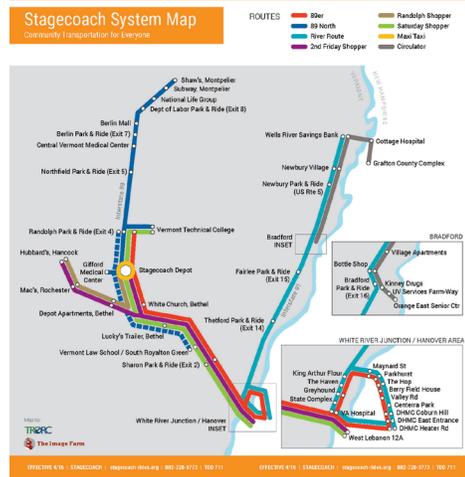
For more information on these projects, contact Kevin Geiger at kgeiger@trorc.org.

Stagecoach Unveils New Maps with TRORC

Stagecoach Transportation Services, Inc. based in Randolph, Vermont has been connecting people and places of Orange and Northern Windsor County as well as Hanover and Lebanon, New Hampshire since 1976. Over the past year Stagecoach has undergone major revitalization of their outreach to riders and its service to communities. This has been accomplished through updates to its River Route, addition of the Bradford Circulator and Newbury-Woodsville Loop, as well as changes to its other routes and services.

TRORC has partnered with Stagecoach to provide mapping technical assistance to improve service maps on various routes. TRORC is also assisting with graphic design to update bus stop signage with schedule information to assist riders at the bus stops. To bring everything together Stagecoach has launched a new website to match the vibrant communities in the area and provide another tool for riders. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Stagecoach and to celebrate this milestone, there will be celebrations on September 10th in Randolph and Bradford. Stay tuned for details.

For more information, please contact Laura Perez, Stagecoach Community Relations Manager – lperez@stagecoach-rides.org.



The new Stagecoach system map
© Stagecoach

Natural Resources Board (NRB) Releases Official 9L Guidance

Criterion 9L of Act 250, which relates to settlement patterns and the effects of strip development and sprawl, was updated by the Legislature in 2014. On March 8, 2016, the NRB released their updated guidance for developers and district commissioners. This information provides more clarity about how to interpret this criterion.

Criterion 9L requires development under Act 250 to make efficient use of land, energy, roads, utilities and other supporting infrastructure. Additionally, development must not contribute to a pattern of strip development along public highways. The guidance addresses how to determine if the development is located in an "existing settlement," is using land efficiently and is (or is not) contributing to a pattern of strip development. It is highly recommended that local planners review this guidance.

The guidance document is available for download from the NRB web site. For more information, contact Chris Sargent at csargent@trorc.org, 802-457-3188 ext.12

Is Your Town Registered on SAM.gov?

In order for a Town to receive federal funds, such as through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or from FEMA, they have to be registered on SAM.gov. Several of our Towns were found to not be registered on this site, without registering, these Towns are unable to apply for or receive federal grants.



For more information on how to register your Town on SAM.gov, contact Pete Fellows at pfellows@trorc.org.

Municipal Roads General Permit Presentation Upcoming

On July 14, 2016 at the Fairlee Town Office from 9:30 to 11 AM, The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission will be giving a presentation on the upcoming Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) as part of the monthly Transportation Advisory Committee. This presentation will give an overview of common sources of road erosion, it will summarize municipal obligations under the permit, and it will summarize best management practices (BMPs) to reduce road erosion.

The MRGP, which is currently being drafted by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, is an upcoming permit that was a product of Act 64: Vermont's Clean Water Act. Come to Fairlee to learn about obligations and fees municipalities will have under this upcoming permit, the timeline moving forward, and how regional planning commissions can play a critical role in helping towns inventory and assess their roads. The discussion will also summarize stormwater management, mapping, and planning that provide important input into the MRGP process.

For more information on the MRGP, contact Michael Storace at mstorace@trorc.org.

Draft Energy Plan Released

Under contract with the Public Service Department, three regional planning commissions in Vermont (including TRORC) have developed model pathways to 90% renewable energy within their respective regions identifying regional goals and actions relating to heating, transportation and electric power. The first draft of the TRORC Energy Implementation Plan was submitted to the Public Service Department for review in May 2016. These plans include mapping potential areas for renewable energy generation as well as a sitting guide and template that communities may consider as they attempt to craft town plan language that addresses renewable energy generation. TRORC is reaching out to municipalities now seeking feedback on the draft.



To view the first draft of the energy plan, go to: www.trorc.org/energy-implementation-plan/. For more information about the Plan, contact Chris Sargent at csargent@trorc.org.

Bethel's Community Revitalization Demonstration Project

Congratulations to the Town of Bethel who was selected by AARP Vermont to receive a \$15,000 sponsorship aimed at a downtown revitalization demonstration project slated for late this summer. AARP, town officials, and local groups will be collaborating with Team Better Block to implement the Community Demonstration Project -- an approach to revitalization that begins with temporarily transforming a single block into a vibrant destination that illustrates the potential for new business, safer streets and improved livability. The Bethel grant application stressed that "The potential for a new community vibrancy is in place, but we can't capitalize on it without major investments in beautification, renovation, and business development. Better Block would help local people and investors see and experience Bethel's potential in real life. The event could be the tipping point we need to build enthusiasm and solid commitments to make Main Street thrive again."

For more information, please contact Keith Arlund, Bethel Town Manager at 802-234-9340.

Implementing ECV: What We Want Goal D: Ensure downtowns throughout the region are vibrant, accessible, and economically successful.



Two Rivers-Ottauquechee
REGIONAL COMMISSION

128 King Farm Road ~ Woodstock, VT 05091



May Snow

Looking west over the Ottauquechee Valley to Biscuit Hill from King Farm | May 2016



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