



August 2014



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

news@trorc.org

In This Issue

News

Announcements

Upcoming Events

Grants



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

Hancock Receives Tax Credits Via Village Designation

The Gathering Inn, located in Hancock's small village, was recently awarded \$12,638 in tax credits through the Vermont Village Designation Program. With hard work from a dedicated team of town planning commissioners and assistance from TRORC, a Town Plan was adopted in November of 2013, paving the way for a long-awaited Village Designation in March of this year. All told, there are 21 Designated Villages and 3 Designated Downtowns in the TRORC region. The Gathering Inn is one of four commercial businesses in the TRORC region to receive a total of \$100,000+ in tax credits through the Village and Downtown programs in July.



Credit: www.gatheringinnvt.com

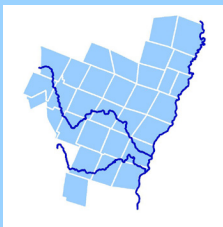
TRORC awarded CDBG Disaster Recovery Planning Grant

Tropical Storm Irene damaged a significant portion of Town infrastructure across the TRORC region. During the storm, countless undersized culverts were severely damaged or destroyed, leading to many roads being washed out. TRORC sought funds for a CDBG Disaster Recovery Planning Grant to assist 12 Towns impacted by Tropical Storm Irene with updating culvert inventories over a two year period. The scope of work will include updating GPS locations of culverts, updating culvert attributes (size, condition and material based on state standards), and creating new maps. Culverts will be assessed and prioritized based on condition and vulnerability to failure. TRORC is continuing to work with communities to update their Hazard Mitigation Plans, work with town highway departments to be compliant with 2013 Town Road and Bridge Standards (including the desired culvert inventory to flag poorly performing culverts and integrate data into a capital improvement plan), and identify high risk road erosion areas for future projects. This grant opportunity will cover a significant portion of our Region's member towns and improve regional resiliency. Please contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org for more information.



TRORC Awards Academic Scholarships

Believing that our region's future is enhanced by both wise and forward-looking stewardship of the land, natural resources, and public institutions, and also through thoughtful investment in the next generation, TRORC awarded five local high school students scholarship funding as part of the TRORC 2014 Scholarship Program. The TRORC scholarship is intended to encourage and recognize high school students pursuing career and life choices consistent with the vision and values of vibrant and sustainable communities as articulated in the TRORC Regional Plan. This year's TRORC scholarship recipients were announced at Annual Meeting in late June, are as follows: Shavonna Bent from Randolph Union High School, Austin Cawley-Edwards from Woodstock Union High School, Oliver Kaija from Woodstock Union High School, Elizabeth Kamb from Woodstock Union High School, and Skye Lockwood from South Royalton High School. Congratulations to these outstanding young adults, and best wishes!



Staff

Bob Ennis
Grant Administrator

Pete Fellows, CFM
GIS Manager

Kevin Geiger, AICP,
CFM Senior Planner

Dee Gish
Finance Manager

Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director

Brian Hamlin
Planner

Samantha Holcomb
CFM Planner

Loralee Morrow, LEED
AP Regional Planner

Chris Sargent, AICP
Senior Planner

Rita Seto, AICP
Senior Planner

Ellie Ray,
Regional Planner

Executive Committee

William B. Emmons, III
Chairperson -
Pomfret

David Brandau
Vice Chairperson -
Royalton

Paul Haskell
Secretary - Sharon

Gerald Fredrickson
Treasurer - Barnard

Frank Roderick -
Corinth

Nancy Jones -
Bradford

2014 Better Back Roads Awards

TRORC has provided assistance in identifying priority locations for improving infrastructure resiliency and been able to find funding to assist towns for implementing projects. Congratulations to the following towns on their 2014 Better Backroads awards: Category A planning projects (Bethel, Braintree, Randolph, Stockbridge, Tunbridge and Woodstock); Category B construction projects (Corinth, Norwich).



Over \$40,000 worth of projects focusing on improving water quality and road erosion problems have been awarded to towns in the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Region. Category A projects focus on road erosion inventories and capital budget planning (e.g. culvert inventories or identifying top road erosion sites). Category B projects focus on implementing a correction to the road related erosion problem (e.g. replacing an undersized culvert or stream bank stabilization).

These grant funds are provided by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Back Roads Program's goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting infrastructure and enhancing water quality in Vermont's lakes and streams. TRORC will be assisting many of the towns with Category A inventory projects. Please contact Rita Seto, rseto@trorc.org for more information.

TRORC participates in the Vermont Public Health Action Institute

The Action Institute, funded by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH), is a new 3-year initiative to improve health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases. Action teams created around the state will focus on Healthy Community Design. The teams include a variety of governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, including local public health departments, to create environments that support health and healthy behaviors.

On July 30 and 31, Loralee Morrow of TRORC and Lee Krohn of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission were asked to discuss regional planning commissions' role in supporting Healthy Community Design efforts. These efforts support the East Central Vermont Sustainability Plan's transportation goals by integrating health issues into local and regional policies and planning.



Bill Merrylees from Community Connections in Montpelier leads action teams on a walking audit.

Stagecoach Needs Volunteer Drivers!

Stagecoach Transportation Services, Inc., which provides community transportation choices that promote economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence, and quality of life is in need of volunteers who want to have a major impact on the community. Whether you have 4 or 20 hours each month; whether you are available year round or seasonally, there are many people who could use your help! Volunteer Drivers are needed to provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other activities that promote safety and independence for those in our communities who do not have access to their own transportation. Drivers are reimbursed for mileage. To learn more about this service opportunity please contact Kelly Wheatley, the Stagecoach Program Manager, at kwheatley@stagecoach-rides.org or 802-728-3773.



Announcements



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.

AIV Environmental and Regulatory Seminar in Montpelier

Associated Industries of Vermont will host a seminar on environmental and regulatory issues on August 19 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. Hear from expert panelists on a range of issues impacting both private and public sector members of the regulated community and the professionals who serve them. For further details and registration information, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/ljk94zf>



Credit: www.aivt.org

Kevin Geiger Presented for NADO Disaster Recovery Webinar

On August 12, Kevin Geiger served as a presenter in a National Association of Development Organization (NADO) webinar entitled "Capacity Builders, Conveners, Collaborators, and More: The Regional Development Organization's Role in Disaster Recovery." The webinar included speakers from Iowa and Texas, and included discussions on experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations on how to effectively engage in recovery work. For access to a recording of the webinar, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/m8wzu3p>



Credit: www.nado.org

Northeast Transportation Safety Conference

To be held in Providence, RI from September 3-4, the Conference, themed "Talking About My Generation," will cover pressing issues, legislation, technology, data, and engineering, addressing safety issues across all generations. For additional conference and registration information, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/pe32n7x>



Vermont Open Meeting Law Amendments At a Glance

Vermont's Open Meeting Law has changed this year in an effort to promote greater transparency. New changes came into effect on July 1st, and include the need to share meeting agendas ahead of public meetings and to ensure that all notes from such meetings are posted on websites within a specific time-frame. For further information on these changes, please click visit the Vermont League of Cities and Towns website: <http://tinyurl.com/kocpuqy>



On-going Regional Transportation Projects

The following transportation projects are taking place on our towns' roadways:

- Brookfield Floating Bridge is being constructed and will be completed May 2015.
- Hartland Park and Ride being expanded and will be completed by end of August 2014.
- VT107 Stockbridge-Bethel Paving to reconstruct the base damaged from T.S. Irene and will be completed August 2015.
- Rochester 'Fast Four' on VT73: 4 bridges replaced to be completed by November 2014.



For further details on these projects, please contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org.

Upcoming Events

August 19 - Environmental and Regulatory Seminar

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier, VT

For further details and registration information, see the Associated Industries of Vermont website: <http://www.aivt.org/aivregistrationandagenda140819.pdf>.

August 21 - LEPC #12 Meeting

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Bethel Barracks, 2011 Vermont 107, Bethel, VT

For any additional questions, please contact Rita Seto at: rseto@trorc.org or 457-3188 x13.

September 3-4 - Northeast Transportation Safety Conference

Omni Hotel, Providence, RI

For additional conference and registration information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/pe32n7x>

September 11-12 - Northern New England Chapter American Planning Association Annual Conference

Stoweflake Resort and Spa, Stowe, Vermont

For additional conference and registration information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/mk7ytwr>

September 11 - Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Bradford Academy Building

For any additional questions, please contact Rita Seto at: rseto@trorc.org or 457-3188 x13.

September 24 - TRORC Board Meeting

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

The Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock VT

For more information or questions, please contact dgish@trorc.org

Grants/Funding Opportunities

Strong Communities, Better Connections Grant Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) have partnered to address the relationship between transportation and land use by establishing the Strong Communities, Better Connections (SCBC) Program. The SCBC Program is a competitive grant program available to Vermont municipalities outside of Chittenden County to fund planning initiatives that emphasize the relationship between transportation and land use, support FHWA Livability Principles, and advance state goals for transportation and strategic planning. Municipalities will compete for funding through a formal application process. For more information, contact Jackie Cassino at 828-2758 or jackie.cassino@state.vt.us OR Richard Amore at 828-5229 or richard.amore@state.vt.us.



Vermont Arts Council's Animating Infrastructure Program

Vermont Art Council has introduced a new grant opportunity that allows artists and communities to collaboratively work toward integrating public art into existing and proposed infrastructure improvement projects in the hope of renewing a sense of pride and connection to place. Infrastructure is defined broadly as anything that serves a functional purpose in a community, including buildings, bike paths, trails, bridges, renewable energy structures, and more, which may be enhanced by local artists. For more information on the grant opportunity and application process, visit <http://www.vermontartscouncil.org/Grants/ForOrgs/AnimatingInfrastructure/tabid/297/Default.aspx>.



Credit: vermontartscouncil.org

Transportation Alternatives Program

The VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program is soliciting applications for eligible projects. Attached is the 2014 Transportation Alternatives Announcement letter. The Transportation Alternatives Program provides funding for either scoping (feasibility) studies or for the design and construction of projects. Applicants must attend a training session on one of two available dates; August 26th, 2014 (2-4 PM) and September 4th (6-8 PM). Training will be held at Vermont Interactive Technologies (VIT) videoconference sites. Applications must be either post-marked or received by Friday, October 31, 2014.



If you would like assistance with an application, please contact Rita Seto at rseto@trorc.org. Access to the guide and application is available at <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/>

2014 VTrans Transportation Alternatives Grant

The VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program is soliciting applications for eligible bike/pedestrian projects. The Transportation Alternatives Program provides funding for either scoping (feasibility) studies or for the design and construction of bike/pedestrian facility projects. Applicants must attend a training session on one of two available dates: August 26th, 2014 (2-4 PM) or September 4th (6-8 PM). Training will be held at Vermont Interactive Technologies (VIT) video conference sites. Applications must be either post-marked or received by Friday, October 31, 2014. If you would like assistance with an application, please contact Rita Seto rseto@trorc.org.





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