

TRORC

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee REGIONAL COMMISSION



News & Notes May 2023



Granville, VT | Photo by: John Knox

PROJECT UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Planning for Resilience: Hands-on Training Session with the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool

Date: Tuesday June 13, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Bethel Town Hall, 318 Main Street, Bethel, VT

Regional Host: Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

The **Vermont Transportation Resilience Planning Tool** (TRPT) is a statewide web-based application that identifies bridges, culverts and road embankments that are vulnerable to damage from floods, estimates risk based on the vulnerability and criticality of roadway segments, and identifies potential mitigation measures based on the factors driving the vulnerability. The tool uses innovative technology to categorize flood vulnerability in a way this is accessible by technical and non-technical audiences. The TRPT is designed to inform a range of applications and stages of decision-making that include:

- Project Scoping
- Site Assessment
- Capital Programming
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Tactical Basin Planning
- Corridor Planning
- Project Implementation

Participants in this training will learn how to navigate the tool, apply the results to prioritize needs, and inform the development and evaluation of alternatives to mitigate flood vulnerability.

How to register:

State/Municipal/RPC staff with a VT LMS Account: Register online.

- Access the [SOV LMS](#) and search for "TRPT" and select the appropriate date. ([LMS FAQ & User Guide](#)).
- Contact: Sara Williams, VTTC (sara.williams@vermont.gov; 802-477-3361)

Email the Regional Host RPC and provide:

- Contact information (Name, Affiliation, Email and/or Phone)
 - Confirm the session date of interest
 - Contact: Rita Seto, TRORC (rseto@trorc.org; 802-457-3188 x3004)
-



Bethel Culvert | Photo by: Rita Seto, staff

VTrans awards FY24 Better Roads grants

Congratulations to the towns of Barnard, Bridgewater, Corinth, Granville, Norwich, Rochester, Stockbridge and Tunbridge on their recently awarded Better Roads grants for culvert and ditching, bank stabilization and large culvert replacement projects totaling \$223,000 of grant monies in the region. TRORC is pleased to have assisted on these grant applications.

For more information on Better Roads program, visit the VTrans website [here](#).

Health Policy Clearinghouse

The [Health Policy Clearinghouse](#) is a collection of resources for local planning commissions, selectboards, and other policy makers seeking examples and information to form policies that support healthy communities. We're pleased to announce the addition of two new resources:

A statewide [inventory of health-related policy language in Town Plans](#)

An updated version of Green Peak Alliances' [Checklist for Vermont School Substance Use Policies and Procedures](#)

If you have any questions about these resources or the Clearinghouse, contact Sarah Wraight at swraight@trorc.org

Brownfield Assessment Funding and Technical Assistance Available!

A brownfield is any property that might possibly be contaminated with petroleum or other hazardous substances due to its history of past uses. Environmental assessment helps protect the health and welfare of future site users and it provides certain liability protections for prospective purchasers. If you're contemplating a property transfer, assessment needs to start before the property transfer happens. TRORC may be able to help with the cost of assessment work and can connect you with resources for cleanup funding assistance.

Please reach out to Sarah Wraight (swraight@trorc.org) to discuss funding opportunities.



Bridgewater Community Center (Remediated Brownfield) | Photo by: Connor Rigney, Staff

Vermont Community Development Association Spring Conference

TRORC was a proud sponsor of this year's Vermont Community Development Association Spring Conference. Communities around the state are finding ways to expand and share their outdoor and municipal recreation opportunities as a way to boost economic vitality, attract and retain residents, and draw visitors to their towns. Whether it's a network of mountain bike trails, a local ski hill, an indoor/outdoor pool, or a skating rink; recreation resources serve as a key strategy to attract visitors and residents and boost and support a thriving local economy. Through a variety of panels, peer-to-peer discussions, and trail outings, participants in this conference:

- Heard about municipal and outdoor recreation success stories from around the state
- Addressed and workshopped challenges that communities face when expanding and/or marketing recreation opportunities
- Identified funding sources and technical assistance for local and regional recreation
- Took a biking and walking tour of a local recreation resource and heard about the formation of the Ascutney Outdoor Trails and Outdoor Center

More information on the conference can be found on the VCDA website [here](#).

WORK WITH US!

Planner

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) in east-central Vermont is seeking an energetic, multi-faceted Planner as part of our team of professional staff.

The Planner will be responsible for individual projects, as well as assisting other planning staff. General planning duties include writing comprehensive plans, hazard mitigation plans, zoning and subdivision bylaws; grant writing and management; and natural resource planning.

Candidates must have excellent public speaking skills, be adept at written communication, be proficient in Microsoft Office, have a public service-attitude and sense of humor, a high degree of operating independently, and have the ability to grasp technical concepts quickly. A Bachelor's degree is required, preferably in planning, natural sciences, or a related field. A master's degree, AICP or CFM certification, or experience in social media, GIS, grant

management, or land use planning is desired. The position requires a reliable vehicle and attendance at night meetings. Partial remote work is possible.

TRORC's service area is comprised of 30 towns in east-central Vermont with a combined population of 56,000. While most of the region is quite rural, we also have excellent recreational assets, very low unemployment and a variety of cultural and educational opportunities. TRORC's offices are beautifully located on a conserved farm on the outskirts of Woodstock, Vermont.

Candidates are encouraged to learn more about TRORC at www.trorc.org.

Starting salary is \$48-60k, depending on education and experience, accompanied by an outstanding benefits package. Applicants must submit the following by email to pgregory@trorc.org as separate pdfs: a cover letter stating desired salary, three references with phone and email contacts, a resume, and a writing sample.

Cover letter should be addressed to:
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission
128 King Farm Road
Woodstock, VT 05091

Position open until filled. TRORC is an equal opportunity employer.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Vermont Arts Council Creative Futures Grants

The Vermont Arts Council is now accepting applications for the final round of its Creative Futures Grants to help the creative sector recover from economic losses due to the pandemic.

Grants of up to \$200,000 will be available to creative sector nonprofits and for-profit entities that can demonstrate economic harm caused by or exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Grant amounts, which will be based on 2019 (pre-pandemic) operating revenue, may be used to cover a wide range of regular operating expenses, including payroll and office expenses; rent, mortgage, and utilities; and costs associated with ongoing Covid-19 mitigation and prevention.

The creative sector economy is defined as the collective enterprises, organizations, and individuals whose products and services are rooted in artistic and creative content. Seven segments comprise Vermont's creative economy: culture and heritage; design; film and media; literary arts & publishing; performing arts; specialty foods; and visual arts and crafts.

The deadline for applications is June 30.

Full details at vermontartscouncil.org/creativefutures

Highway Safety Improvement Program Small Scale Grants

The state has initiated a new Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant-for small scale projects on TOWN roads. Funding for these grants will be 100% from the State and is to cover construction only (from

\$5,000-\$35,000). Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement that commits them to maintenance responsibility for completed construction projects.

Projects may be combinations of any of the following:

- Signage
- Striping
- Clearing
- Breakaway devices

Applications are due June 16th.

Find more info on the VTrans website [here](#).

The training, held on May 16th, was recorded and will be available shortly after the session on the VTrans Local HSIP Program web page: [here](#).

\$4,000 Community Capacity-Building Mini-Grants—applications open now

The first phase of the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) has officially launched! Towns can now apply for the Community Capacity-Building “Mini-Grants” of up to \$4,000. These funds can be used for a variety of outreach and education activities, such as:

- Starting a local energy committee
- Sending mailers to residents regarding efficiency programs, weatherization programs, and/or rebates
- Hosting a community energy fair or similar public energy event (can be used to provide refreshments, print/distribute materials, etc.)
- Hiring a grant writer, such as TRORC, to apply for other state and federal grants to stack with MERP
- Training for municipal official/town staff on energy efficiency topics (basics of weatherization, heat pumps, etc.)

For more information on the program, please visit TRORC's [MERP webpage](#) or contact TRORC's MERP coordinator Harry Falconer at hfalconer@trorc.org.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Park Your Carbon Week – May 15-19, 2023

You Can Make A Difference. You can reduce carbon pollution in Vermont and impact worldwide climate change. Park Your Carbon is an initiative to help change Vermonters' transportation and commuting habits by encouraging green ways of travel. Try it for a day, a week, or make it an ongoing habit. **Bike. Walk. Share Your Ride. Bus. Work From Home. Every trip counts. Even small ones!**

<https://www.connectingcommuters.org/parkyourcarbon/>
