

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Ross Gouin, Agency of Transportation
802-595-2381, Ross.Gouin@vermont.gov

AOT announces 2021 grant funding for municipal highway and stormwater mitigation

Barre, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) is pleased to announce a funding opportunity to provide financial assistance to municipalities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of water statewide.

Grants funded through this program must have a transportation link. The enabling legislation that determines eligibility is as follows: “Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.”

Potentially eligible project types include planning studies (stormwater inventories, low restoration plans, phosphorus control planning), salt/sand sheds, bank stabilization, culvert replacement/re-sizing, stream bank stabilization, detention ponds, check dam, swirl separators, permeable pavers, infiltration basins, gravel wetlands, subsurface detention systems, bio filters, and bio retention systems.

Eligible applicants for this grant program are municipalities. There is not a program cap on the amount of funding granted to a specific project, though there is a 20% local match requirement. All projects must be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

All projects shall be developed according to the guidelines published in the Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Guidebook for Municipally Managed Projects. The document and appendices can be found at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/general-information/guidebook>. The Federal Highway Administration has additional information for federal-aid projects: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/>

Some of the requirements highlighted in the above sources include compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Uniform Act for Right-of-Way acquisition, Buy America Provisions, and low bid, sealed bid process for construction (Force Account generally not allowed). This a reimbursement program, and municipalities must submit invoices for completed work to be reimbursed appropriately. All projects must be completed or all expended federal funds will be required to be paid back.

All applications require a letter of support from their Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Projects located in or adjacent to a state maintained right of way must submit a description

of the project and/or plans to the District Transportation Administrator (DTA) in that region. A copy of this correspondence to the DTA must be attached to your application.

The application and program guide can be found at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>

Applications must be received before 1:00 p.m. on October 9, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, electronic submittal of PDF files via email is required. Hard copy applications will not be accepted. Please submit via email to ross.gouin@vermont.gov

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