

TOWN ROAD AND BRIDGE STANDARDS

TOWN OF _____, VERMONT

The Legislative Body of the Municipality of _____ hereby adopts the following Town Road and Bridge Standards which shall apply to the construction, repair, and maintenance of town roads and bridges.

The standards below are considered minimums. Municipalities that have construction standards / specifications in place that exceed the minimum standards: indicate adoption date and include as Appendix C. **Date of Adoption:** _____

Municipalities must comply with all applicable state and federal approvals, permits and duly adopted standards when undertaking road and bridge activities and projects.

Any new road regulated by and/or to be conveyed to the municipality shall be constructed according to the minimum of these standards.

For adopted Town Road and Bridge Standards to count as one of the four mitigation measures necessary to qualify for an additional 5% State share of funding under a qualifying FEMA Public Assistance disaster, municipalities must select YES for Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7.

Circle **YES** or **NO** below to indicate town adoption of that section of the Standards

Road and Bridge Standards Sections	Hydrologically-connected road segments*	Non-hydrologically-connected road segments**
Section 1 – Municipal Road Standards	YES (Required by Act 64)	YES NO
Section 2 – Class 4 Road Standards	YES (Required by Act 64)	YES NO
	Town wide	
Section 3 - Perennial stream- bridge and culvert standards	YES (Required by DEC Stream Alteration Standard)	
Section 4 – Intermittent stream crossings	YES NO	
Section 5 - Roadway construction standards	YES NO	
Section 6 - Guardrail standard	YES NO	
Section 7 - Driveway access standard	YES NO	

Road segments – ANR Resources Atlas includes a map layer of all of Vermont’s municipal roads divided into 100-meter (328 foot) segments, each with a unique identification number.

***Hydrologically-connected road segments** - are those municipal road segments, Class 1-4, as shown on the ANR Natural Resources Hydrologically-connected municipal road segment layer or the Road Erosion Scoring (MRGP) layer.
<http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra5/>

****Adoption of standards on non-hydrologically-connected road segments** does not indicate that these road segments are then subject to the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP).

Municipalities may also find additional resources in the latest version of the *Vermont Better Roads Manual*.
<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/lrf/Better%20Roads%20Manual%20Final%202019.pdf>

Road and Bridge Standards Sections

Section 1 – Municipal Road standards - See Appendix A

These standards are required by Act 64 and the DEC Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) for hydrologically-connected roads only.

Municipalities may adopt Section 1 Road standards by road type for non-hydrologically-connected roads/segments.

Section 2 – Class 4 Road Standards - See Appendix A

Section 3 - Perennial stream - bridge and culvert standards

Bridge and culvert work on perennial stream crossings must conform with the statewide DEC Stream Alteration Standard.

“Perennial stream” means a watercourse or portion, segment, or reach of a watercourse, generally exceeding 0.25 square miles in watershed size, in which surface flows are not frequently or consistently interrupted during normal seasonal low flow periods. Perennial streams that begin flowing subsurface during low flow periods, due to natural geologic conditions, remain defined as perennial. All other streams, or stream segments of significant length, shall be termed intermittent. A perennial stream shall not include the standing waters in wetlands, lakes, and ponds.

Streambank stabilization and other in-stream work must conform with the statewide DEC Stream Alteration Standard.

For River Management Engineer Districts: https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/rivers/docs/RME_districts.pdf

Section 4 – Intermittent stream crossings – See Appendix B for sizing table and graphic

“Intermittent streams” are defined as streams with beds of bare earthen material that run during seasonal high flows but are disconnected from the annual mean groundwater level.

Section 5 - Roadway construction standards – Sub-base and gravel standards

All new or substantially reconstructed gravel roads shall have at least a **12** inches* thick gravel sub-base, with an additional **3** inches* (minimum) top course of crushed gravel.

All new or substantially reconstructed paved roads shall have at least **15** inches* thick gravel sub-base.

*Municipalities to indicate their own construction criteria

Section 6 - Guardrail standard

When a roadway, culvert, bridge, or retaining wall construction or reconstruction project results in hazards such as foreslopes, drop offs, or fixed obstacles within the designated clear-zone, a roadside barrier shall be installed. For roadway situations, an approved barrier system is steel beam guardrail with 6-foot posts. If there is less than 3 feet from the rail to the hazard, then steel beam guardrail with 8-foot posts shall be used. The G-1D is an approved guardrail end treatment that shall be installed on guardrail approaches. For bridge rails systems, Vtrans bridge rail standards shall be referenced. For situations that don’t allow for the above treatments, then the most current version of the AASHTO Roadside Design Guide will govern the analysis of the hazard and the subsequent treatment of that hazard.

Section 7 - Driveway access standard

The municipality has a process in place, formal or informal, to review all new drive accesses and development roads where they intersect town roads, as authorized under 19 V.S.A. Section 1111. Municipality may reference Vtrans Standard *A-76 Standards for Town & Development Roads* and *B-71 Standards for Residential and Commercial Drives*; the Vtrans *Access Management Program Guidelines*; and the latest version of the *Vermont Better Roads Manual* for other design standards and specifications.

Passed and adopted by the Legislative Body of the Municipality of _____, State of Vermont on _____, 20__

Selectboard / City Council / Village Board of Trustees:

