



## Weekly News Roundup September 18, 2020

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### Upcoming Events

#### Step Up to Button Up with CVRPC

October 8, 2020 | 5:00 pm



Looking to get answers to your questions about weatherization? Want to know what savings and incentives are available for all sorts of energy efficiency projects? Join this informational webinar which will bring together residents across your county to share information about how to take advantage of energy savings in your own home. [Register Here](#). Questions, please contact Grace Vinson - [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com)

#### Planning & Zoning Virtual Roundtable

September 30, 2020 | 6:00 pm

Join CVRPC and municipal officials from around the region to discuss the following topics in addition to a general roundtable discussion: Facilitating Economic Development in villages and downtowns – what does it mean? Identifying municipal actions for supporting forest products economy – what can you do? Find full agenda and log in information [here](#).

#### MRV Affordable Housing Talk Series

Vermont is facing an affordable housing crisis. This crisis is felt acutely in the Mad River Valley. The lack of affordable housing stock is limiting opportunity and changing the demographics of our community, driving our workforce to live elsewhere. The provision of diverse affordable housing options is a crucial part of keeping our community together and allowing all to find or keep their home in this special place.

Join the MRV Housing Coalition and the Mad River Valley Planning District every Wednesday evening in October at 6:30 pm (starting September 30th) as we explore the housing deficit in the MRV and learn about solutions from local and national field experts. The MRV Affordable Housing Talk Series is FREE and will take place virtually. For more information and to register, [please click here](#).

- MRV Housing Gap, Sept. 30 - Presentation of data describing current housing realities in the Mad River Valley, based on the 2020 Mad River Valley Housing Demand & Market Analysis completed by Doug Kennedy Advisors.
- Smart Growth in Small Towns, Oct. 7 - Developing economically prosperous, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable communities in rural Vermont.
- Creating Subsidized Housing in Vermont, Oct. 14- Exploring the process for creating and funding subsidized housing in the Mad River Valley.
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), Oct. 21 - Increasing affordable housing options in the Mad River Valley through small scale solutions with big impacts.
- Housing Trust Funds, Oct. 28 - Creating opportunities for affordable housing through Housing

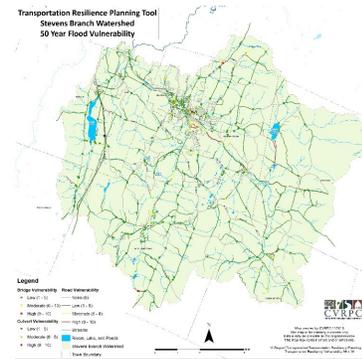
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## Community News

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### CVRPC Completes the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool for Municipalities in the Stevens Branch Watershed

CVRPC contracted with VTrans to input data into the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) for the Stevens Branch Watershed and to verify/present this information to towns within the watershed. The towns included Barre Town, Barre City, Berlin, Plainfield, Orange, Northfield, Washington, and Williamstown. This tool uses damage data, physical stream processes, proximity of the stream bed to the infrastructure, and travel patterns to determine the vulnerability, criticality and risk of damage to road segments and bridges or culvert crossings.



Data derived from the tool is available in this [online map application](#) to allow towns to plan for building a more resilient transportation infrastructure. This tool will help towns to understand which road segments and structures are most vulnerable to damages from flood events, most critical to travel within their town, and are at the biggest risk for failure. Failures and damage during these events result in large costs to municipalities and retrofit or repair before an event can save considerable dollars.

Based on damage information obtained from the towns and FEMA damage reports, CVRPC ran a tool within the TRPT model to determine the vulnerability to damage of the transportation assets. Figure 1 shows vulnerability of road segments and structures in the Stevens Branch Watershed. This vulnerability data was used by UVM researcher, James Sullivan, to complete a criticality analysis of road segments. Criticality (Figure 2), vulnerability and local road importance were all combined to assign risk to each road segment.

The collaborative effort of VTrans, RPCs, contracted consultants, and municipalities in developing TRPT data for the Stevens Branch watershed resulted in a successful outcome for the project: a planning tool to be used in the future for more resilient communities. Next steps for CVRPC will be to work with VTrans and other RPCs to see how we can assist VTrans in expanding the tool statewide.

### Proposed Amendments to the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan - Revision

In accordance with 24 VSA 117 Section §4348(e), the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is providing notice of a revision to the proposed plan amendment following the first public hearing which took place on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The final hearing is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

The revision is to the Regional Center boundary around the City of Montpelier as it appears on the Future Land Use Map. The Regional Center boundary will be extended to include a portion of Northfield Street from the intersection of Route 2 southward to Derby Drive. This area is also within the City's designated Growth Center.

The proposed amendments being considered will result in the removal the Housing Distribution Plan from the Housing Chapter; and a technical correction to the Regional Center boundary around the City of Montpelier as it appears on the Future Land Use Map. The remainder of the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, last amended in 2018 will remain unchanged. General comments and specific comments with respect to the extent to which the revision is consistent with the goals established in 24 VSA §4302 may be provided in person at the public hearings or submitted in writing by close of business on October 13, 2020 to Clare Rock, Senior Planner at [rock@cvregion.com](mailto:rock@cvregion.com). The proposed revision is available [here](#).

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## COVID 19 Updates

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### ACCD Small Business Recovery Technical Assistance Program

Vermont businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can now seek free technical business assistance to help in their recovery. The Small Business Recovery Technical

Assistance Program is recommended for businesses that must change in some way to remain viable due to the challenges of the pandemic. The Program provides businesses with access to experts in several areas including:

- business operations, financial management, and grant writing;
- digital strategies;
- architecture and physical space design;
- reconfiguring manufacturing equipment and processes and incorporating safety measures;
- technology and software consulting; and
- legal, marketing, and other professional services.

See more information [here](#).

### **Updates to ACCD Guidance on Lodging and Bars/Restaurants**

Effective September 18th, lodging facilities can increase to 100% capacity, and bar seating in bars and restaurants will be allowed. Read full guidance [here](#).

### **News from CVRPC**

If your community has a need we can assist you with, please contact us at [CVRPC@cvregion.com](mailto:CVRPC@cvregion.com). Previously published editions of [CVRPC's Municipal Updates](#) related to COVID-19 are available on our website. Stay Safe!

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## **RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines**

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### **LGER Application Deadline Extended to October 1st**

The Local Government Economic Relief deadline has been extended to October 1<sup>st</sup> for current non- applicants. See below for additional instructions.

#### **Current Non-Applicants: eligible units of local government (ULG) that have not submitted an LGER application**

The LGER application portal has been reopened to allow these ULGs to submit an application. The portal will close on October 1. Submit your application through the Tax Dept. website: <https://tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus/municipal-grants/lger-grant>

#### **Applicants: ULGs that have applied to LGER**

Applicants can amend their existing applications by contacting the Tax Dept. Application amendments **must** be sent to [tax.munigrants@vermont.gov](mailto:tax.munigrants@vermont.gov) for tracking purposes and to avoid duplicate applications. The email should discuss what you wish to revise (ex. supplies) and provide information about the change (ex. increase the amount by \$XX). Please do not submit information through the website.

For application assistance, please contact CVRPC at [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com)

### **Economic Recovery Grants for Arts & Culture Nonprofits**

Starting September 21, in order to distribute the remaining funds that were earmarked for cultural nonprofits, the Arts Council will open two different applications, one for new applicants and one for those who have already received funding. [Read More>>](#)

### **Marketing Technical Assistance for Vermont Farmers**

NOFA-VT has capacity to provide one-on-one marketing technical assistance to Vermont farmers affected by the COVID-19 crisis. This technical assistance is intended to support farmers as they explore a pivot to new markets, establish new distribution systems, or improve their existing marketing systems. This is an opportunity to leverage technical assistance funds to innovatively take advantage of new market opportunities and/or respond to disruptions to your markets.

Projects can include (but are certainly not limited to!): creation/ revision of marketing plans, website updates, implementation of online ordering systems, brand development, creation/revision of your farms' messaging/storytelling, and analysis of your cost of sales by market channel.

To apply, please fill out [this form](#). If you have any questions, contact Bill Cavanaugh at [Bill@nofavt.org](mailto:Bill@nofavt.org) or (802) 434-7154.

### **CVOEO Launches EMBRACE Program to Provide Grants to Micro Businesses**

Statewide Micro Business Development Programs (MBDPs), operated by the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) in Addison County, have launched the EMBRACE grant program for micro businesses. Grants are available to businesses with 0 – 5 employees in which the owner makes 80% of state median income or less. The business must have been registered in

Vermont on or before March 1, 2020. Applicants can request between \$2,500 - \$5,000 depending on their need. Visit the [CVOEO website](#) for full details.

### **Funding Available for Rental Housing in Need of Repair**

Landlords and property owners that have vacant, unused rental properties may be eligible to receive up to a \$30,000 grant per rental unit to fix up and renovate rental units and get them ready for use again. Grants are available from the Department of Housing and Community Development utilizing CARES Act funding to improve the overall quality, availability, and affordability of rental housing throughout the state. Full details are available at the [ACCD Recovery Resource Center](#).

### **Marketing Micro-Grants for Farms**

The Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) in Hardwick, Vermont is offering micro-grants for farms impacted by COVID-19. If farms are shifting their marketing approach, please consider applying to CAE's Market Development & Sales Innovation Micro-Grant program to help fund new innovative marketing solutions. These grants are available to most Vermont farmers on a [first-come, first-served basis](#).

## **Upcoming Meetings**

*Please note that CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings*

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sept 21 5 pm Municipal Plan Review Committee Meeting/Hearing, Via Technology (See Agenda)  
Sept 22 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)  
Sept 24 4 pm Project Review Committee Meeting, TBD  
Sept 24 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Special Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)  
Sept 30 6 pm Planning & Zoning Roundtable series, Via Technology (See Agenda)

### **OCTOBER**

Oct 5 4 pm Executive Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)  
Oct 8 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)  
Oct 8 5 pm Step Up to Button Up, [see registration info](#)  
Oct 13 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Meeting|Regional Plan Amendment Hearing, Via Technology (See Agenda)  
Oct 22 4 pm Project Review Committee Meeting, TBD  
Oct 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, Via Technology (See Agenda)

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STAY CONNECTED

