



## Weekly News Roundup September 25, 2020

Visit our website

### Upcoming Events

#### Virtual Town Hall on Vermont's Freight & Rail Plans

October 6, 2020 | 4:00-5:00 pm

The Vermont Agency of Transportation invites the public to participate in a virtual Town Hall. This is the first of two virtual Town Hall Meetings being held this year as part of updating the State's [Freight](#) and [Rail](#) Plans.



This Town Hall will include a short project briefing, followed by a question and answer session. Forward this invite to friends, family, and neighbors who may be interested! Link [here](#) to a news release with more information.

[Join via Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

#### 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](#).

#### Calais Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Kick-Off Meeting

October 2, 2020 | 10:00 am

The Town of Calais is beginning the process of updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. LHMPs enable towns to qualify for grant funds, and they make our communities safer. The first Calais Hazard Mitigation planning meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 2nd at 10:00 AM via GoTo Meeting. The focus of the meeting will provide an introduction to the plan update process.

**The meeting is open to all interested community members.**

The meeting can be accessed by computer using the following link (<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/326031469>) or by phone (+1 (571) 317-3112) using the following Access Code (326-031-469).

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans identify mitigation strategies and actions to reduce damage from foreseeable natural and human-caused hazards. For more information, please contact Grace Vinson at [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com)

#### The Energy Action Network Annual Summit

October 1-2, 2020

The annual summit is a time to:

- Get the latest data and analysis on where Vermont stands relative to our renewable energy and emissions reduction commitments.

· Hear visionary, strategic proposals about how we can rapidly, cost-effectively, and equitably reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas pollution.

· Connect and network with other leaders working on and passionate about energy and climate issues.

The Summit will take place virtually over two partial-day sessions, from 9:00 – 3:30 on Thursday the 1st and from 9:00 – 12:30 on Friday the 2nd. The first day will be open to all attendees, the second day will be limited to network member organizations and public partners. To learn more and register visit: <https://www.eanvt.org/events-and-initiatives/2020-summit/>

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## Community News

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### Municipal Planning Grant GEARS System Downtime This Weekend

ACCD has provided notice that the vendor of the GEARS online grants management system, will be performing mandatory security updates **this Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**, between **10am – 1pm** and that the system **will not** be accessible during these time frames.

They tried to have the date and/or times of the updates adjusted to accommodate those folks who need to prepare their applications this weekend, but we were not successful in that request. They apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

If anyone needs assistance navigating the online system, or has any other questions, please contact Jenni Lavoie - [jennifer.lavoie@vermont.gov](mailto:jennifer.lavoie@vermont.gov)

### Capstone's MileageSmart program can help you buy your next car!

Qualified applicants can get a MileageSmart incentive of 25% of the purchase price — up to \$5,000 — towards a used, high efficiency car. Not only will this incentive help bring down your monthly payment, but you'll be investing in a high miles-per-gallon vehicle that will save money, and the planet, for years to come.

The process is simple: apply for the MileageSmart incentive online, set up your car loan to finance the rest of the purchase price, and then find an eligible car. Start your application at: <https://www.mileagesmartvt.org/apply>.

To be eligible for the MileageSmart incentive, applicants must be 18 years or older, meet the income qualifications, as well as a few other guidelines. In order for a vehicle to be eligible, it must be used, sold through a Vermont dealership, and get at least 40 per gallon (or the electric equivalent). Visit the MileageSmart website to learn more about eligibility, to see example vehicles and payment plans, learn about Capstone's recommended lending partners, as well as FAQs and additional resources.

### New Ruralism - Homegrown Ideas

The New Ruralism Initiative, launched by NNECAPA in 2015, now has a [free downloadable report](#) to share with others working or volunteering in planning and community development in small towns and rural areas across the country. This report celebrates the rural renaissance in the making with 20 case studies of successful local initiatives in a wide variety of areas such as local foods, housing, energy, new approaches to cooperatives, community services and more. The report highlights lessons local leaders shared with us to help other small-town initiatives get off the ground and succeed. All 20 are included at the end of the report and in [the on-line library](#). We hope these stories provide inspiration and guidance for other local leaders and volunteers seeking to apply creative solutions to improve everyday life for rural residents.

### 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.

Landlords and property owners in Washington and Orange County should contact [Downstreet](#)

[Housing](#) to determine eligibility (certain affordable housing conditions apply) and to enroll in the program (act fast, as funding deadlines apply). More info [here](#).

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## COVID 19 Updates

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### Vermont COVID Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program

The State of Vermont received money through the Federal CARES Act to help people pay back mortgage payments they have missed due to COVID-19. Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) is accepting applications. Funding is limited, and applications will be accepted until funding expires. [Read More >>](#)



### Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Program

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development has recently announced that the Regional Development Corporations (RDC) of Vermont would be tasked with deploying \$1,400,000 in technical assistance funding for small businesses across the state under the Restart Vermont Technical Assistance Program (ReVTA).

The RDCs of Vermont will use this award to contract with hundreds of Vermont small businesses and non-profits who will, in turn, be compensated to provide technical assistance (TA) to Vermont businesses who have been negatively impacted from COVID-19.

To read more about this program - <https://www.vermonteconomicdevelopment.com/>

### VLCT Updated FAQ's for Town Operations

VLCT has updated a new, easy-to-navigate format for all COVID-19 FAQs by VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center. [Read More>>](#)

### 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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### Lake Champlain Basin Program Offers Grants for Local Projects

The Lake Champlain Basin Program seeks proposals for projects that improve water quality and ecosystems in the Lake Champlain watershed. The Program anticipates awarding more than \$400,000 to local organizations, municipalities, and educational institutions.

Current grants will be awarded in two categories:

- **Pollution Prevention & Habitat Conservation Grants** (up to \$20,000 per award),
- **Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Grants** (up to \$15,000 per award),

Projects located in the Lake Champlain basin will be eligible for consideration in this grant opportunity. Grant guidelines and applications for each category can be found on the Lake Champlain Basin Program's website at [lcbp.org/grants](http://lcbp.org/grants). Electronic versions of proposals must be received by [grants@lcbp.org](mailto:grants@lcbp.org) no later than **4:30 pm on October 27, 2020**.

## Upcoming Meetings

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

### SEPTEMBER

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 Webinar, [registration info](#)

*Oct 12 CVRPC Offices Closed - Holiday*

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

