



## Weekly News Roundup January 29, 2021

Visit our website

### Upcoming Events



#### Vermont Winter Bike/Walk Challenge

February 1 - 12, 2021

Crush your cabin fever! Grab your bike, boots, or shoes and join Local Motion, Vital Communities, and GoVT! for the 2021 Vermont Winter Bike/Walk Challenge! The Challenge starts on February 1st and runs through the 12th, concluding on National Winter Bike to Work day. Participants who record a bike ride, a walk, or a run on the GoVT! Smartphone app or GoVT! Website at least twice during the

Challenge timeframe will be entered to win prizes from Vermont businesses. Download the app by clicking here: <https://government.agilemile.com/> Most years this ride, walk, or run needs to be a commute, but for 2021, we are excited to open the challenge to anyone who gets outside and get moving, even just for fun!

#### VTrans AV-XChange Forum

February 8, 2021 | 1:00pm

VTrans is excited to host the first ever VT Automated Vehicle Xchange. The virtual forum will be a candid and informative discussion around opportunities and challenges for testing AVs, often referred to as self-driving cars, in Vermont. [More information and registration details can be found here.](#)



#### Montpelier Local Hazard Mitigation Planning (LHMP) Committee Meeting

February 12, 2021 | 9:30 am

The focus of the meeting will be to 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 [this link](#) or by phone: (1-929-205-6099) using the following Access Code (309570). 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)

#### 2021 Annual Summit - Save the Date

June 18, 2021 - 9:00 am

The Vermont Agency of Transportation's Public Transit and Planning Sections will be holding the 2nd Annual E&D Transportation Summit in June. This

summit is aimed at providers and partners involved in Vermont's Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Program. More information, including registration, will be shared soon. If you have any questions, please contact Ross MacDonald – [ross.macdonald@vermont.gov](mailto:ross.macdonald@vermont.gov) or [802-522-7120](tel:802-522-7120).



VERMONT  
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

2nd Annual  
Vermont E&D Summit

### Go Vermont Transportation Survey

Go! Vermont is looking to hear from Vermonters on how they get around and what types of transportation programs help them the most. How do you commute and take transportation trips? What programs are the most beneficial to VT residents? Your responses will guide Go! Vermont and give important feedback on what resources are valuable to Vermonters. Take the short survey about transportation in VT and be entered for a chance to win \$100 in Vermont Coffee Company coffee or one of three \$50 Hannaford gift cards. The Survey is open until February 14th. Raffle prizes picked on February 22nd.

**Survey Link:** <https://govermont.typeform.com/to/qFmBhmrB>



### New Option for Wi-Fi Hot Spots

The PSD Wi-Fi Hot Spot Program has concluded with equipment installed at 190 sites across the state. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to be served. While the state-funded effort is over, the success attracted national attention. The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) operates a nationwide initiative this year to provide **free community Wi-Fi installations** to connect students and families to the internet, especially those living in rural and underserved communities. They have agreed to help the state fill our unmet needs free of cost.

If an organization previously applied to the program but was not served, we will be sharing those locations with the organization. The organization is also willing to install at multiple locations in a community and add on to networks we established with our program. If additional town offices, libraries, general stores, downtowns, or community spaces of any kind in your area would like equipment upgrades at no charge, please ask them to fill out the form linked below.

<https://www.itdrc.org/covid-19/projectconnect>

Please encourage possible applicants to apply as soon as possible. They have a range of equipment available (Ubiquity and some Cisco Meraki) and are open to adding to existing networks. The equipment will operate off of the existing internet connection. Depending on the equipment provided (and installed), there may or may not be a license that the site will be asked to purchase after the first year.

Frequently asked questions: <https://go.itdrc.org/projectconnect-faq>

Flyer: <https://go.itdrc.org/projectconnect-flyer>

### Vermont DEC Publishes MRGP 2021 Newsletter

The Department of Environmental Conservation has published its 2021 Municipal Roads General Permit newsletter. The newsletter includes information of 2021 requirements, fees, grant resources and training opportunities. The newsletter can be accessed [here](#).

### Public Input Requested on Scrag Mountain Town Forest Trails

The Waitsfield Conservation Commission is seeking input from Valley residents and visitors on their experiences and hopes for recreational trails on the 750-acre Scrag Mountain Town Forest. There are two near-term opportunities to weigh in:

- Attend a virtual public forum on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 7:30-8:30 pm via Zoom – <https://tnc.zoom.us/j/94557295475>;
- Complete a brief online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W7V3PHT> by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please share your perspective on this important community asset! For further information, contact Conservation Commission Chair Phil Huffman at [phil@madriver.com](mailto:phil@madriver.com) or trail consultant Mariah Keagy at [mariah@sinuosity.net](mailto:mariah@sinuosity.net). Click here to [Read more](#) info found on their page.

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## COVID 19 Updates

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### ACCD Guidance on Town Meeting Day

ACCD has published guidance for in-person annual meetings on their Work Safe Guidance page. **In-person annual town meetings are strongly discouraged this year.** Municipalities who choose to conduct in-person meetings must conduct them in a manner that complies with social distancing, building capacity limits, and cloth face covering mandate laws issued during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Read the full guidance here:

## **Vaccination Appointments Open for Those 75 and Older**

Vermonters age 75 and above are now able to schedule a vaccination appointment. Registration is required (online or via phone). Visit [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine) to schedule your appointment online. If you can't do so online, you can make your appointment by phone at 855-722-7878 (Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m./Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Anyone who needs to speak with someone in a language other than English can call the same number, then press 1. Relatives or friends are encouraged as appropriate to assist people who are eligible in making an appointment. Learn more about what information you will need to make the appointment on [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine). You'll also find links to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and a video about the online process.

## **News from CVRPC**

The status of many municipal offices has changed in recent weeks - please see our [Municipal Status](#) chart for the latest information (in red). 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**

### **CSA Grant for Childcare**

The Agency of Agriculture is now accepting applications for their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) grant. This grant is open to Vermont licensed or registered childcare providers and will reimburse them 80% of the total cost of CSA shares they purchase, up to \$1000. The deadline to apply is midnight February 17<sup>th</sup>. Complete information is available on their [website](#), including the full request for applications document.

### **Request for Project Proposals for Transportation Planning and Studies**

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is requesting proposals for transportation planning and studies to be completed in spring and summer 2021. Help us make getting around easier, safer, and more convenient for everyone by contributing your transportation planning and study ideas. Project ideas should be submitted in writing to Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director, [waninger@cvregion.com](mailto:waninger@cvregion.com) by February 16, 2021 using the application form. Learn more [here](#).

### **2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program Open through March 5<sup>th</sup>**

The application period for the FY21 State Homeland Security Grant Program is now open. For all funding announcements, application materials, instructions and resources, please visit the [Homeland Security Unit website](#). For assistance, contact Grace Vinson at [vinson@cvregion.com](mailto:vinson@cvregion.com)

### **VT Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants**

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has limited funding available for Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants! The program provides technical assistance and incentive funding for projects that reduce emissions from diesel powered vehicles, engines and equipment.

Funding is available for:

- Replacement of diesel-powered heavy-duty vehicles, engines, and equipment with new diesel, alternative fuel, or electric options,
- Retrofitting with emission control technologies,
- Engine replacements,
- Clean alternative fuel conversions,
- Installation of idle reduction technologies, and
- Aerodynamic technologies and low rolling resistance tires.

Here are the relevant links regarding this grant opportunity:

- RFP and Application at the Vermont Business Assistance Network

(<http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidPreview.aspx?BidID=50980>)

- Additional grant details on our webpage (<http://dec.vermont.gov/air-quality/mobile-sources/diesel-emissions/vt-diesel-grant> )

**CONTACT:** Maria Davies at (802) 622-4022 or at [maria.davies@vermont.gov](mailto:maria.davies@vermont.gov) with any questions. **A meeting by conference call will be held February 4, 2021**(see RFP for call details) to go over the application process and answer questions. All questions that Maria receives during the conference call and by email will be posted on the Vermont Business Assistance Network (<http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidPreview.aspx?BidID=50980>) along with their answers.

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## Upcoming Meetings

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

### **FEBRUARY**

Feb 1 4 pm Executive Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Feb 2 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Feb 2 4 pm Regional Plan Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Feb 9 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners, Via Technology (See Agenda)

*Feb 15 Presidents Day Holiday - CVRPC Office closed*

Feb 23 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

Feb 25 4 pm Project Review Committee, Via Technology (See Agenda)

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STAY CONNECTED

