



## Weekly News Roundup July 9, 2021

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### Upcoming Events

#### Waterbury Alternatives - VTrans

August 2, 2021 | 7:00 PM at the Steele Community Room at 28 North Main Street, Waterbury, VT.

An Alternatives Presentation for the project listed below will be held by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Town of Waterbury.

Bridge Project: Waterbury BO 1446(40) – Town Highway 2 (Stowe Street), Bridge 36 over Thatcher Brook

The recommended alternative includes a full bridge replacement with a wider structure while maintaining traffic on an offsite detour during construction.

The intent of the meeting is to provide an overview of this project to Town Officials, local residents and businesses, emergency services and other interested parties. There will be a review of the existing site conditions, proposed work, and overall schedule followed by a question-and-answer period. Representatives from both VTrans and the Town of Waterbury will be available at the meeting to address public concerns about the project.

A copy of the Scoping Report for this project is available online

at: <https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/vtrans/external/Projects/Structures/93J040>

#### Vermont Forest Pest First Detector Online Course

Running July 19 – August 29

Did you know that most invasive insect infestations are first discovered not by professionals, but by alert community residents? This free, self-guided online course is designed for people interested in learning to identify, monitor, and help their communities prepare for the tangible threat of invasive forest insects, such as emerald ash borer. This is an introductory level course intended for people with little to no prior experience with invasive insects or who are looking for a refresher to a prior Forest Pest First Detector course. Pests covered will be **emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, elongate hemlock scale and Asian longhorned beetle.** [Learn more and Register](#)



\*No continuing education credits will be offered for this course.

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### Community News

GMT Recruiting Volunteer Drivers



Green Mountain Transit was recently featured in Seven Days promoting their recruitment for volunteer drivers highlighting some great stories from some of their current volunteers. You can access more information about becoming a volunteer driver on their [website](#) and also read the full Seven Days' story

[HERE>>](#)

### Central Vermont Council on Aging Survey of Needs of Older Central Vermonters

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is developing a new plan that will guide it for the next four years. The FY 2022-2025 Area Plan will outline its goals, strategies, and areas of focus to meet the needs of older adults (60 and older) in its service area. CVCOA is seeking feedback from older Vermonters, family caregivers, community partners, town leaders, healthcare providers, and other interested parties. We ask you to take a few minutes to complete its short survey. Your input is important to CVCOA in its planning. The survey link is

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SN8MHBT>. Thank you for taking the survey!

### Celebrate the Return of Amtrak to Vermont

On July 19th, VTrans will be celebrating the resumption of Amtrak service throughout the state with events at all Amtrak stations and \$1.00 train fares for travel within Vermont. Read full press release [here](#).



For folks with origins or destinations within the Montpelier-Berlin service area, this is also a great opportunity to take GMT's MyRide (<https://ridegmt.com/myride/>). This on-demand public transit service will pick you up at your requested location and now services the Montpelier Junction

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

### 2022 Municipal Park-and-Ride Grant Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is soliciting proposals for the improvements of small Park-and-Ride Facilities in Vermont communities. Vermont Legislature has provided funding to support the encouragement of local communities to develop small municipally owned and maintained Park-and-Ride Facilities. The 2022 Municipal Park-and-Ride Grant Program has been funded with \$100,000.00. These facilities will assist in the effort of reducing the number of single occupancy vehicles (SOVs) on the roadway, which in turn helps to reduce vehicle pollutants and traffic congestion.



To be eligible for this grant, the proposed facility must be located on Municipal, State, or leased property on or near a State Highway, available to commuters on a daily basis year-round, provide parking for a minimum of ten vehicles, and will be owned and maintained by the local municipality. Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) will not be eligible in this year's program; we suggest contacting the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) regarding funding EVSE projects through their grant program. The grant funding is available for engineering and construction activities only. If public transit is present nearby, collaboration with the provider is strongly encouraged. In order to maximize available funding, awarded grants will require a local share of 20%. Please note that grant awards are made in two payments; the first half of the grant award will be available after construction of the project has begun and invoices total at least half of the grant award, with the second half paid after the project is completed and accepted.

If your community has an interest in developing a Park-and-Ride Facility and would like to receive a grant to do so, please fill out the application online at the address below and submit it electronically **prior to August 5, 2021**. Communities that were unsuccessful in the past are encouraged to reapply. Developed plans are not necessary. A scoring process is used to determine which towns will receive funding. Additional grant and development information will be provided to interested communities who have submitted applications. Application and information on-line at the following web site: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/parkandrides>

Questions can be directed to [Tina.Bohl@vermont.gov](mailto:Tina.Bohl@vermont.gov) or 802-793-1743

### Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund Grant Program

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), in collaboration with the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) and Vermont State Employees Credit Union (VSECU) invites

applications for small grants to support local innovators developing solutions that move Vermont closer to its climate and energy goals. The fund is initially capitalized with \$20,000 from VLITE and VSECU and will be administered by VCRD. The objective of the fund is to support innovative local projects for which a small grant could have a meaningful impact.

**Grants:** Anywhere from 4 - 10 awards ranging from \$500 - \$4,000. Funds can be awarded to a municipality, school, non-profit organization or business. VCRD is also open to working with potential grantees that lack the organizational infrastructure to accept funds directly. Depending on the applicant pool and size of the eventual awards, a second round may be initiated later in the summer or fall.

Criteria for soliciting and selecting projects include:

- Innovative: What is unique about this project?
- Replicable: Can the project serve as a model for others? What path exists for this to be more than a one-off?
- Collaborative: What partners are involved and what is the depth of their engagement?
- Equitable: How does this project address the needs of historically marginalized Vermonters?
- Climate/Energy Goals: When completed, will this project reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, reduce total energy use, and/or increase renewable energy consumption in Vermont? Can that impact be measured?
- Leverage: Would this grant unlock other funds or support?

Application: A short grant application can be found here: <https://forms.gle/ghoDJpMxDkdEXDVs8>. The deadline to apply for this grant is July 22.

More Information: Anyone with questions about this grant and how to apply should contact Jon Copans at [jon@vtrural.org](mailto:jon@vtrural.org) or call him at (802) 272-0162.

## 2021 Design and Implementation Block Grant Open Round

Watersheds United Vermont (WUV), is pleased to announce a request for applications for projects under the WUV Clean Water Projects Design and Implementation Block Grant (DIBG) funded by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program. Funding under the DIBG must be used to support the design or implementation of projects that reduce sediment and nutrient pollution from runoff and soil erosion that discharge into the State's rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands. All projects are to be completed before October 1, 2023. WUV has approximately \$1,270,000 to allocate to projects over three categories: Stormwater (~\$580,000), Stormwater – Three-Acre General Permit under operational stormwater general permit 3-9050 (~\$315,000), and Natural Resources: Lake Shoreland, Rivers - Stream/Floodplain restoration, Forestry (~\$375,000). Applicants with questions are encouraged to contact Christian Pelletier ([christian@whiteriverpartnership.org](mailto:christian@whiteriverpartnership.org) or 860-428-6900). [Learn more about how to apply, eligibility criteria, and anticipated granting timeline here.](#)

- Release Date: July 6, 2021
- Pre-Application Eligibility Screening Due: August 2, 2021
- Full Project Applications Due: September 3, 2021
- [View Grant Guidelines](#)

**WUV will be holding an informational webinar on Tuesday July 13, 2021. 2:00pm - 3:00pm to discuss this funding opportunity, the application process and to answer questions. [Please click here for the Zoom Link.](#) Groups interested in applying for these funds are encouraged to attend the webinar.**

Please Note: DEC has awarded DIBG awards to 3 entities: WUV, the Natural Resources Conservation Council (NRCC) and Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC). The funding requirements are the same for all entities, though the application and grant administration process may vary somewhat. All three entities will have grant rounds this year. For administration purposes, all three entities encourage that NRCDs apply to NRCC, watershed groups apply to WUV and municipalities apply through MARC, but all eligible entities can apply through any DIBG grant holder. WUV, NRCC and MARC will coordinate on grant rounds, project applications, and remaining funding.

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## Upcoming Meetings

*Please note that in addition to a physical location, CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings (see agendas on our website for details)*

### JULY

- July 13 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Meeting
- July 22 4 pm Project Review Committee
- July 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee
- July 28 10:30 am Bylaw Review Work Group

### AUGUST

- August 2 4 pm Executive Committee Meeting
- August 10 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group

August 12 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee  
August 25 10:30 am Bylaw Review Work Group

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STAY CONNECTED

