



Weekly News Roundup August 27, 2021

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Upcoming Events

ARPA & Equity Long-term Planning for Local Government

August 31, 2021 | 2:00 pm (virtual)

ARPA provides enough resources to allow many local governments to build toward recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19 as well as foster long-term shifts toward racial equity in their communities. Webinar offered by National League of Cities. **Register here.**

Youth Cannabis Cornerstone Webinar Series

September 7 & 9, 2021 | free and open to anyone

The Vermont Department of Health is offering these webinars that are intended for and open to people across the state of Vermont interested in getting up to date information on the latest cannabis trends and impacts on youth. This includes parents, school staff, local and state level decision makers and other community members seeking more information on cannabis and youth.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Fall Webinars & Trainings with the Community Wildlife Program

Join the Community Wildlife Program at Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department this fall for a new series of webinars and trainings.

Webinar topics include:

- Reviewing your Town Plan & Regulations: Lessons Learned from our Comprehensive Review
- Act 171: Selecting Forest Blocks and Habitat Connectors for your Town Plan
- Starting a Town Conservation Fund
- Natural Resources Inventories
- The River Corridor, Floodplains, & Riparian Habitat

Also offered are two units of **Environmental Leadership Training** (formerly known as NR 1 and NR 2). These trainings provide a renewed focus on supporting and developing environmental leadership at the local level.

For more information and registration, visit <https://anr.vermont.gov/content/trainings>.

Questions can be emailed to andrew.wood@vermont.gov

Vermont Planners Association Aging in Place Webinar Series

Webinar #3: Affordable Senior Housing in Downtown – Not Just a Planner’s Pipe Dream!

September 2, 2021 \ 10:00 am

To wrap up VPA’s series on how communities can support aging in place, they will showcase two development projects in Brattleboro and Waterbury that check all the boxes. To help you make projects like this a reality in your community, we’ll also review public funding resources for housing projects and explore why age-restricted housing may be a thing of the past.

REGISTER HERE: [VPA Aging in Place Webinar #3: Affordable Senior Housing in Downtown - a](#)

This webinar is free. This webinar is also eligible for 1.5 AICP CM credits and is listed on the APA website: [Vermont Planners Association Aging in Place Series Webinar #3: Affordable Senior Housing in Downtown – Not Just a Planner’s Pipe Dream! \(planning.org\)](https://www.planning.org/planner-constantcontact.com). A recording of the webinar will be available after the event.

Community News

CVRPC Seeks Municipal Representatives to CWAC

The CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) has openings for municipal representatives and are soliciting interest for serving on this committee where you can learn and provide feedback about the State of Vermont’s initiatives, plans, and programs for water quality restoration and protection. Main responsibilities of the CWAC are to oversee programming of CVRPC’s assistance to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation’s Tactical Basin Planning, coordinate water quality related activities with the CVRPC Transportation Advisory Committee, participate in special studies by the CVRPC, and provide input and recommendations to the CVRPC Board of Commissioners. CWAC meetings are held every other month on the second Thursday from 4 – 6 PM both in person and with a remote option (currently CVRPC requires that in-person attendees wear masks). If interested in serving on this committee and being part of the efforts for water quality protection of Vermont waters, please contact Pam DeAndrea by **September 9th** at deandrea@cvregion.com.



Housing Committee Survey

Housing committees can play an important role in community-based approaches to meeting local housing needs. These groups can be formal municipal commissions, resident advocacy groups, or any other local groups that seek to support or change the quality, quantity, affordability and inclusiveness of housing in a community. Similarly, housing committees can document existing housing stock, assess housing gaps and influence local policy, including zoning changes, permitting processes, the creation of Housing Trust Funds, and others. These local committees can also help improve community understanding about the relationships between housing affordability, equity, and economic vibrancy.

This survey is designed to collect information about existing housing committees in Vermont, identify those wishing to start committees, and to connect you with additional resources to meet your community’s housing needs. The data will be used to expand the online Housing-ready Toolbox (<https://www.housingdata.org/toolbox/>) with success stories, best practices, and resources for existing and new committees.

The Housing-Ready Toolbox was created through partnership of the CVOEO Fair Housing Project’s Thriving Communities initiative, the Vermont Department of Housing & Community Development, and Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

Survey link: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=D7gHH6HYiEGWbRY_G2OFBRdPlkiYfHJOgrGpo4ZaBdpUMks0MVZSMkVOU0I2NIJGN0FFUEw40VdMOS4u If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Shiferaw Gameda at sgameda@cvoeo.org

RFP's, Grant Information, Applications & Deadlines

FY2022 Grant Funding for Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) is pleased to announce a funding opportunity to provide financial assistance to municipalities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of water statewide.

Grants funded through this program must have a transportation link. The enabling legislation that determines eligibility is as follows: “Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to

highway runoff.”

Potentially eligible project types include planning studies (stormwater inventories, low restoration plans, phosphorus control planning), salt/sand sheds, bank stabilization, culvert replacement/re-sizing, stream bank stabilization, detention ponds, check dam, swirl separators, permeable pavers, infiltration basins, gravel wetlands, subsurface detention systems, bio filters, and bio retention systems.

Eligible applicants for this grant program are municipalities. There is not a program cap on the amount of funding granted to a specific project, though there is a 20% local match requirement. All projects must be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

All projects shall be developed according to the guidelines published in the Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Guidebook for Municipally Managed Projects. The document and appendices can be found at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/general-information/guidebook>. The Federal Highway Administration has additional information for federal-aid projects: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/>

Some of the requirements highlighted in the above sources include compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Uniform Act for Right-of-Way acquisition, Buy America Provisions, and low bid, sealed bid process for construction (Force Account generally not allowed). This a reimbursement program, and municipalities must submit invoices for completed work to be reimbursed appropriately. All projects must be completed, or all expended federal funds will be required to be paid back.

All applications require a letter of support from their Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Projects located in or adjacent to a state maintained right of way must submit a description of the project and/or plans to the District Transportation Administrator (DTA) in that region. A copy of this correspondence to the DTA must be attached to your application.

The application and program guide can be found at:
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>.

Applications must be received before 1:00 p.m. on October 1, 2021. **Electronic submittal of PDF files via email is required.** Hard copy applications will not be accepted. Please submit via email to Ross.Gouin@vermont.gov.

Upcoming Meetings

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

SEPTEMBER

Sept 6 CVRPC Office Closed - Holiday

Sept 7 4 pm Executive Committee Meeting

Sept 7 5 pm EMD Virtual Round Table (email vinson@cvregion.com for link)

Sept 8 2 pm Regional Elders and Persons With Disabilities Advisory Committee

Sept 14 11 am Bylaw Review Work Group

Sept 14 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Meeting

Sept 15 5 pm Using the Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT) to Strengthen Hazard Mitigation Planning

Sept 22 4 pm Project Review Committee

Sept 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee

Sept 28 10:30 am Bylaw Review Work Group

STAY CONNECTED

