



Weekly News Roundup July 22, 2022

Visit our website

Upcoming Events

Fostering a Regional Recreation Economy – Creating Networks in Central Vermont

Monday, July 25th at 5:00-6:30 PM

- Trail Finder follow up
- Group email distribution list launch
- Projects, planning & funding roundtable

This meeting will take place over Zoom. Register below!

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrf-iorjkuGdYyhChPLhzS-x5wDxJ8BBsy>

Questions? Please contact Clare Rock, Senior Land Use Planner, rock@cvregion.com or Blaine Hoskins, Assistant Planner, hoskins@cvregion.com

Clean Water Lecture Series: Connect with Clean Water Initiative Funding

August 3, 2022 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm - via MS Teams

Join members of the Clean Water Initiative Program to learn about the types of funding, projects, and resources that support clean water in Vermont. The presenters will outline a variety of available and/or upcoming funding opportunities that cover a wide range of project types and sectors: from the restoration of natural resources to the management of polluted storm water runoff from developed lands. To join, [please register here](#).

Celebrate Downtowns Champion Senator Leahy

August 11, 2022 | 5:00 – 8:00 pm – Langdon Street, Montpelier

You're invited to a Downtown Block Party on Langdon Street in Montpelier to celebrate Senator Patrick Leahy's 47-year career revitalizing our historic city, town and village centers. When tragedy has hit our downtowns, from fires in Randolph, St. Johnsbury or Brattleboro, and floods in Waterbury, Northfield and Montpelier -- he has made sure the federal resources were there to rebuild better. Now it's time to celebrate those contributions by having a little fun in his hometown downtown!

The event is free and open to the public, but **RSVP by August 4th** for the best deal on food and drinks and to receive timely event updates. More information is available [HERE](#).

VCRD Community Leadership Summit

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is inviting Vermonters of all backgrounds who are working with a goal of improving life in their community to attend the [2022 Community Leadership Summit](#) on **Wednesday, August 10, at Vermont Technical College**. The Summit agenda will include skills workshops, networking opportunities, community project panels, and forum discussions. This event will be an all-inclusive summit aiming to bring new and established voices together from across Vermont. Anyone who is serving on local commissions, taking the lead or

taking a stand in their community, or who is engaged in advancing a positive future for their town, city, or state is encouraged to join the conversation. Speakers and participants will represent the full diversity of Vermont community members and leaders including youth, municipal leaders, community organizers and volunteers, people with lived experience with critical challenges facing our communities, experts and technical assistance providers, regional leaders, and more. Register Now at <https://www.vtrural.org/Summit22>

Community News

Health Equity Survey

CVRPC is reaching out to municipal officials in hopes to increase awareness about the topic of Health Equity. We are working on creating tools to help integrate health equity concepts into local plans, to better meet the needs of everyone in the county.

Below is a link to a Health Equity Survey that will allow the RPC to better understand your community's opportunity for change and the community needs. The completed surveys will inform a future statewide training opportunity.

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M3WTSTH> Contact Blaine Hoskins at hoskins@cvregion.com if you have any questions.

Community Kitchen Academy Accepting Applications

Community Kitchen Academy is a 7-week culinary job training program featuring:

- Hands on learning in a commercial kitchen from professional Chefs.
- National ServSafe Certification.
- Job placement support.
- Tuition and financial assistance for income-eligible students.
- Connection to community and resources!

BARRE: Joey Buttendorf: (802) 249-6058 jbuttendorf@capstonevt.org - Located at Capstone Community Action, 20 Gable Place, Barre, VT - APPLY ONLINE: www.vtfoodbank.org

Vermont Adopts 9-8-8 Phone Number for Mental Health Support and Crisis

On July 16th, Vermont launched the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Callers will be immediately connected to compassionate, caring counselors who are trained to provide support for individuals experiencing everything from emotional distress to a mental health crisis. While they are trained to treat and address suicidality, it is not only for those individuals in crisis.

The 9-8-8 Lifeline is also not only for those experiencing challenges with their own mental health. If you are the family member, loved one or friend of someone whom you believe might need help, counselors are trained and ready to answer your call. **People can access the Lifeline by calling 9-8-8. It is free, available 24/7, and confidential.** Read the full press release [here](#).

RFPs, Grant Information, Applications, and Deadlines

Time Sensitive: Accessing funding for local planning and community development projects and base eligibility requirements

Would your municipality benefit from grant funds for local planning and community development projects? Now's the time to start preparing for some exciting opportunities!



Grant Funding: This year the VT Department of Housing & Community Development will again be offering the Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) program. The program works to strengthen Vermont by funding local planning initiatives that support statewide planning goals. Grant funds have been used by municipalities across the state to:

- update town plans and land use regulations;
- undertake strategic plans to support local economic development initiatives; or
- develop recreation/trail master plans.

Towns may also partner with neighboring towns and their local Regional Planning Commission (RPC) to undertake multi-town or regional studies.

The Department will also be supplementing the MPG funds by offering Bylaw Modernization grants. These funds are geared towards updating local zoning regulations to help decrease barriers towards the creation of much needed new housing in and around village and town centers. For more information about these programs check out:
<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant>.

Base Requirements: A pre-requisite to apply for these funding opportunities is having the following:

- An effective locally adopted municipal or town plan (as per 24 V.S.A. Subchapter 5); **AND**
- Confirmation of the local planning process and approval of the local plan by the Regional Planning Commission (as per 24 V.S.A. § 4350).

Benefits of Confirmation and Approval by the RPC: The benefits of requesting *confirmation of the local planning process and approval of the local plan by the Regional Planning Commission* include:

- Eligibility for your municipality to apply for Municipal Planning Grants (MPG) or Bylaw Modernization Grants;
- Eligibility to seek Village Center Designation (a whole other incentive program designed to support historic village centers. More info here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/designation-programs>);
- Other benefits outlined in 24 V.S.A. § 4350.

Plus the more municipalities which have *confirmation and approval by the RPC* helps increase the State allocation of funding available to all Central Vermont municipalities!

Time Sensitive: If your town has recently adopted or amended your municipal or town plan, CVRPC invites you to request *confirmation of the local planning process and approval of the local plan by the Regional Planning Commission* as soon as possible. If you wish to be eligible for this year's round of MPGs and Bylaw Modernization grants, please submit your request no later than noon on Wednesday August 17, 2022. Written/email requests should be made by the Select Board or Municipal Manager/Administrator and include a copy of the locally adopted plan (preferable in pdf format or include a webpage link to the plan).

If you have any questions regarding CVRPC's review process, the grant programs and/or would like assistance in applying for funds please do not hesitate to contact Clare at rock@cvregion.com.



Clean School Bus Program Funding (EPA)

With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA's new Clean School Bus Program provides \$5 billion over the next five years (FY 2022-2026) to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. EPA is offering \$500 million through the **2022 Clean School Bus Rebates** for zero-emission and low-emission school bus rebates as the first funding opportunity. ***Applications due August***

19th.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Transportation will host three informational webinars for the first round of grants for the **Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)** discretionary grant program. These "How to Apply" webinars will feature information to help potential applicants learn about the SS4A grant program and what they need to know to prepare an application.

The first webinar will provide a general overview of the SS4A program, the grant application process, and the available grant types, while the next two webinars will delve more deeply into each type of grant offered: Action Plan Grants and Implementation Grants. The fiscal year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Safe Streets and Roads for All grants is live on **Grants.gov** and on the **SS4A website**. *The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. (EDT) on September 15, 2022.*

2023 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. 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 daily 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. Applications are due prior to September 2, 2022. You can find the application and additional information online:

<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/parkandrides>



Upcoming Meetings

CVRPC will provide a video or call in option for all meetings (see agendas on our [website](#) for details).

July

July 25 4 pm Regional Recreation Economy
July 26 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee
July 28 4 pm Project Review Committee

August

Aug 1 4 pm Executive Committee
Aug 9 6:30 Board of Commissioners - To be confirmed
Aug 18 1 pm Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
Aug 23 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee
Aug 25 4 pm Project Review Committee

STAY CONNECTED

