

Weekly News Roundup August 12, 2022

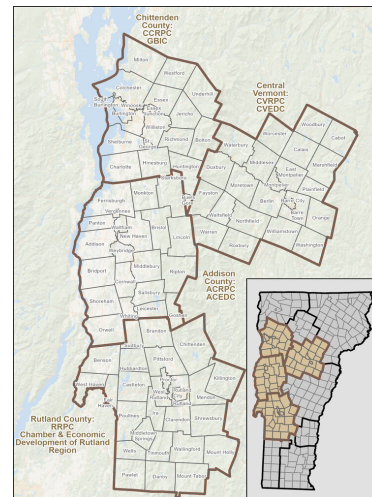
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Community News

Developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for West Central Vermont

A [CEDS](#) - or a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. A CEDS is the result of a regionally-led planning process designed to build capacity, support local initiatives, and develop economic resiliency.

Our CEDS will strengthen local economic partnerships within West Central Vermont (Addison County, Chittenden County, Rutland County, Washington County and part of Orange County) and enable our region to meet current and anticipated economic challenges. [Click here](#) to see the defining characteristics and maps of West Central Vermont.



Provide Feedback on Draft CEDS - The draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for West Central Vermont is available for public comments until August 26, 2022. Learn more and view the draft CEDS at <https://westcentralvt.org>.

Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express Train Offers Daily Burlington to NYC Service

Beginning July 29, Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express will leave every day at 10:10am from downtown Burlington and will arrive in New York City 7 hours and 34 minutes later. Local, state and federal officials have been working to reestablish this transportation link for decades. **Learn More »**

Vermont's Strategic Highway Safety Plan Available

The 2022-2026 Strategic Highway Safety Plan identifies Vermont's key safety needs and guides investment decisions toward strategies and countermeasures with the most potential to save lives and prevent injuries. **Learn More »**

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Downtown and Village Center Revitalization Awards

Congratulations to Waitsfield, Warren, and Waterbury for their efforts to revitalize their downtowns and village centers! The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced awards of over \$2 million in Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) grants to support 15 projects in Designated Downtowns and eligible Designated Village Centers. The grants support investment in public infrastructure through the [Downtown Transportation Fund](#). The program has helped update streetscaping, parking, rail, and bus facilities, bicycle and pedestrian safety, utilities, street lighting, and wayfinding signage. Waitsfield was awarded \$19,040 to install of rapid flashing beacons at the Waitsfield Elementary School crossing on Route 100 in the village. This is the first phase of a larger project to improve pedestrian safety at crosswalks along Route 100. Warren was awarded \$114,312 to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists with changes to slow vehicular traffic in a busy area in the village center. The project will narrow roads with medians and landscaping features, making bridge and crosswalk improvements, and improving road striping and lighting. Waterbury was awarded \$200,000 to upgrade deteriorated and narrow sidewalks on streets adjacent to Main Street, making them wider and accessible to all, while improving the overall safety for pedestrians. Additional enhancements include new lighting, flower baskets, and trash receptacles. For more information about the awards and the grant program, see [https://vermontbiz.com/news/2022/july/27/scott-announces-over-2-million-grants-downtown-revitalization-efforts?ct=t\(ROUNDUP_7_30_2022\)](https://vermontbiz.com/news/2022/july/27/scott-announces-over-2-million-grants-downtown-revitalization-efforts?ct=t(ROUNDUP_7_30_2022)).

RFPs, Grant Information, Applications, and Deadlines



2023 Historic Preservation Grants Available

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is pleased to announce the 2023 round of matching state grants. Funding of up to \$20,000 is available to non-profit organizations and municipalities for work on municipal buildings, historical society buildings, granges, churches, town halls, opera houses and other historic structures.

Eligible work includes restoration and repair of:

- Roofs
- Structural elements
- Foundations
- Windows
- Other important components of historic building

The 2023 Historic Preservation Grant Application and Manual are available at:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/funding/historic-preservation-grants>

Applications are due Monday, October 3, 2022. If you have any questions about the application materials, please email caitlin.corkins@vermont.gov or call Caitlin at 802-828-3047.

VTrans Mobility and Transportation Innovation Grant Program

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is now accepting grant applications for the FY2023 Mobility and Transportation Innovation Grant Program. The program is designed to support innovative strategies and projects that improve mobility and access to services for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The application deadline is August 26 at 4:30pm. [Learn More »](#)

Zoning Bylaw Modernization Grants for New Homes and 'Great Neighborhoods'

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is pleased to announce up to \$650,000 in available funding to support [statewide municipal bylaw](#)

[modernization grants](#) for Vermont's cities and towns.

Municipalities can use this new and innovative funding to hire regional planning commission or consulting staff to collaborate with local stakeholders and prepare bylaw updates that expand opportunities for new homes, confront the State's housing crisis, and ready communities for unprecedented investments in housing and infrastructure.

The grants support access to the State's Neighborhood Development Area designation through implementation of the [Zoning for Great Neighborhoods](#) Guide. An initiative that produced model regulations designed to make little zoning updates that have a big impact much easier for local planning commissions, selectboards, and city councils. The project also looked at case study communities across Vermont, revealing a clear mismatch between Vermont's need for smaller homes and the current zoning regulations – many of which were adopted using mid-century templates favoring single-household homes, large lots, and expensive infrastructure.

Municipalities interested in this special funding to update bylaws, implement Zoning for Great Neighborhoods, and expand housing choice and opportunity in pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods can learn more here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/bylaw-modernization-grants>.

The **deadline to apply is November 1, 2022** | and funding awards will be announced in January 2023.

Upcoming Meetings

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

August

Aug 18 1 pm Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
Aug 23 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee
Aug 25 4 pm Project Review Committee
Aug 30 4 pm Municipal Plan Review Committee

September

Sept 6 4 pm Executive Committee
Sept 8 4 pm Clean Water Advisory Committee
Sept 13 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners – bylaw vote; 60% of Commissioners needed for vote
Sept 15 1 pm Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
Sept 22 4 pm Project Review Committee
Sept 27 6:30 pm Transportation Advisory Committee

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