

2014 Vermont Better Backroads Program



The Vermont Better Backroads Program is pleased to announce its sixteenth year of funding to support projects on town or private roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The program began in 1997 and continued through 2012 administered by Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council. In 2013 the administration of the program was transferred to the Agency of Transportation. The grant funds are provided by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Backroads Program's goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams. Funds, subject to availability, will be distributed as small grants to municipalities and local organizations to address town or private road erosion problems.

Category A - Planning Grant - Road and Culvert Inventory

Category B - Implementation Grant



Town of St. Johnsbury During



Town of St. Johnsbury After

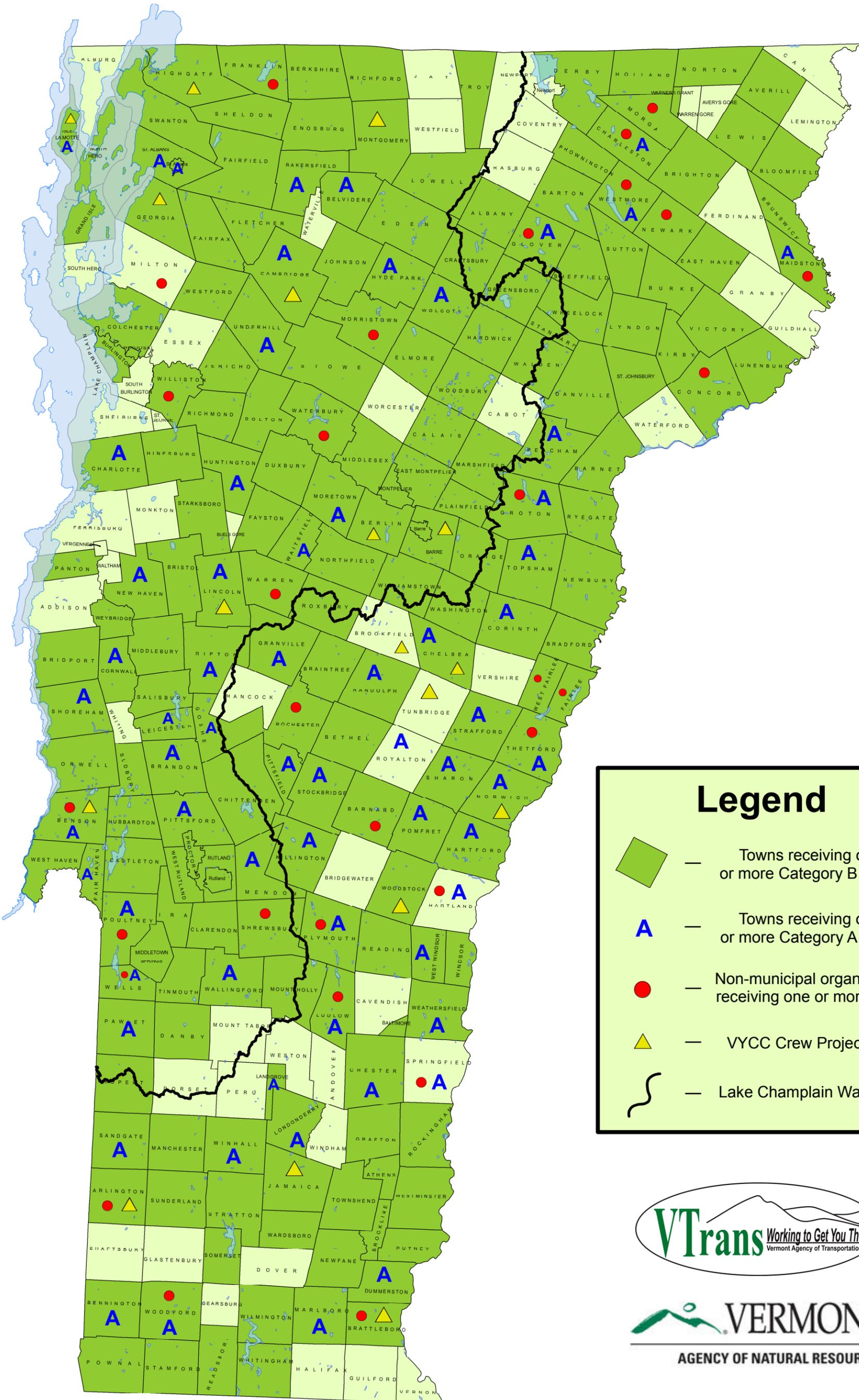


Town of Weathersfield During



Town of Weathersfield After

Better Backroads Grant Recipient Towns & Organizations 1997 - 2013

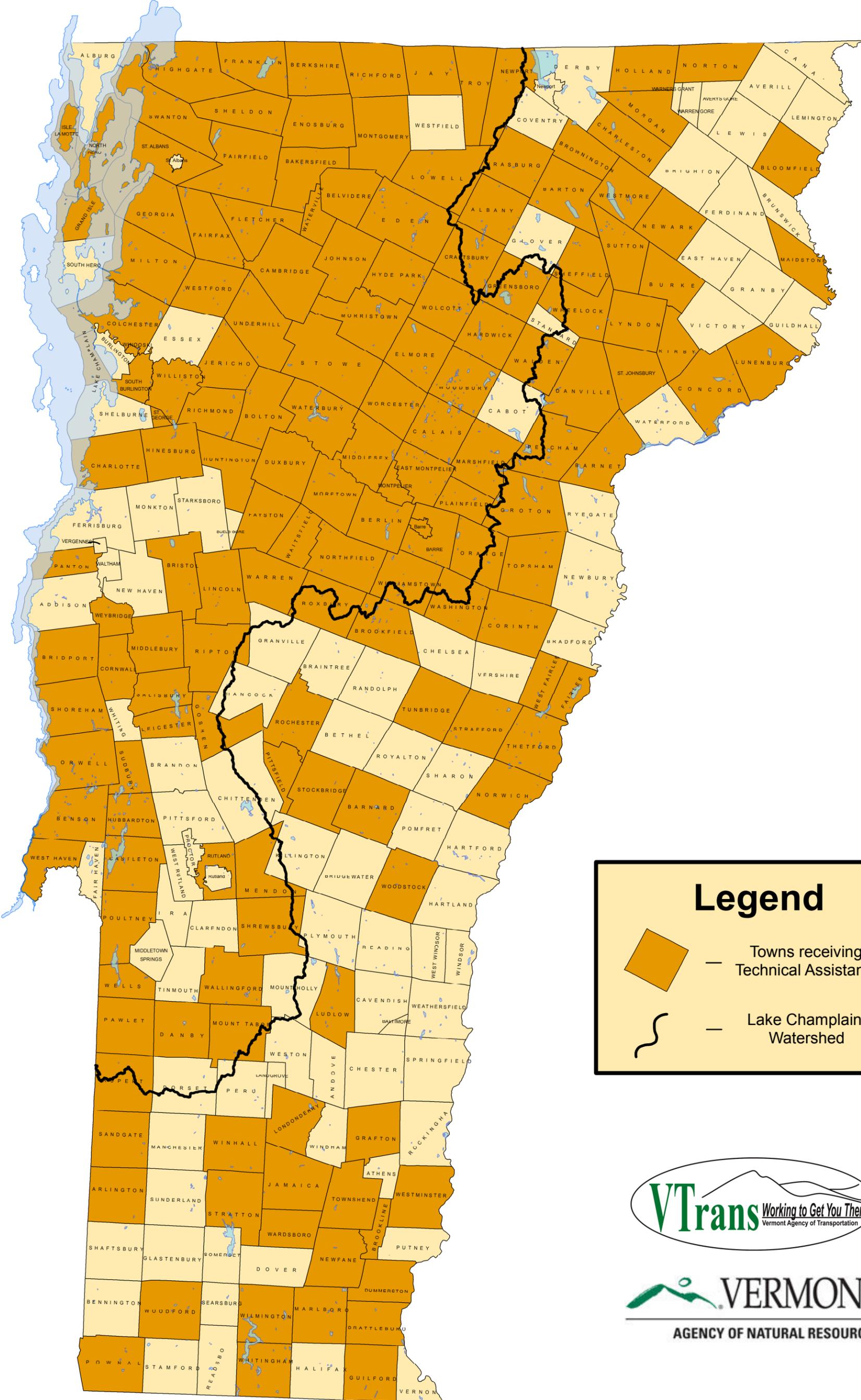


Legend

- Towns receiving one or more Category B grants
- Towns receiving one or more Category A grants
- Non-municipal organizations receiving one or more grants
- VYCC Crew Project Sites
- Lake Champlain Watershed



Better Backroads Technical Assistance Site Vists 1997 - 2013



Legend

- Towns receiving Technical Assistance
- Lake Champlain Watershed



Better Backroads in the News

Ripton uses grant to fix N. Branch

RIPTON — The 2013 Vermont Better Backroads Small Grants Program awarded two grants to the town of Ripton. One grant helped the town develop its road inventory and capital budget plan. The other, to correct a road-related erosion problem, provided funds for a culvert and headwall replacement and lined ditch on the North Branch Road.

This culvert was identified as a priority project after overtopping during a May 29, 2012, storm. The town received FEMA funds for repair at several sites damaged by the storm, but not for this Fire Brook stream crossing. Future storms would likely wash out the roadbed and carry sediment to the brook.

The Better Backroads grant helped the town replace the undersized culvert with a larger one, rebuild headwalls, improve roadside ditches leading to the culvert, and maintain water quality.

Water and sediment from Fire Brook flows to the North Branch River in Ripton, and on to the Middlebury River, Otter Creek and Lake Champlain. Correcting the erosion problem at this culvert and roadside reduces sedimentation and improves water quality from Ripton to Lake Champlain. Ripton town officials said they greatly appreciate the assistance of the Better Backroads Program.

In Brownington

Better Back Roads grant used on Pepin Road

The town of Brownington has received a grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Better Back Roads Program. The money has been used to complete a project on the Pepin Road.

The project involved stabilizing the roadside bank about three-quarters of a mile from where the Brownington Branch of the Willoughby River crosses the Pepin Road.

Brownington Road Commissioner Louis Glodgett planned the project with the input of Alan

May, Better Back Roads coordinator. Mr. Glodgett organized and directed the project, which was completed September 13. The project included cleaning topsoil, silt, and debris from the ditch, lining the ditch with geotextile fabric, keying in the large rocks one at a time with an excavator to retain the topsoil and vegetation (including a landowner's fence and apple trees), covering the fabric with smaller rocks, and seeding and mulching areas that were disturbed.

The project was started and finished in very little time and all areas disturbed were immediately seeded and mulched.

A result of small projects like this one is better water quality in area streams and lakes. This project also benefits anyone traveling on the Pepin Road, as it will be easier to maintain the road with this improvement. — from the town of Brownington.

Grant helps make Wheelocks's Burroughs Road A Better Back Road

WHEELOCK — The town has received a Better Back Roads grant, making possible a recently completed project to make improvements to the Burroughs Road North, where a ditching and erosion control project was carried out, said Town Clerk Michelle Trotter.

The project cost a total of \$15,626.21, said Trotter, and the town recently received a grant of \$10,000 to apply to the cost of the work.

The state-run Better Back Roads program requires towns to put up a 20 percent match minimum in order to seek the grant funding, according to the application, which noted that the work needed to be completed by Sept. 30.

A total of \$2,731.61 was spent on labor for the work, \$6256.50 in equipment, \$3,730.60 in materials and contracted work cost \$2,907.50, coming to the total of \$15,626.21.

According to the town's report to the Better Back Roads program, the project began "approximately 1,000 feet north of Burroughs Brook on the east side of Burroughs Road (also named Wheelock Road in the adjoining Town of Danville) and running 1,000 feet down a steep incline to where Burroughs Road crosses Burroughs Brook. In addition, the roadbed is narrowed in one location, being 'cut' into banks on either side, not allowing any ditching at present and causing a safety hazard for drivers," the town noted in seeking the funds.

The Burroughs Road is a "significant and heavily traveled Class 3 shortcut byway for Wheelock and other area town residents traveling from Route 122 (Wheelock, Sheffield and Sutton) and Route 5 (Lyndonville) to Danville and points west (Montpelier) and south (Peacham)," the town told the state in seeking the help.

BARNET BACK ROAD BETTER

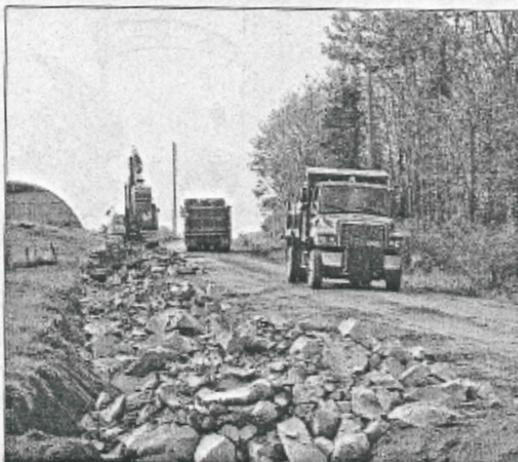


PHOTO BY KALLY COOK

Work is happening along the Somerhill Road in Barnet this week thanks in large part to a Better Back Roads grant. The project is designed to stop erosion, improve water quality, and result in maintenance cost savings.

Lyndon receives Better Back Roads grant

LYNDON — With funding help from the Better Back Roads program, the Town of Lyndon was able to recently complete a project "to improve and redirect drainage at the intersection of Liberty Drive and Clover Hollow," said Municipal Administrator Dan Hill. According to Hill, the intersection had a steep section of highway that continually eroded the ditch lines and emptied onto a private resident's lawn. The ditch line has been deepened and stone lined. New culverts have been placed that will direct water flow away from the private residence and into an existing water flow, he said of the recently completed project. The application was submitted to Better Back Roads, which is now a part of VTrans in early summer, continued Hill. A grant was awarded in the amount of \$6,232 from the Better Back Roads program, and the work was completed in September, Hill said. The money was used to hire an excavator and to purchase materials needed for the work, explained Hill. The Town Highway crew did the work as the local match to the grant, he said. "The Better Back Roads program is a big help to municipalities in getting smaller projects completed that otherwise might be omitted due to budget constraints," said Hill.