1   * * * Local Technical Assistance Program * * *

2   Sec. 7.   TOWN HIGHWAY VERMONT LOCAL ROADS; LOCAL

3   TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

4   (a) The Agency shall create a Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP or Program)

5   within the Agency's Vermont Transportation Training Center. The purpose of the LTAP is to

6   provide transportation-related technical assistance and training for municipalities, including

7   workshops, technology demonstrations, computer training, distance learning, seminars, and field

8   and classroom instruction.

9   (b) The Town Highway Vermont Local Roads Program within the Agency's proposed fiscal

10   year 2015 Transportation Program is renamed the Local Technical Assistance Program. Funding

11   for the LTAP approved and appropriated by the General Assembly shall be used for the

12   Program's operating expenses. If it is legally permissible for the Local Technical Assistance

13   Program to maintain the brand name of Vermont Local Roads, the Agency shall continue to use

14   that program name.

15   (c) In carrying out the Local Technical Assistance Program, the Agency shall:

16   (1) offer the same or substantially similar courses as were offered by the Vermont Local

17   Roads Program, as long as demand from municipalities justifies continuation of such course

18   offerings;

19   (2) offer courses in multiple locations throughout the State, to a similar or greater extent

20   than the Vermont Local Roads Program offered courses throughout the State; and

21   (3) continue providing municipalities the support functions that the Vermont Local Roads

22   Program provided, including facilitating list serves, issuing informational newsletters, and

23   supporting municipal foremen's groups.

1   Sec. 7a. 19 V.S.A. § 318 is added to read:

2   § 318. LTAP ADVISORY COUNCIL

3   (a) The Vermont Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Advisory Council is

4   established. The Council shall consist of not more than 15 members appointed by the Governor,

5   plus the Secretary of Transportation or designee. The Council shall be chaired by the Secretary

6   or designee. Members may include representatives of municipalities, municipal road foremen,

7   representatives of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, representatives of Regional

8   Planning Commissions, and others who have knowledge and expertise relevant to the

9   development and success of the LTAP.

10   (b) Members who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise

11   compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and

12   reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than three meetings.

13   (c) The Council is authorized to obtain administrative assistance from the Agency, and the

14   Secretary is directed to provide such assistance as required. At a minimum, the LTAP

15   employees of the Vermont Transportation Training Center shall provide assistance to the

16   Council.

17   (d) The Council shall meet no fewer than three times a year, excluding meetings of

18   subcommittees. Annually, on or before December 31, the Council shall make a report of its

19   activities, findings, and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on

20   Transportation.

1   (f) The Council shall:

2   (1) serve as an advisory group to the Agency and to any consultants working for the

3 agency on administration of the LTAP program;

4   (2) in consultation with the Agency, elicit input from municipalities on whether the LTAP

5 program is succeeding in providing effective transportation-related technical assistance and

6 training for municipalities; and

7   (3) in consultation with the Agency, elicit from municipalities input and recommendations

8 on training and technical assistance for inclusion in the LTAP.

9   (g) The terms of the members of the Council, other than the term of the Secretary, shall be for

10 a period of two years. However, initial appointments shall be staggered so that half of the

11 appointees serve one-year terms.