

* * * Local Technical Assistance Program * * *

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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 use the name Vermont Local Roads, the Agency shall continue to use that program
14 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 Governor shall ensure a broad geographic
6 representation of Vermont by appointing members representing each county of the State, unless
7 the Governor is unable to identify a member with relevant qualifications from a county. The
8 Council shall be chaired by the Secretary or designee. Members may include representatives of
9 municipalities, municipal road foremen, representatives of the Vermont League of Cities and
10 Towns, representatives of Regional Planning Commissions, and others who have knowledge and
11 expertise relevant to the development and success of the LTAP.

12 (b) Members who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise
13 compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
14 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than three meetings.

15 (c) The Council is authorized to obtain administrative assistance from the Agency, and the
16 Secretary is directed to provide such assistance as required. At a minimum, the LTAP
17 employees of the Vermont Transportation Training Center shall provide assistance to the
18 Council.

19 (d) The Council shall meet no fewer than three times a year, excluding meetings of
20 subcommittees. Annually, on or before December 31, the Council shall make a report of its
21 activities, findings, and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on
22 Transportation.

1 (e) 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 (f) 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.