

VT DEC Municipal Roads Program

Factsheet: Developing the Municipal Roads General Permit

This general permit is intended to achieve significant reductions in stormwater-related erosion from municipal roads, both paved and unpaved. Municipalities will implement a customized, multi-year plan to stabilize their road drainage system. The plan will include bringing road drainage systems up to basic maintenance standards, and additional corrective measure to reduce erosion as necessary to meet a TMDL or other water quality restoration effort. The permit is required by H.35/Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act, and the Lake Champlain Phase I TMDL.

For more information on the DEC Municipal Roads program and the development of the Municipal Roads General Permit, contact Jim Ryan at (802) 490-6140 or via email at jim.ryan@vermont.gov.

Updated information can also be found on the program's website at:
http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/stormwater/htm/sw_municipalroads.htm

Requirements for Existing Roads

- As a first step municipalities will identify the sections of their road networks that are connected to surface waters through ditches, culverts or other drainage structures. Connected roads present substantially greater risks to water quality.
- The second step will involve inventorying the connected portions of their road network to determine if the road and drainage systems meet the new standards. Standards will be consistent with Town Road and Bridge Standards, and will likely include measures such as:
 - Ditch Slopes greater than 5% to be stone-lined or have stone check-dams
 - Ditches: "U-shaped" and disconnected from surface waters where possible
 - Upgrading road drainage culverts and installing outlet stabilization and/or headers where erosion is present
 - Soils exposed by maintenance would be seeded and mulched or otherwise stabilized
- Municipalities will develop and implement a long-term plan to bring all sections of connected roads up to standards.
- Class 4 roads that are adversely affecting water quality may require the installation of best management practices to reduce erosion, but will not be required to be open to travel as part of this permit.
- In-Culverts and bridges:
 - No new requirements to replace stream crossings, but may require header or outlet stabilization measures

- Maintenance and construction activities would continue to conform to the ANR Stream Alteration General Permit.

Requirements for New Projects

- Stable conveyances
- Designed to Vermont Stormwater Manual if over permit threshold of 1 acre impervious surface, or >5,000 square foot expansion

Permit Process

- 2016: stakeholder process to develop permit and standards
- Before January 2017: draft general permit
- Before January 2018: final permit
- No later than 2021: all municipalities have permit coverage
- Commencing with permit coverage, 2018 and beyond: municipalities implement road stormwater management plan
- 20-year Implementation schedule prioritized by greatest benefit, and municipality's transportation capital plan
- Assistance from DEC, VTrans, RPCs, NRCDs, and others