

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM IN SFY17?

Following a 7-year hiatus which began in SFY05, the Agency began funding new projects within the Bicycle & Pedestrian (B/P) Program through a competitive grant program in SFY12. In SFY12, approximately \$2,000,000 in federal funds were allocated for new projects; in subsequent years that amount has risen to \$4,000,000.

Funding Ratios

The Agency currently has two programs that fund bicycle and pedestrian improvements, the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program and the B/P Program. Parameters for the TA Program are in state statute (Title 19, Chapter 1 §38); state statute requires that grant recipients pay the full matching share required for the projects. Furthermore, the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee decided that scoping studies would be funded at the ratio of 50% federal funds and 50% local funds. The SFY17 budget proposal is predicated on projects within the B/P Program being funded at the same ratio as the TA Program. Furthermore, it proposes that funding for state funded projects be in line with transportation projects funded through the Downtown Program administered by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

	Funding Ratio in SFY16 Program	Funding Ratio in SFY17 Program
Scoping Studies	90% Fed/ State + 10% Local	50% Federal + 50% Local
State Funded Construction Projects	80% State + 20% Local	50% State + 50% Local
Federally Funded Construction Projects	90% Fed/ State + 10% Local	80% Federal + 20% Local

New and/ or Increased Funding Levels

New Awards for State Aid Construction Projects: SFY16 was the first year that the state proposed a line item for new awards for state aid construction projects – targeted for small scale improvements. The amount in SFY16 was \$150,000; the proposal in SFY17 increasing this to \$300,000 which will leverage \$300,000 in local funds for a \$600,000 investment in state only funded projects. Please see section above for pro rata share changes.

Local Motion ST BP16() – Ferry Operation: The Island Line Trail utilizes a bike ferry to make the connection across the Lake Champlain causeway from Colchester to South Hero. Local Motion stepped up to the plate and secured funding, and took all responsibility for the ferry and necessary improvements for its operation. In addition to purchase of a ferry, their efforts included improvements to the ramps and docks, turnarounds on each side of the cut, installation of viewing/ fishing platforms, repairs to the causeway, and installation of wave attenuators to ensure safe and dependable operation of the ferry. They also agreed to providing the day to day operational responsibilities of this ferry. The overall ferry budget to run the service in 2016 is estimated to be \$200,000. Fares revenue are estimated at \$80,000 based on ridership levels and days of service. The \$60,000 included in the SFY17 budget is approximately 1/2 of the cost differential to operate the ferry. VTrans recognizes the regional importance of this facility and thus would like to support Local Motion in sharing the cost of operation. VTrans supports Local Motion recognizing Local Motion's long history of supporting efforts in the region and the setbacks they have faced over the years from natural events. By financially supporting Local Motion, it will also allow them to focus their efforts on enhancing their membership and finances to ensure they can continue supporting this regional bike ferry connection for the foreseeable future.

Statewide ST BP16() – VYCC: VTrans has supported the operations of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) for many years through federal transportation enhancement (TE) funding. Changes in the eligibility of the program and the difficulties meeting all the federal requirements have put this in jeopardy. The SFY17 budget proposal includes \$100,000 of state funds, approximately one-half of the former commitment of TE funds, so that this program can continue through a three-way partnership of VTrans, VYCC and the Department of Forest Parks & Recreation.

Discontinued Funding

Chittenden County STP SDWK() – The SFY17 proposal does not include new projects funded through this line item as Chittenden County project needs can be funded through the TA and B/P competitive grant programs. This funding had been at 80% Federal and 20% Local with annual award amounts of \$300,000 in federal funds.