

### ***How ACCD would use the money?***

The Downtown Transportation Fund helps municipalities pay for transportation-related capital improvements within or serving the state's 23 designated downtowns.

Adding Clean Water funding to this fund would help these cities and towns retrofit or integrate stormwater control features into their parking or streetscape improvement projects.

Background:

In Vermont's downtowns, much of the land surface is covered by buildings and pavement, which do not allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground.

This urban stormwater carries pollutants such as oil, dirt, salt, chemicals, and lawn fertilizers that can seriously harm water quality.

This urban stormwater is a major source of nutrient overload in many of Vermont's surface waters.

Most of the stormwater runoff goes into sewers where it's sometimes is treated, but often is not.

In some communities like Montpelier, Rutland and Vergennes -- large amounts of stormwater can overload the treatment system and result in raw sewage spills.

This funding would install stormwater controls and systems in our existing urban areas, where is often more costly.

The controls or systems are known as "Green Stormwater Infrastructure."

They are designed to replicate natural mechanisms that reduce or slow down the flow of stormwater and allow it to be cleaned by plants.

Example below.



▲ Despite having native soils with high clay content and low infiltration rates this green street project features a shallow graded landscape to filter pollutants with retaining only 2-3" of runoff. This will allow runoff to infiltrate or evaporate within a reasonable amount of time.



▲ Conversely, this green parking lot project has excellent free-draining soils and is designed to retain the maximum amount of stormwater runoff. Stormwater is infiltrated within a span of a couple of hours.

***Are the projects “capital eligible” (must be construction, or design directly related to construction)?***

The funding would only support the design and construction of capital improvements to reduce the flow of urban stormwater in support of the state’s clean water goals.

***How does the appropriation support clean water?***

Municipalities would be less likely retrofit or integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure features into their parking or streetscape projects without this funding.