

1 Sec. 43. 19 V.S.A. § 38 is amended to read:

2 § 38. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM

3 (a) ~~The Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee is created and shall~~
4 ~~comprise:~~

5 (1) ~~the Secretary of Transportation or his or her designee;~~

6 (2) ~~a representative from the Division of Historic Preservation appointed~~
7 ~~by the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development;~~

8 (3) ~~one member appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and~~
9 ~~Community Development to represent the tourism and marketing industry;~~

10 (4) ~~a representative of the Agency of Natural Resources appointed by the~~
11 ~~Secretary of Natural Resources;~~

12 (5) ~~three municipal representatives appointed by the governing body of~~
13 ~~the Vermont League of Cities and Towns;~~

14 (6) ~~one member representing and appointed by the governing board of~~
15 ~~the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies;~~

16 (7) ~~two members from the House designated by the Speaker; and~~

17 (8) ~~two members from the Senate designated by the Committee on~~
18 ~~Committees. [Repealed.]~~

19 (b) ~~Municipal and legislative members of the Transportation Alternatives~~
20 ~~Grant Committee shall serve concurrently for two-year terms and the initial~~
21 ~~appointments of these members shall be made in a manner which allows for~~

1 ~~them to serve a full legislative biennium. In the event a municipal or legislative~~
2 ~~member ceases to serve on the Committee prior to the full term, the appointing~~
3 ~~authority shall fill the position for the remainder of the term. The Committee~~
4 ~~shall, to the greatest extent practicable, encompass a broad geographic~~
5 ~~representation of Vermont. [Repealed.]~~

6 (c) The Transportation Alternatives Grant Program is created. The Grant
7 Program shall be administered by the Agency, and shall be funded in the
8 amount provided for in 23 U.S.C. § 133(h), less the funds set aside for the
9 Recreational Trails Program. Awards shall be made to eligible entities as
10 defined under 23 U.S.C. § 133(h), and awards under the Grant Program shall
11 be limited to the activities authorized under federal law **and shall not exceed**
12 **\$300,000.00 per grant allocation.**

13 (d) Eligible entities awarded a grant must provide all funds required to
14 match federal funds awarded for a Transportation Alternatives project. All
15 grant awards shall be decided and awarded by the ~~Transportation Alternatives~~
16 ~~Grant Committee~~ Agency.

17 (e) Transportation Alternatives grant awards shall be announced annually
18 by the ~~Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee~~ Agency not earlier than
19 December and not later than the following March.

1 (f)(1) In fiscal years 2018 and 2019, all Grant Program funds shall be
2 reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to
3 stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects.

4 (2) In fiscal years 2020 and 2021, Grant Program funds shall be awarded
5 for any eligible activity and in accordance with the priorities established in
6 subdivision (4) of this subsection.

7 (3) In fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, \$1,100,000.00 of Grant Program
8 funds, or such lesser sum if all eligible applications amount to less than
9 \$1,100,000.00, shall be reserved for municipalities for environmental
10 mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt
11 and sand shed projects.

12 (4) Regarding Grant Program funds awarded in fiscal years 2020 and
13 2021, and the balance of Grant Program funds not reserved for environmental
14 mitigation projects in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, in evaluating applications
15 for Transportation Alternatives grants, the ~~Transportation Alternatives Grant~~
16 ~~Committee~~ Agency shall give preferential weighting to projects involving as a
17 primary feature a bicycle or pedestrian facility. The degree of preferential
18 weighting and the circumstantial factors sufficient to overcome the weighting
19 shall be in the complete discretion of the ~~Transportation Alternatives Grant~~
20 ~~Committee~~ Agency.

1 (g) The Agency shall develop an outreach and marketing effort designed to
2 provide information to communities with respect to the benefits of
3 participating in the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program. The outreach
4 and marketing activities shall include apprising municipalities of the
5 availability of grants for salt and sand sheds. The outreach effort should be
6 directed to areas of the State historically underserved by this Program.