

# Highway Division Municipal Assistance Bureau

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# What do we do?

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## Technical Assistance

## Municipal Grants

Better Roads

Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation

Transportation Alternatives

Bicycle and Pedestrian

Municipal Park & Ride

Projects within Roadway, Town Highway Bridge, and Traffic and Safety Programs

**Projects for State Park & Ride Facilities and Rest Areas in coordination with BGS**

# Better Roads Program

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Types of projects funded include:

## CATEGORY A GRANTS

Category A grants are for planning and provide funding to conduct a road erosion inventory, development of an implementation table and identification of priorities for work in compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit.

## CATEGORY B GRANTS

Category B grants are for construction projects that correct an erosion problem and/or installation of stormwater infrastructure that will result in improved water quality. Examples of eligible projects in this category are the installation of grass or stone lined ditches, small culverts (< 36”), rain gardens that treat road runoff, and catch basins or drop inlets.

## CATEGORY C GRANTS

Category C grants are for construction projects that correct a streambank, lake shore or other slope related erosion problems on town roads.

## CATEGORY D GRANTS

Category D grants are for construction projects for structure and/or culvert upgrade projects. Eligible projects must include installation of a culvert at least 36” in diameter or greater.

How many projects were funded last year?

**CATEGORY A GRANTS: 45**

**CATEGORY B GRANTS: 100**

**CATEGORY C GRANTS: 8**

**CATEGORY D GRANTS: 32**

How many hours of technical assistance from MAB staff?

**1000!**

Program funding support towns in fulfilling their obligations under the Municipal Roads General Permit

# Municipal Highway & Stormwater Mitigation and Transportation Alternatives Programs

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Through SFY19, both programs use federal funds to fund projects that meet the criteria of: “Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to-- (i) address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff...”

Example projects include: Scoping studies, Flow Restoration Plans, Stormwater Inventories, Salt Sheds, Bank and Stream Channel Stabilization, Stormwater Treatment, Culvert replacement

There is no set aside in the Transportation Alternatives Program for environmental mitigation projects in SFY20; all eligible types of projects can be funded. This includes projects for bicyclists and pedestrians, for preservation/ rehabilitation projects of historic transportation facilities, and for wildlife connectivity.

Projects are funded with federal dollars – generally 10 to 20 projects in each program each year.

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

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## **Federal dollars fund:**

- Bicycle lanes (on-road facility delineated with pavement markings and signs)
- Shoulders (generally a minimum of 3-feet wide to accommodate bicyclists)
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements, including median pedestrian refuge islands
- Pedestrian signals
- Improvements that address requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Shared-use paths (designed for use by both bicyclists and pedestrians)

## Project selection includes consideration of:

- Facilities that address a documented safety concern such as a high crash location
- Connectivity within overall bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Proximity and access to and within village centers and downtown areas
- Facilities that serve multiple uses e.g. access to businesses, residences and schools

**State dollars fund** smaller projects for necessary safety improvements like signs, pavement markings, crossing enhancements or on-road bike facilities through striping

Last year, funding for 8 scoping studies and for 11 construction projects was awarded with the federal dollars and funding for 11 construction projects was awarded with the state dollars

In addition, program staff are available to provide technical assistance for planning efforts, safety diagnostic efforts, and general education and outreach including for ADA. Staff oversees a non-motorized count program and coordinates with other agency sections to ensure accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians are being provided when feasible into all Agency projects.

# Municipal Park & Ride and Grant Projects in Other VTrans Programs

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**Municipal Park & Ride** – provides funding for municipal facilities including lighting and EV charging. Emphasis in SFY2020 to be on EV charging. Over 60 facilities have been funded over the years.

Sample projects developed through grants in other VTrans programs include:

**Roadway** – Reconstruction of US 7 through Brandon Village, Champlain Parkway in Burlington, improvements at the 5 Corners in Essex Junction including new road segment, i.e. the Crescent Connector, improvements at the Prim Road and Lakeshore Drive intersection in Colchester, and improvements to Federal Street in St. Albans

**Town Highway Bridge** – Rehabilitation of Bridge 114 in Brandon

**Traffic and Safety** – Roundabout at US5 and Sykes Avenue in Hartford and improvements to the VT127 Blakely Road/ Laker Lane intersection

# Non Grant Programs

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**Park and Ride Program** – determines where needs are, scopes projects, and then advances projects to construction. Highlighted project in 2018 - new park & ride facility in Colchester at Exit 16. Projects expected to be constructed over next few years are facilities in St. Johnsbury, Williston, Royalton and Thetford.

**Rest Area Program** - Opportunity to use federal funds for major preventative maintenance on state-owned facilities in conjunction with Buildings and General Services. May be used for improvements to a variety of building components including exterior wall systems, exterior doors, windows, roofing, heating systems, cooling systems, mechanical controls, septic tank, leach field, generators, lighting and controls, fire/security alarms, security cameras and equipment, flooring, and walkways and sidewalks

Expected in 2019 – resurfacing of Guilford rest area.