

**Chris Cochran**Department of Housing and Community Development

**January 22, 2020** 

#### Modernize state regulations to support housing

#### **Act 250 in State Designated Downtowns & Neighborhoods**

- Modifies jurisdiction to exempt development-ready downtowns and neighborhoods
- Transitions existing permits to municipal review

#### **State & Municipal Water/Wastewater Connection Permits**

- Exempts state connection permits in willing and capable municipalities.
- Requires communities improve maps of their sewer and water infrastructure

#### Regulation, Municipal Technical Assistance & Training

- Provides incentives (tax credits) to encourage communities to modernize their bylaws through the Neighborhood Development Area designation
- Offers funding to help municipalities update and adopt inclusionary housing bylaws
- Trains "missing middle" builders and landlords to jumpstart development in all counties

#### **Provides new funding support community investment**

#### **Tax Incentives**

- Expands tax credits for re-investment and flood-safe rehabilitation in designated Neighborhood Development Areas
- Eliminates capital gains on the sale of improved homes located within federally designated Opportunity Zones

#### **Vermont Housing Improvement Program Grants**

 Creates housing provider grants to bring unsafe, blighted, and vacant rental units up to code and back online

#### "Better Places" Crowd-granting Framework

 Establishes a framework to leverage funding from private foundations for placemaking in state designated centers

# Number of State Designations: 223



**Village Centers: 187** 



**Downtowns: 23** 



**New Town Centers: 2** 

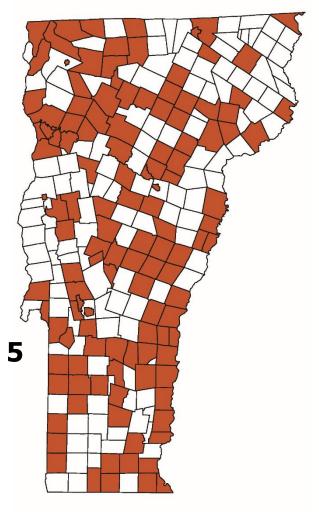
#### **Add-On Designations**



**Neighborhood Development Areas: 5** 



**Growth Centers: 6** 



## Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits

#### The Basics

- Goal to stimulate investment in commercial centers, large and small
- Award \$2.6 Million in credits annually
- Applications are competitive
- Project must be a Designated Downtown or Village Center
- 23 Designated Downtowns, 187 Designated Village Centers

## Downtown & Village Center Tax Credits

### Tax Credit Tiers

10% credit for qualified rehabilitation with approved federal application

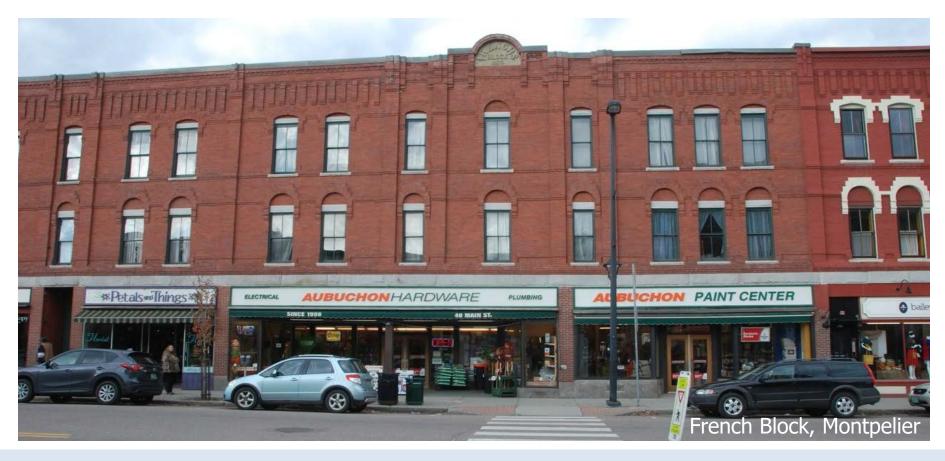
25% credit for façade repairs

50% credit for code improvements including elevators and sprinkler systems



Landry Block, St. Johnsbury

### Tax Credit Outcomes



By the Numbers 2015-2019

112

53

\$12M

\$150M Total Investment

**Communities Served** 

**Awarded** 

## Program Survey



Putnam Block, Bennington

By the Numbers – Responses Tallied from 96 Respondents

894

Permanent Jobs Retained/Created

754

Temporary Jobs 34

New Businesses 16

Expanded Businesses

## Wilmington





#### **Dot's Restaurant**

Total Project Cost \$802,000

Tax Credits Awarded \$92,087





#### **The Village Roost**

Total Project Cost \$575,000

Tax Credits Awarded \$41,764

### **Case Studies**





# **Maple Corner Store, Calais**

Total Project Cost \$92,712

Tax Credits Awarded \$4,536





# Lackey's Store, Stowe

Total Project Cost \$1,003,706

Tax Credits Awarded \$103,339

### **Case Studies**





Grand List After: \$175,700

## Hancock General Store

Total Project Cost \$145,000

Tax Credits Awarded \$19,850



#### **Albany General Store**

Total Project Cost \$381,000

Tax Credits Awarded \$55,125

### **Brownsville General Store**





Total Project Cost: \$413,771 Tax Credits Awarded: \$51,444

Grand List pre-construction: \$379,000

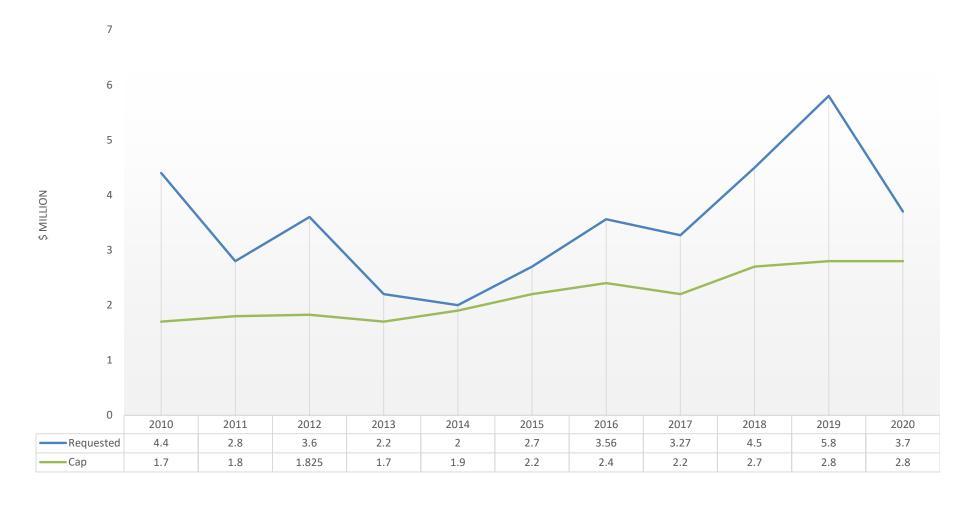
#### **Proposed Amendments**

- Increase annual cap from \$2.6M to \$4M
- Enable credits to support "Qualified Flood Mitigation" projects to encourage investment in making communities more resilient
  - 50% credit with a cap of \$75,000
  - Projects within flood hazard areas as mapped by FEMA
- Extend program benefit to designated Neighborhood Development Areas to encourage investment in housing around our commercial centers

## Downtown & Village Center Tax Credits

### **Funding Demand**

FY 2010-2020

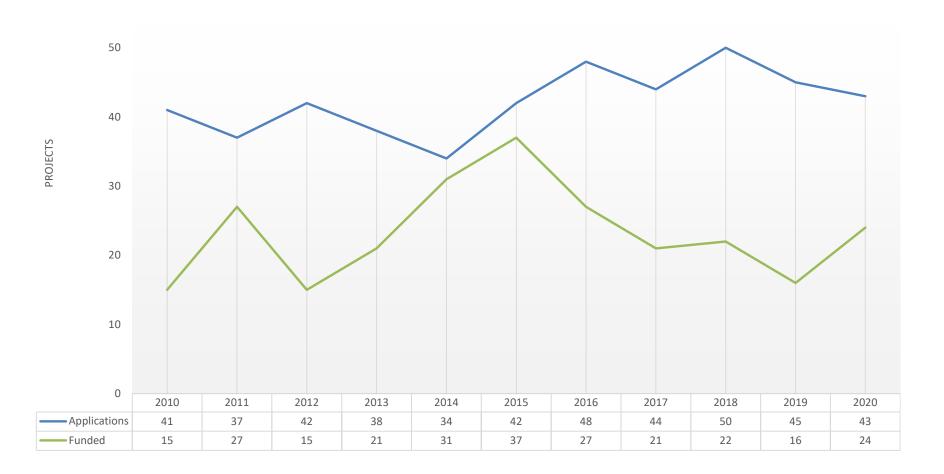


## Downtown & Village Center Tax Credits

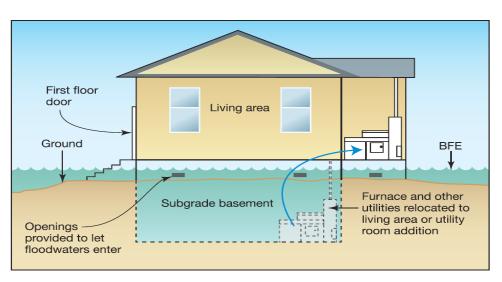
### **Project Demand**

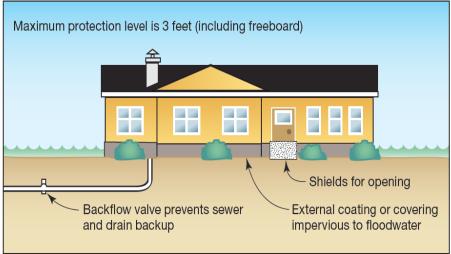
FY 2010-2020

60



## Floodproofing





wet floodproofing

dry floodproofing

# Floodproofing



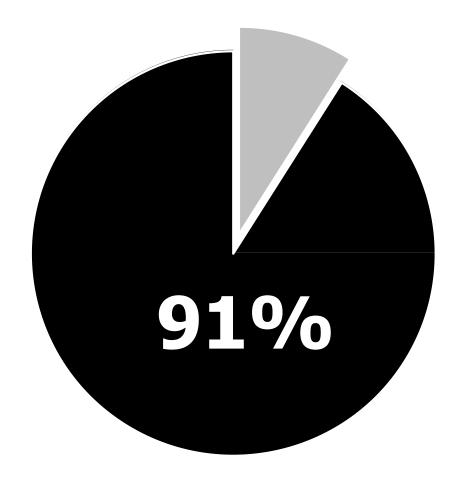




## Most Needed Housing Types



I would walk to work, school, shopping or other activities if they were close enough...



# **Housing Barriers Survey Results**

Difficulties (Top 4 out of 8)

Lack or High Cost of Real Estate

High Construction Costs (includes infrastructure)

Resistance to Neighborhood Change

Municipal Zoning/Land Use Regulations



# Neighborhood Development Areas





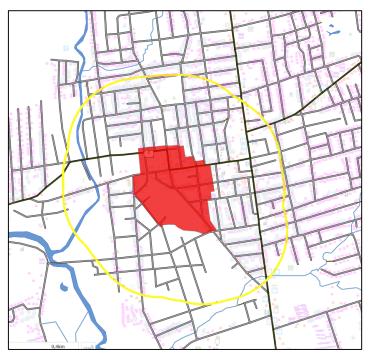
## Neighborhood Development Areas

- 1. Barre\*
- 2. Brattleboro\* application in the works
- 3. Bristol
- 4. Cabot
- 5. Castleton
- 6. E. Montpelier
- 7. Fair Haven
- 8. Fairlee
- 9. Hinesburg\*
- 10.Hyde Park
- 11.Jericho\*
- 12.Johnson
- 13.Lyndon

- 14. Middlebury\*
- 15. Middlesex
- 16. Montpelier\*
- 17. Putney
- 18. Richmond
- 19. Rutland
- 20. Shoreham
- 21. South Hero\*
- 22. Swanton
- 23. Vergennes\*
- 24. Waterbury
- 25. Stowe
- 26. Randolph

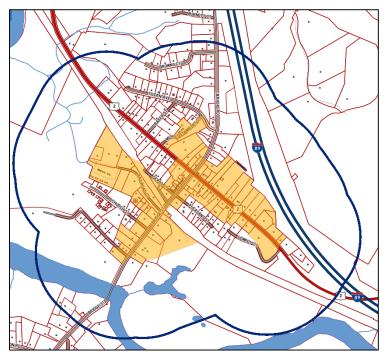


# Neighborhood Development Areas



Downtowns - 1/2 mile

15 min walk



Village Center − 1/4 mile

5-10 min walk

## **Policies & Bylaw Requirements**

1 Density
Minimum 4 DU/Acre

2 Building & Lot Patterns

3 Uses

**4** Complete Streets

