

Program Overview

Downtown designation provides Vermont's larger communities with financial incentives, training, and technical assistance. The program supports local efforts, to help communities thrive by restoring historic buildings, building new housing, and improving the streets and sidewalks that attract visitors on foot, or by bike, car, or bus.

Municipalities that receive designation collaborate with local non-profit downtown organizations that support revitalization efforts with staff and volunteers who provide marketing, promotion, and business development services. Once designated, the community may apply for additional benefits to encourage new housing with the neighborhood development area designation, or shape the next 20 years of compact development with the growth center designation.

Website: <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/designation-programs/downtowns>

By the Numbers [2015-2019]

23

designated downtowns

70

tax credit projects awarded

\$8.5 M

in tax credits awarded

\$1.8 M

in downtown transportation grants awarded

\$7 M

leveraged with downtown transportation funds

\$126 M

in private funds leveraged with tax credits

Bristol - Building a Walkable and Vibrant Downtown



Village Green



Downtown

VTrans funds the Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) program to support revitalization efforts in designated downtowns by making these areas more pedestrian, bike, and transit friendly. Since 1999, the fund has invested nearly \$11 million to support 124 projects in 23 communities leveraging over \$48 million for transportation improvements in designated downtowns. The Town of Bristol recently used a DTF grant to enhance their village green by adding lighting, benches, and bike racks to strengthen the connection to downtown and a VTrans improved Main Street intersection. The Prince Lane reconstruction project, also funded by a DTF grant, added sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping to improve access to local businesses and bring vitality to the downtown.

For more information, please contact:

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