

VTrans Grant Programs and Technical Assistance Related to Water Quality

For: Senate Transportation Committee

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Grant programs and technical assistance are through the Municipal Assistance Bureau (MAB). Information on the programs listed below as well as previous grant awards can be found on our website at: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects> Affected grant programs are:

Municipal Mitigation Assistance Program

Better Roads

Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation

Transportation Alternatives Program

Better Roads Program: The Vermont Better Roads Program provides technical support and grant funding to municipalities to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing water quality around the State. Funding is available for road erosion inventories required by the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) and for construction projects.

All requests for road erosion inventories will be funded. Criteria considered when making awards for construction projects include:

- Use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are proven and likely to maximize long term success, such as practices contained within the new VTrans Better Roads Manual and/or VT DEC MRGP Standards
- Expected water quality benefits within the watershed
- Whether the project is in, or does stormwater runoff from the project area drain into, a hydrologically connected segment?
- If the project will result in full compliance of one or more segments in accordance with the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)
- Overall project cost effectiveness



Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program and Transportation Alternatives:

These programs are funded with federal funds from the Federal Highway Administration and the eligible project types and the selection criteria are essentially the same between the two programs. Enabling legislation that allow VTrans to dedicate federal funds includes the following for project eligibility: any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.

Potential projects may include the following, subject to specific circumstances:

- Planning Studies (stormwater inventories, flow restoration plans, phosphorus control planning)
- Salt/Sand Sheds
- Bank Stabilization
- Culvert Replacement/ Re-sizing
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Detention Ponds
- Check Dams
- Swirl Separators
- Permeable Pavers
- Infiltration Basins
- Gravel Wetlands
- Subsurface Detention Systems
- Bio Filters
- Bio Retention Systems

Criteria used when making awards include:

- How the project provides for pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff
- How well substantiated the current pollution and/or stormwater problem and associated environmental impact is
- How well the substantiating data or information shows that the proposed project is an effective and manageable solution to the problem

Questions? Please contact me at 279-9519 or at sue.scribner@vermont.gov and/ or visit our website at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects>