

Update: Low Income Vehicle Emissions Repair Assistance

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Vehicle Emissions Inspection, Why?

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- Motor vehicles are the largest source of a number of air pollutants in Vermont, including greenhouse gases, air toxics, the ozone precursors (volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides), and carbon monoxide.
- Vehicle inspection and maintenance program helps to ensure that Vermont vehicles remain clean throughout their useful lives by requiring annual testing of vehicle emissions control systems and repairs if needed.

Federal Requirements

- Vermont is part of the Ozone Transport Region (OTR), which was established by Congress under Section 184 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and includes a group of northeast states.
- Vermont is required by the CAA to implement a vehicle emissions inspection & maintenance program and submit a State Implementation Plan.

Waiver

- A waiver allows the motorist to defer required emissions repairs for vehicles failing the emissions inspection.
- The current Vermont waiver:
 - Does not meet federal requirements
 - Is not tied to income eligibility
 - Was repealed via [Act 55, Sec. 26 \(2021\)](#) and will end January 1, 2023

State Implementation Plan (SIP)

- Vermont is required to submit a SIP to U.S. EPA demonstrating that our emissions inspection and maintenance program complies with federal law.
- Current waiver prevented DEC from submitting an approvable SIP, but the waiver repeal ([Act 55, Sec. 26 \(2021\)](#)) solved that problem.
- **DEC submitted the SIP to EPA in December 2021.**
 - EPA will now engage in rulemaking to codify Vermont's SIP in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Emissions Repair Assistance

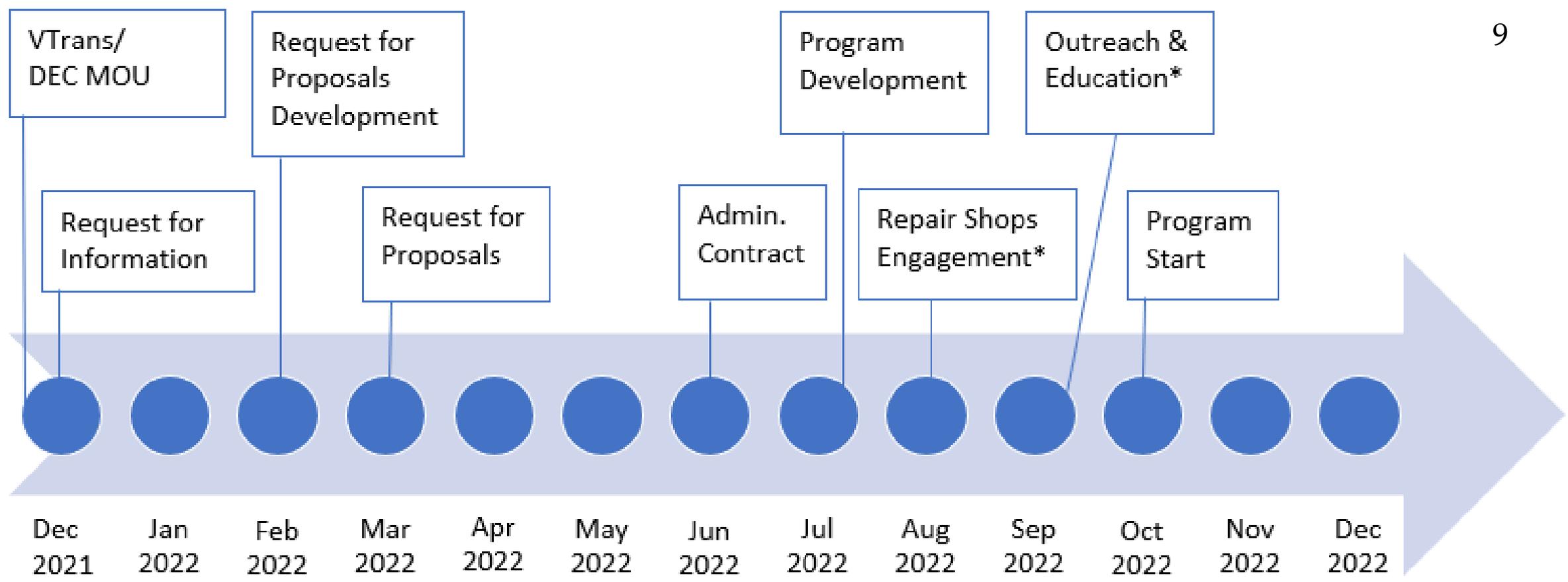
- Development of a new Vehicle Emissions Repair Assistance Program to provide funding to low-income Vermonters for emissions repairs to pass vehicle inspection ([Act 55, Sec. 25 \(2021\)](#)).
- Decrease transportation-related costs to those who can least afford them, while protecting public health and air quality for all Vermonters.

Emissions Repair Assistance con't

- VTrans & DEC are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- DEC released a Request for Information (RFI) in December 2021. Responses due January 31, 2022.
- RFI to gather information to help inform the design, administration, and implementation of the program.

Emissions Repair Assistance con't

- Basic Elements:
 - Vermont resident, Vermont vehicle registration.
 - Income eligibility equivalent to LIHEAP (185% of the FPL).
 - Vehicle passes safety test and fails emissions test. Cannot fail for tampering or readiness.
 - Eligible repairs must not be covered under warranty.
 - Repair cost must not exceed 50% of the fair market value of the vehicle with a cap of \$2,500 per repair.



** continuous through remainder of program*

Timeline