

# 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  - Was repealed via [Act 55, Sec. 26 \(2021\)](#) and will end January 1, 2023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)

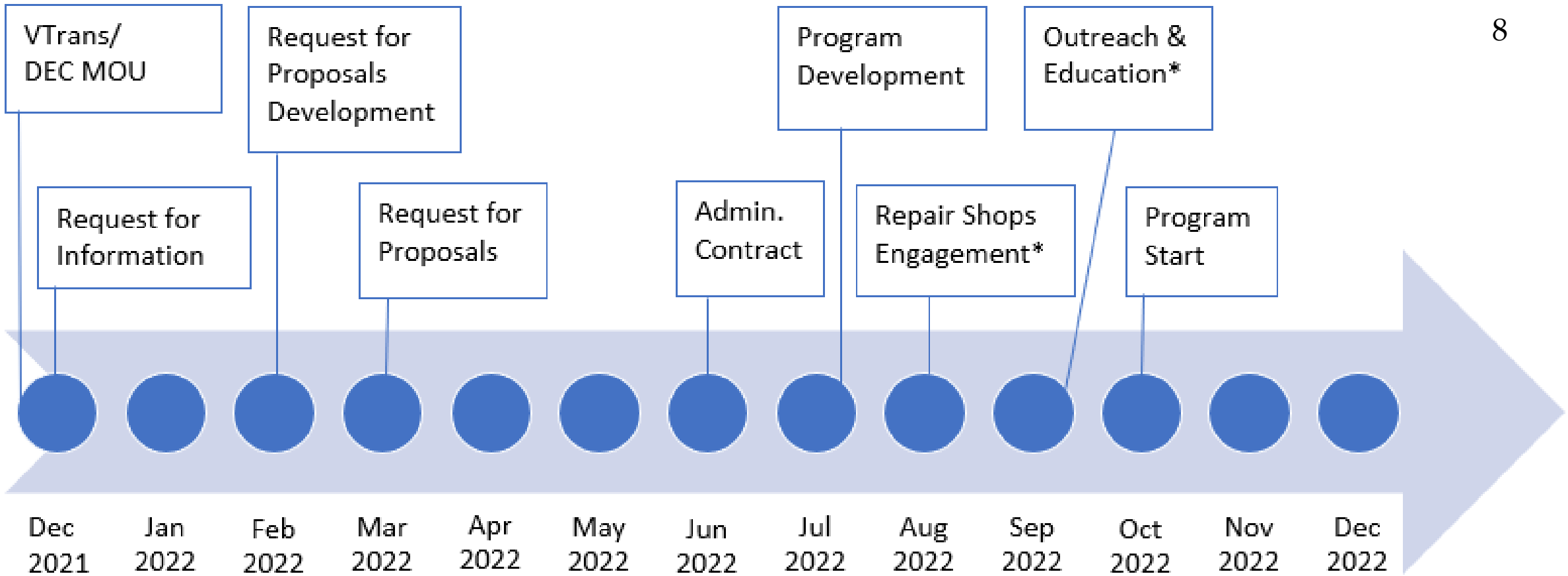
- Vermont is required to submit a SIP to U.S. EPA demonstrating that our emissions inspection and maintenance program complies with federal law.
- Current waiver prevented DEC from submitting an approvable SIP, but the waiver repeal ([Act 55, Sec. 26 \(2021\)](#)) solved that problem.
- **DEC submitted 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.



*\* continuous through remainder of program*

# Timeline