



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS TRANSPORTATION/WATER QUALITY

Catherine Dimitruk, Executive Director,
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Municipal Technical Assistance

- Municipal Roads General Permit Compliance
- Better Roads, Category A Grants: Inventories
- Better Roads, Category B-D Grants
- Municipal Roads, Grant in Aid

Regional and State Water Quality Programs

- Clean Water Service Providers: Lake Champlain Basin, Non-Regulatory
- Stormwater Management Plans

Transportation-Land Use Connection

MS-4 Education, Land Use Plans/Zoning, Green Infrastructure



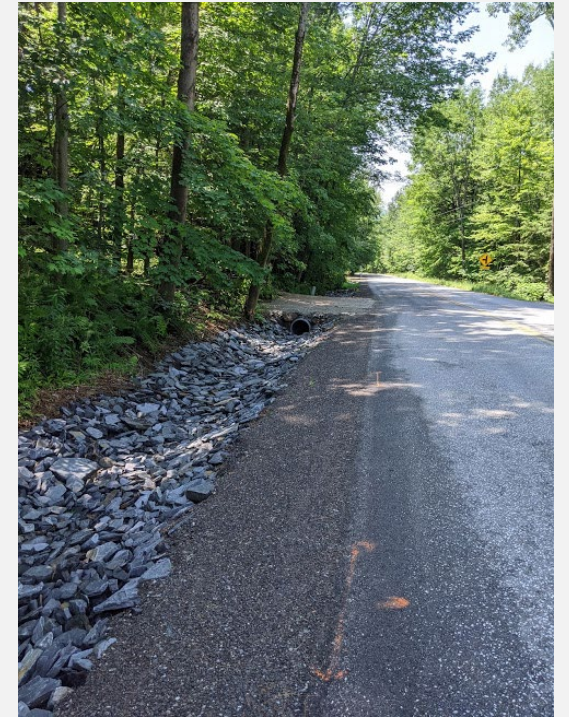
MUNICIPAL ROADS GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM

Coordinated statewide by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission
FY 18-21 with VTDEC, then VTrans

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES CONSTRUCTION

Funding for municipalities to construct best management practices (BMPs) on municipal roads in compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)

On-site technical assistance provided by RPCs with assistance from DEC and VTrans



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES CONSTRUCTION

204 Road Miles Improved (FY 18-21)

235 of 261 Eligible Municipalities Enrolled over 4 years

750+ on-site technical assistance visits by RPC staff

Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid BMP Benchmarks	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Municipalities submitted Letters of Intent	187	212	215	203
Municipalities completed construction	173	193	178	180
Road segments (100m) improved to meet MRGP standards	720	833	835	899
Road miles improved	44.7	51.76	51.88	56

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM

- Managed by VTDEC, Administered by NRPC
- Eligibility statewide over several years
- 68 equipment purchases to date
- 42 pending in FY 22, 38 on waitlist for FY 23

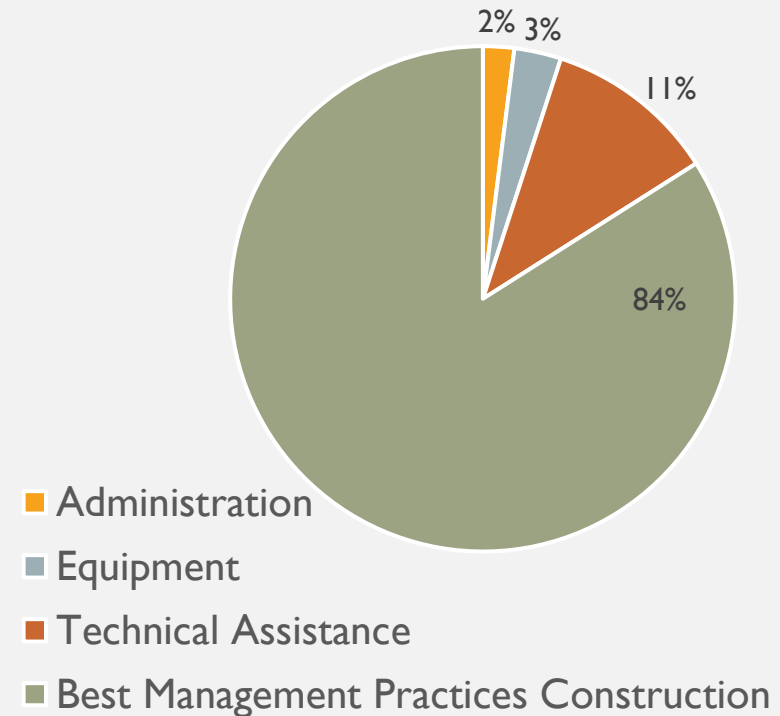


FY 18-21 COST

- \$10.6 million FY 18-21
- Average number of segments completed per town was **5 segments**.
- Average cost per segment was **\$4,563** and the median cost per segment was **\$4,680**
- The program required 20% match- on average towns documented **32%** match.

(FY 21 Data)

Average Cost Allocation FY 18-21



GRANT IN AID BENEFITS

- Water Quality Benefits- Targets hydrologically connected roads, constructed projects count towards Municipal Road General Permit compliance and TMDL targets
- Enhanced Resilience and Cost Savings- BMPs reduce storm damage and decrease maintenance costs
- Municipal Education- Pre-construction meetings, water quality education and technical assistance enhanced municipal capacity to understand and complete Municipal Roads General Permit requirements and standards
- Accountability- Post-project field verification and reporting assistance to track and account for results
- RPC Capacity and Knowledge- Staff in each RPC trained in MRGP and best management practices on local roads



GRANT IN AID CHALLENGES

- Municipal capacity- staff shortages and managing competing project priorities
- Materials supply- Several regions experienced challenges with the culvert and equipment manufacturing supply chains
- Training- ongoing need for municipal training on the MRGP requirements and emerging reporting tools and technology



WHAT'S NEXT?

VTrans evaluating structure of program for FY 23

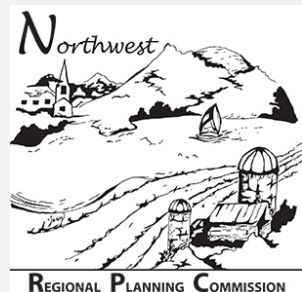
NRPC Recommendations:

- Utilize RPC expertise and continue municipal support
- Reasonable expectations for municipal responsibilities
- Simplify administration by adding funds to the Town Highway Aid Program rather than a grant program



IDENTIFYING AND FIXING EROSION ISSUES ON PRIVATE AND PARK ROADS IN THE LAKE CARMI WATERSHED

- Lake Champlain Basin Program Grant to NRPC
- Pilot project to assess private and state park roads using MRGP methodology
- Landowner education workshops
- Construct 2-3 pilot projects



Why it all matters....

