

VTrans Off-System Town Highway Bridge Funding
100% Federal Funding for Construction Phase
February 17, 2022

What: When congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), they established a General Fund Bridge Program that includes a provision which makes a portion of the funding eligible for 100% federal monies for off-system bridges.

Definition: An off-system bridge is defined as one that is on a roadway which is not eligible for federal funding, a non-federal aid highway. In Vermont, these are typically roads that are owned and maintained by a municipality.

How Much: VTrans proposes to invest over \$80 million of the General Fund Bridge Program funds into the construction phase of off-system bridges over the 5-year period of the IIJA. While the construction phase of the projects would be funded at 100% federal, the engineering and right-of-way phases of the project will continue to be funded at an 80% federal, 10% state and 10% town match.

How: There are two different categories of bridges that VTrans plans to fund at 100% federal for the construction phase as part of this program:

1. **Existing Capital Program Projects:** As part of the annual VTrans Capital Program that is approved by the legislature, there are currently fifteen (15) projects that would have the construction phase of the project funded at 100% federal. These projects have begun the engineering phase and have previously been identified as priorities to advance in the Capital Program. (See attached list).
2. **Historic Bridges:** Covered bridges and metal trusses are important structures that are woven into the history of communities around the state. These bridges are typically on lower volume local, non-federal aid roads and in periods of tighter fiscal constraints, do not make the cut for funding of necessary improvements. This program provides an opportunity to invest in these important structures. This program will see investment in nineteen (19) historic bridges; ten (10) covered bridges and nine (9) metal trusses. (See attached list). These projects would be included in the FY'23 Capital Program and would begin the engineering phase in the coming year.

Summary: In total, there are 34 bridge projects in 31 communities around the state that would see the town match of the construction phase of the projects reduced to 0%. This is estimated to save these communities a total of approximately \$8 million dollars in town match