

TRANSPORTATION OVERVIEW FOR TRORC REGION

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VERMONT HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Rita Seto, Senior Transportation Planner

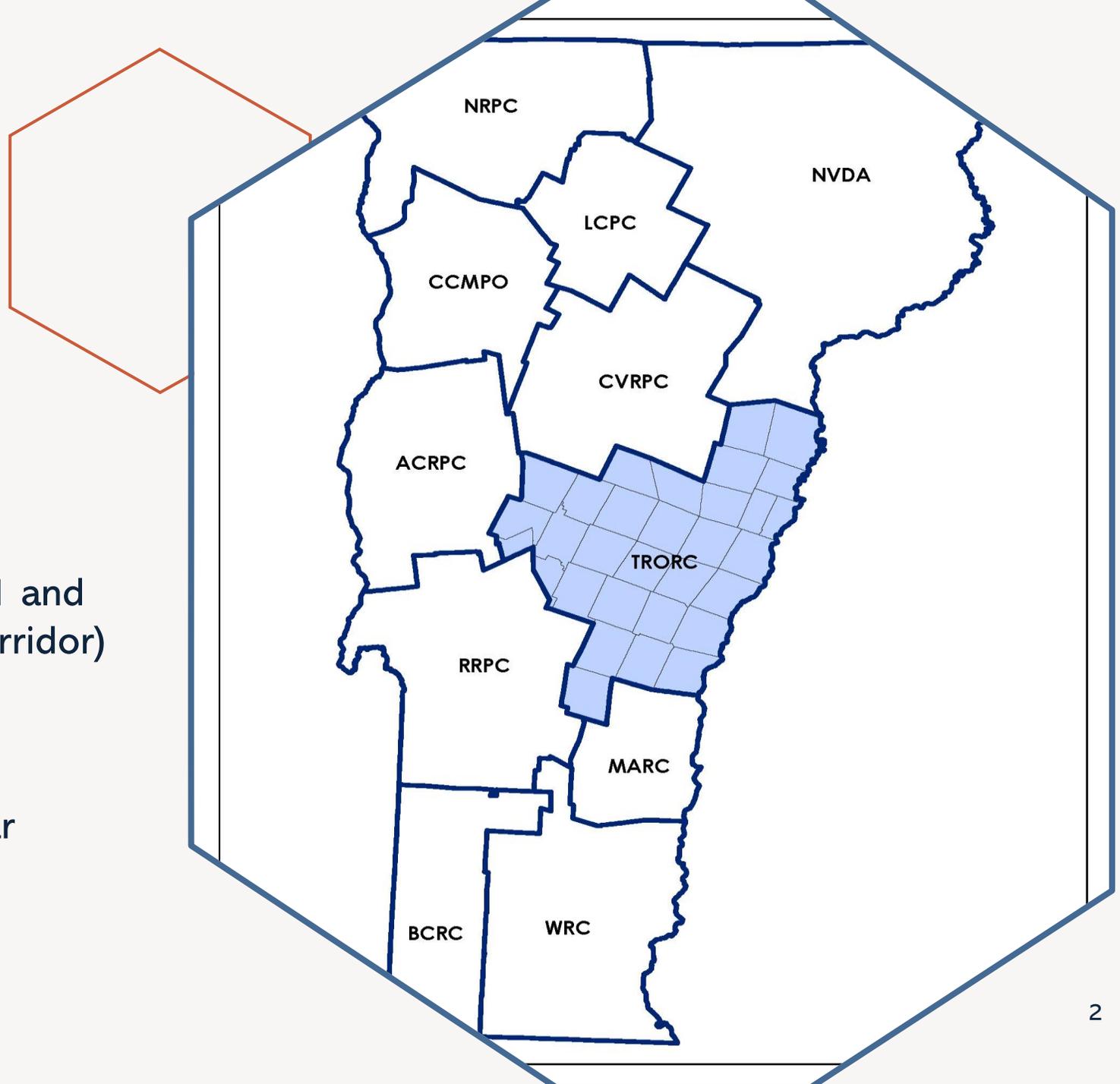
Peter G. Gregory, Executive Director



Brookfield Floating Bridge

TRORC Region

- Serve 32 municipalities in East-Central Vermont
- Population of region < 50,000
- 2 major interstates – I-89 / I-91 and US Route 4 (major east-west corridor)
- Active Transportation Advisory Committee – meets 5x a year
- Road foreman meeting 2x a year



Public Transit



Tri-Valley Transit

- Provides commuter (89 and 91) transportation routes in Orange and Windsor County (and Addison and Washington)
- Provides transportation to Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities – Medicaid provider



Advance Transit

- Provides fare free public transit in the Upper Valley – only bi-state transit agency with NH
- Focuses on core communities surrounding Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

Ridership was significantly impacted during Covid. Public transit agencies still slowly rebuilding ridership. TVT's O&D program slower to rebuild.

Bridges and Culverts

- Region was heavily damaged during T.S. Irene, less in 2017, 2019, and 2023.
- Towns have been improving roads and bridges with the new Town Road and Bridge Standards and Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP).
- 100% town participation in VTrans Grants-in-Aid ditching/culvert program to improve roads to MRGP compliance.
- Project costs to appropriate hydraulic sizing increased substantially over the years, must meet proper sizing in order for permit to get issued.



Quechee Covered Bridge during T.S. Irene



Undersized culvert in Brookfield

Bike Ped Infrastructure

- Towns are interested in improving bike ped infrastructure in communities – they want Complete Streets.
- 2 main VTrans Bike Ped/TAP grant programs – towns are unprepared to embark through these arduous Federal grant programs nor the project development schedule that comes with them.
- The annual \$3 million allocation to these grant programs are insufficient to cover bike ped construction that double in cost between application and construction.



Defacto Archivists

- Increase in town staff (admin/highway) turnover since Covid.
- Grants/projects are falling through the cracks with turnover – unless TRORC looped in.
- TRORC provides historical project knowledge on past/active transportation projects. Key in onboarding new town staff.
- Towns lose out on grant projects – leave money on the table.
- By having an official role/umbrella to manage town transportation projects as defacto staff, towns can keep the train running.

2018	ACCD Municipal Planning Grant					Completed and closed out - managed by Planning Commission
2019	VTrans Town Highway Grant	\$140,000	\$35,000	\$175,000	12/31/2021	Was not completed. Returned grant to close out. Currently reapplying for round
2019	VTrans Better Roads Category A	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	12/31/2020	Completed and closed out
2019	VTrans Better Roads Category B	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	12/31/2020	Completed and closed out
2019	DEC Municipal Grants in Aid - Town Allocation	\$25,500	\$6,375	\$31,875	6/30/2020	Administered through TRORC, completed and closed out
2019	DEC Municipal Grants in Aid - Village Allocation	\$4,020	\$1,005	\$5,025	6/30/2020	Administered through TRORC, Was not completed. Returned grant, postponed following year
2020	DEC Municipal Grants in Aid - Town Allocation	\$29,760	\$7,440	\$37,200	6/30/2021	Administered through TRORC, completed and closed out
2020	DEC Municipal Grants in Aid - Village Allocation	\$5,340	\$1,335	\$6,675	6/30/2021	Administered through TRORC, Was not completed. Returned grant, postponed following year
2020	ACCD CDBG Planning Grant	\$30,000	\$144,815	\$174,815	4/30/2021	Subgrant funds to TRORC - to Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to complete a regional housing needs assessment within the greater town Upper Valley Region of Vermont and New Hampshire. 40 (59.7%) of total to be included in this study are located in Vermont. Completed and closed
2021	VTrans Municipal Grants in Aid - Town Allocation	\$25,600	\$6,400	\$32,000	9/30/2022	Program moved from DEC to VTrans, TRORC assisted in preconstruction/s work only - did not include post construction and reimbursement.
2021	VTrans Municipal Grants in Aid - Village Allocation	\$4,500	\$1,125	\$5,625	9/30/2022	Program moved from DEC to VTrans, TRORC assisted in preconstruction/s work only - did not include post construction and reimbursement. Was not completed, postponed until following year
2021	FEMA					FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on July 6, 2022 - good until
2022	VTrans Grants in Aid - Town Allocation	\$45,000	\$11,250	\$56,250	9/30/2023	completed
2022	VTrans Grants in Aid - Village Allocation	\$11,500	\$2,875	\$14,375	9/30/2023	incomplete
2023	VTrans Grants in Aid - Town Allocation	\$31,000	\$7,750	\$38,750	9/30/2024	completed
2023	VTrans Grants in Aid - Village Allocation	\$9,000	\$2,250	\$11,250	9/30/2024	incomplete
2024	VTrans Grants in Aid - Town Allocation	\$25,250	\$6,313	\$31,563	9/30/2025	incomplete - shifted to FY26 GIA
2024	VTrans Grants in Aid - Village Allocation	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$7,500	9/30/2025	incomplete
		\$307,002	\$212,801	\$519,803	-\$257,013	

Summary

- Public transit is an active and significant part of region, focus on rebuilding ridership post Covid.
- Bridges and culvert funding to upsize structures for future storm resiliency is key.
- Bike and pedestrian infrastructure investment is significant but we want walkable and livable villages and downtowns. Streamlining grant process and continued funding support is important for success.
- Town staff capacity/continuous turnover creates burden on towns and sometimes loses precious grant money. RPCs can be a valuable resource to keep towns on track for transportation projects and possibly manage regionwide projects.



Thank you

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