

Program Overview

The Downtown Transportation Fund is a financing tool which assists municipalities in paying for transportation-related capital improvements within or serving a Designated Downtown Centers. Investment in the infrastructure of public spaces stimulates private investment and creates a sense of identity and pride in communities across Vermont.


In 2025, \$1.4M was awarded to 8 downtown/villages. Projects include pedestrian bridge installation, train and bus station improvements, streetscape improvements, pedestrian safety efforts, and bridge illumination. Since its inception in 1999, the Downtown Transportation Fund has invested more than \$17 million in Vermont's downtowns and villages. In 2026, Downtown Transportation Fund grants are limited to municipalities with a State Designated Downtown Center.

FY25 Grant Recipients

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| ■ Brattleboro | ■ Hardwick | ■ Montpelier |
| ■ Burlington | ■ Hinesburg | ■ Waterbury |
| ■ Essex Junction | ■ Lyndon | |

By the Numbers [2021-2025]

 **48**
projects awarded

 **28**
communities served

 **\$6.9 m**
in downtown transportation grants awarded

 **\$7.5 m**
leveraged with downtown transportation funds

Downtown Transportation Funds Help Spark Revitalization Efforts in Springfield

Springfield's planning efforts highlight how a downtown center aligned community goals with the Better Connections Program and used the Downtown Transportation Fund to implement recommendations to expand Comtu Cascades Park along the Black River. The park's location is crucial, with nearby businesses including a movie theater, coffee shop, restaurants and the Springfield Food Coop. In a post-COVID world, such multi-use spaces are essential for strengthening community connections.

In 2017, Springfield's Master Plan called for demolishing two dilapidated riverside buildings next to the Comtu Cascades Park, including the former Cobb-Derby grist mill and the Bakery Building. The town moved forward with demolition and applied for two Downtown Transportation Fund grants totaling \$170,000 to stabilize the site, add handrails, plant trees and landscaping features, install a concrete path, lighting, and locally crafted benches. The town then secured a Better Places pilot grant to activate the park with a summer series of concerts, "Concerts at the Comtu," featuring dance, music, and theater which has become a popular gathering space for the community.



BEFORE



AFTER

For more information, please contact:
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