

State of Vermont | Agency of Transportation
Environmental Section
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To: House Transportation Committee
From: Bonnie Kirn Donahue, *VTrans Landscape Architect*
Date: January 29, 2026
Re: **VTrans Pollinator Program – Follow-up Questions**

Thank you for the invitation to present to the House Transportation Committee about the pollinator program at VTrans on January 28, 2026. Please find below follow up information to several questions:

1. Slide 7: Pollinator-Friendly, Native Plantings & Erosion Control

- a. Project: Hardwick STP 037-3(7)
- b. The dates of the photos:



- c. Note that the 2nd and 3rd photos document before and after the July 2023 floods. This project has served as an example for other projects with regard to the resilience and effectiveness of planting on riparian slopes.

2. Is there a cost savings by practicing rotational mowing?

- a. VTrans has been implementing its Rotational Mowing since 2008 for many reasons including achieving cost savings and benefits to pollinators. [Link: VTrans Mowing Best Management Practice](#)

3. What are the long-term goals of FHWA's Roadside Pollinator Grant?

- a. From the Program Description of the 2023 FHWA Roadside Pollinator Program Notice of Funding Opportunity:
 - i. The FHWA RPP provides up to \$3 million with the goal of funding the “implementation, improvement, or further development of the applicants’ Pollinator Friendly Practices Plan (Plan) on routes eligible for Federal-aid. The United States has an estimated 3.9 million miles of roadway and suitable roadsides and rights-of-way represent a significant area that can be transformed into pollinator habitat through the planting of native plants and wildflowers. Roadsides can provide habitat for a diverse community of pollinators, including opportunities to forage for feeding, nesting and breeding. Roadsides extend across a variety of landscapes and can support ecological connectivity and the dispersal of pollinators by linking fragmented habitats. By acting as refugia for pollinators in otherwise inhospitable landscapes, roadside habitat can contribute to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems and provision of ecological services such as crop pollination services.”
- b. More information about FHWA's Roadside Pollinator program can be found here:
https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_topics/ecosystems/pollinators/RPP.aspx