

February 2025

Vermont League of Cities and Towns 2025 Legislative Priorities



Josh Hanford
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
jhanford@vlct.org

Samantha Sheehan
Municipal Policy and Advocacy Specialist
ssheehan@vlct.org

What is VLCT?

Every city and town in Vermont, including yours, is a member of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that was founded in 1967 to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. In addition to legislative advocacy, VLCT provides:

- Educational workshops for local officials
- Comprehensive insurance coverage for municipalities
- Confidential legal guidance from experienced municipal attorneys
- The Vermont Municipal Data Project
- Help for state agencies and legislative working groups



NEW Our Municipal Operations Support Team is funded by a \$1 million USDA RD grant to assist local officials with financial management, grant funding, ARPA, project development, and more

VLCT 2025 Legislative Priorities

Support municipalities in meeting the obligations and functions of today's local government and help them take action to solve the challenges of the 21st century.

2025

Support

Lower Property Taxes

Enable municipalities to raise local revenues and control expenses, avoid shifting state costs and obligations to local budgets.

Invest Locally

Provide reliable funding beyond competitive grants to municipalities to support the delivery of essential services, innovative programs, and the maintenance of public infrastructure.

Improve Accountability

Ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, compliance, and equity across state and local government.

Action

Create Housing

Authorize new incentives and investment in infrastructure to support housing growth and create shelter, transitional housing, and services to address Vermont's homelessness crisis.

Promote Public Safety

Increase treatment options, law enforcement training opportunities, and judicial accountability.

Build Resilient Communities

Work across government silos to address flood resiliency, water quality, sustainable growth, and the impacts of climate change.



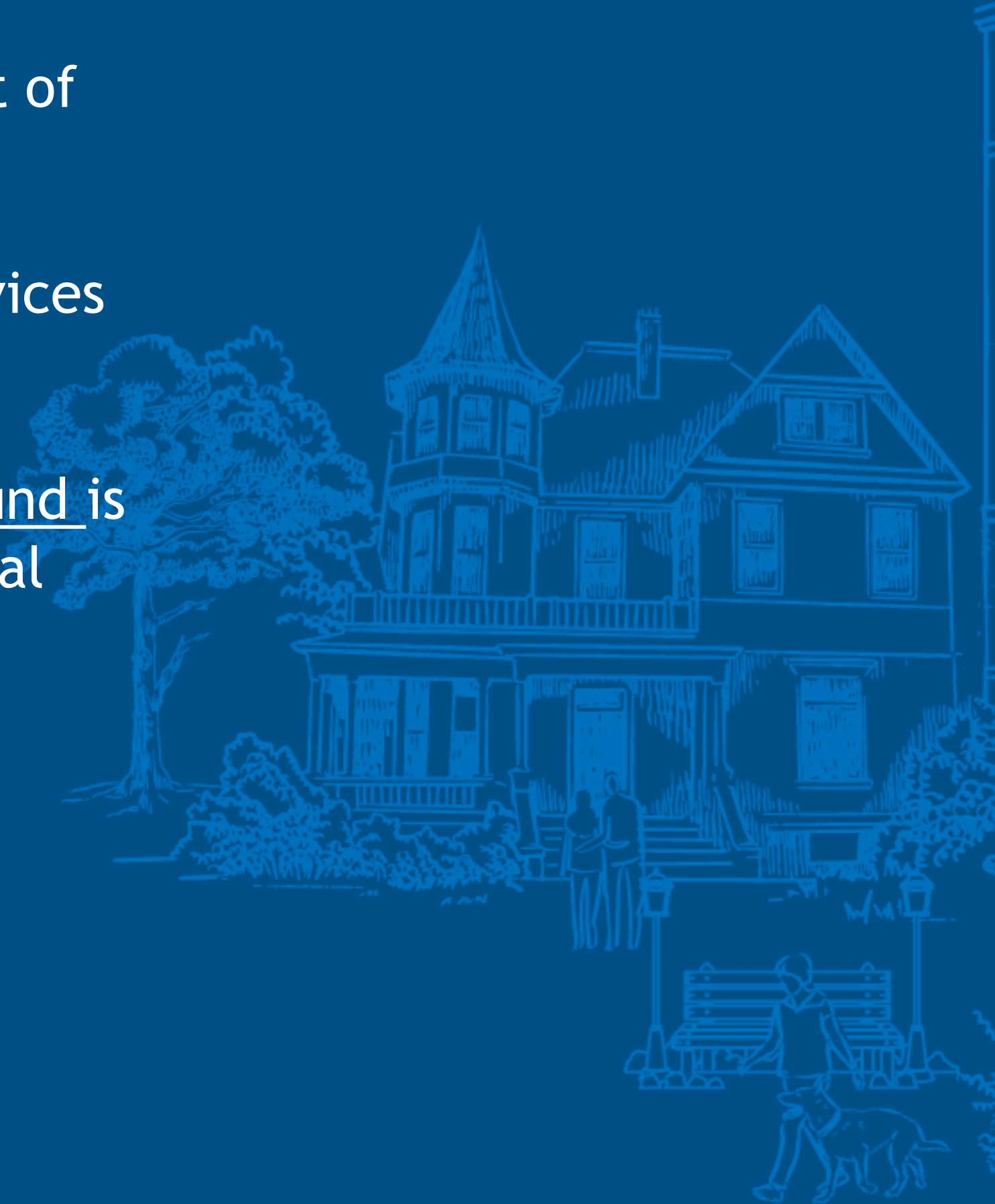
VLCT Transportation Committee Members

- Delsie Hoyt, West Fairlee Selectboard Chair, Chair
- Michael Hogan, Cabot Selectboard Chair, Vice Chair
- Christopher Baird, Mendon Road Commissioner
- Gary Briggs, Lunenburg Selectperson
- Marcey Carver, Bradford Planning Commission Chair
- Andy Watts, Essex Town Selectboard Vice Chair
- Nick Zaiac, Arlington Town Administrator
- Carole O'Connell, Newport City Planning Commission
- Chris Jolly, Town of Stowe Assistant Engineer



Transportation Priorities: Build Resiliency, Invest Locally

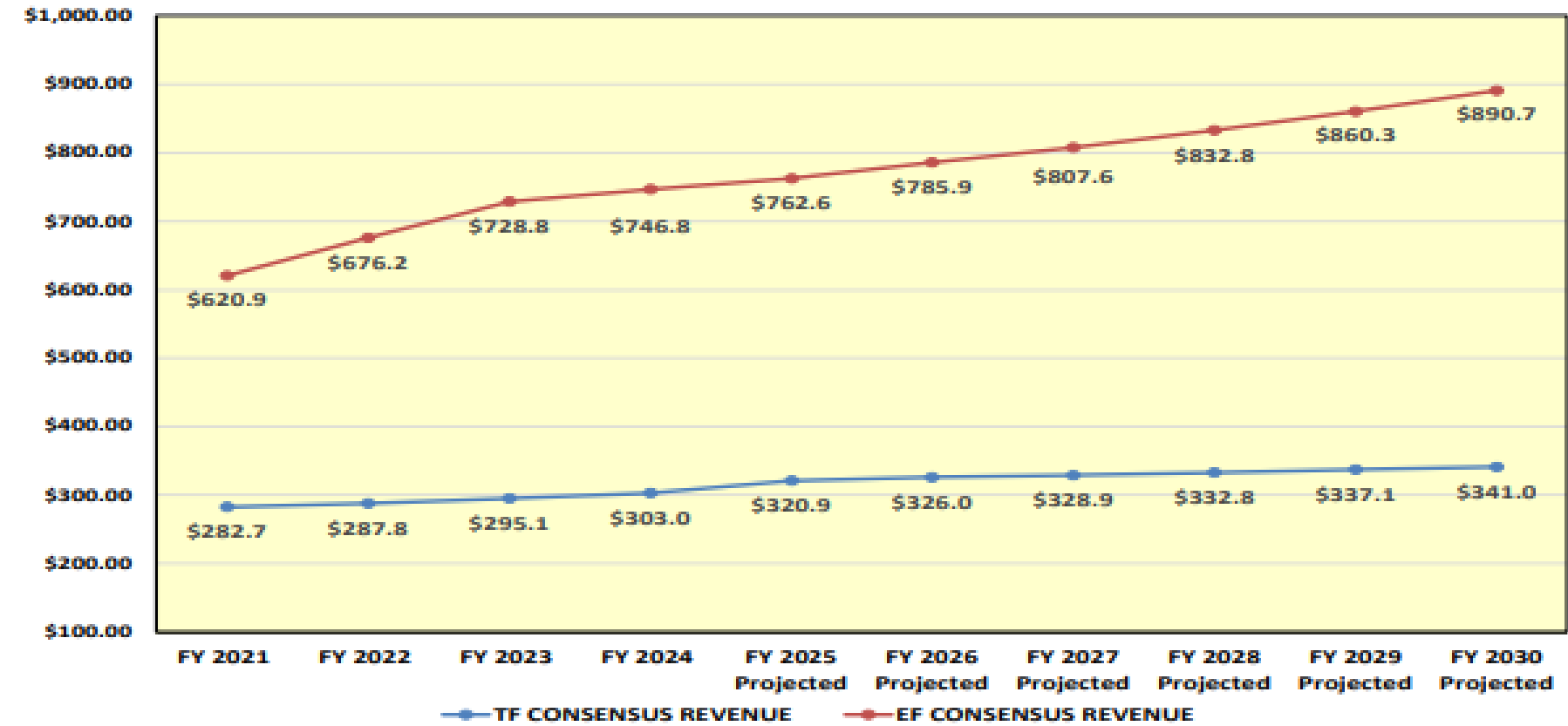
- Avoid cost shifting to municipal tax burdens in the event of diminished federal funding or challenged state budgets
- Adequately fund right-sized, efficient public transit services and prioritize the implementation of complete streets.
- Ensure that funding for the Town Highway Emergency Fund is sufficient to cover municipal costs regardless of a Federal Disaster Declaration.
- Build resilient infrastructure designed for intended use, which can withstand more extreme weather and meets stormwater management standards.



Transportation Funding

- **Sustainable:** Diversify Transportation Fund revenues to align with our climate goals and ensure the health of the fund
- **Reliable:** Explore revenue sharing with municipalities, e.g. remit a portion of registration fees to where the vehicle is registered
- **Adequate:** Ensure town highways, culverts, and bridges are accurately rated for weights and that municipal funding is sufficient to pay for statutory obligations
- **Prioritize:** Establish state tracking of municipal paving projects and road conditions

Transportation and Education Funds History & Forecast
(as of Emergency Board Meeting January 22, 2025)



	FY2025	FY2026	Change	Change
	As Passed	Gov Rec	Inc./ (Dec.)	%
TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGES	45,334,278	37,793,406	(7,540,872)	-16.6%
TH STRUCTURES	8,016,000	7,200,000	(816,000)	-10.2%
TH CLASS 2 ROADWAY PROGRAM	8,858,000	8,600,000	(258,000)	-2.9%
TH - NONFEDERAL DISASTERS	1,150,000	1,150,000	0	0.0%
TH - FEDERAL DISASTERS	180,000	4,000,000	3,820,000	2122.2%
TH AID PROGRAM	29,532,753	30,418,736	885,983	3.0%
TH CLASS I SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS	128,750	128,750	0	0.0%
TH VERMONT LOCAL ROADS	481,452	481,452	0	0.0%
MUNICIPAL MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	7,143,000	6,893,000	(250,000)	-3.5%
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANTS	1,250,000	0	(1,250,000)	-100.0%
Total "Town Highway" Programs	102,074,233	96,665,344	(5,408,889)	-5.3%

Other Transportation Policy Supported by VLCT

- Authorize municipalities to set speed limits on roads below 25 m.p.h.
-
- Support work to electrify vehicles and equipment and install charging infrastructure
-
- Provide incentives to municipalities to take over state highways
-
- Eliminate provisions in VTrans' master license agreements requiring municipalities to indemnify VTrans or the railroads
-
- Allow VTrans to enter into agreements with municipalities for use equipment



February 2025

Questions???



Josh Hanford
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
jhanford@vlct.org

Samantha Sheehan
Municipal Policy and Advocacy Specialist
ssheehan@vlct.org