

FACT SHEET - VTRANS CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES & STORMWATER INVESTMENTS

Prepared for 2025 Legislative Session on behalf of Vermont Agency of Transportation
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Specific to Water Quality Initiatives and Investments Targeting Regulatory Compliance for VTrans' Highways and Developed Lands

How do roads impact stormwater?

- ◆ Impervious roadway surfaces can quickly convey polluted stormwater runoff to nearby waterways.
- ◆ VTrans is responsible for stormwater collection, conveyance, and treatment along its highways and at other transportation facilities (airports, maintenance yards, park & rides, welcome centers, gravel pits).
- ◆ Linear Transportation stormwater management differs from city, town, retail, and commercial entities:
 - Highways stretch for many miles, crossing multiple waterways, watersheds, and jurisdictions.
 - Transportation storm conveyance systems are linear and often discharge stormwater and associated pollutants that originate outside of the transportation right-of-way.

Photo: Road stormwater collection



How is VTrans Implementing Vermont's Clean Water Act?

- ◆ Act 64 of 2015 – referred to as Vermont's Clean Water Act – laid the foundation for the protection and restoration of Vermont's waters by adopting a cross-sector "all in" approach, with a broad suite of programs and regulations addressing: agricultural practices, stormwater runoff from roads and non-road developed lands, and natural infrastructure (river corridors, wetlands and forest management).
- ◆ In addition, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in June 2016, established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and reduction targets for phosphorus in the 12 lake segments of Lake Champlain Basin.
- ◆ As part of its Phase I Implementation Plan developed in response to the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL, the Vermont ANR, in December 2016, issued the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit 3-9007 for Stormwater Discharges from the State Transportation Separate Storm Sewer System (TS4) to VTrans.

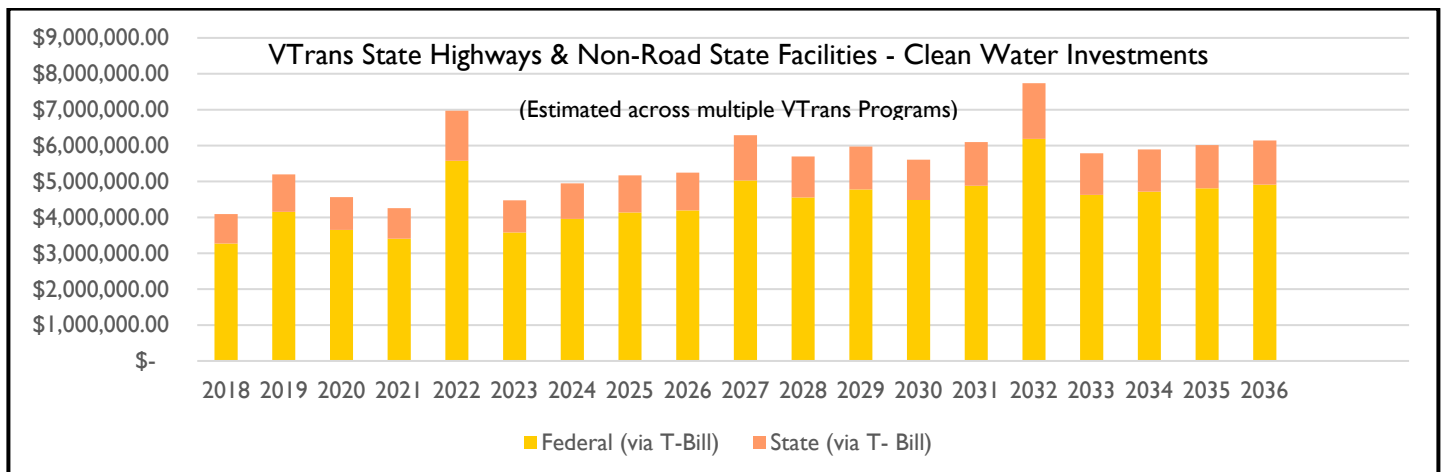
Photo: Algal Bloom



How is VTrans implementing the TS4?

- ◆ The TS4 General Permit is the primary regulation ensuring that stormwater discharged from VTrans owned or controlled impervious surfaces is managed according to State water quality policy. It combines VTrans' compliance obligations from several permit programs, including the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit and its associated Flow Restoration Plan and Phosphorus Control Plan requirements, Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP), and Operational (post-construction) Stormwater Permit. Refer to back page for Clean Water Programs and Regulations VTrans complies with and VTrans Report on Clean Water Projects Planning & Implementation.
- ◆ VTrans' Clean Water and Stormwater Regulatory Compliance Investments for the State Highway System and VTrans non-road developed lands are anticipated to be covered by the Transportation Bill and Federal Funds where eligible. See estimated costs below through SFY36 (the compliance date for the LC TMDL) which include Project Development, Construction, O&M and FTE for implementing the Agency's obligations under the TS4.

Photo: St. Albans I-89 Median Stormwater Retrofit



VTRANS' STORMWATER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

PERMIT PROGRAMS

COVERAGE AND APPLICABILITY

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES (as of end of 2024 calendar year)

PERMIT PROGRAMS	COVERAGE AND APPLICABILITY	COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES (as of end of 2024 calendar year)
TS4 GP Transportation Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit TS4 GP ENCOMPASSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regulates stormwater discharges from the Statewide VTrans TS4 (including road and non-road developed lands) ◆ Specific to the unique linear nature of VTrans' infrastructure ◆ Allows several stormwater programs to be rolled into one comprehensive regulatory program (<i>4 programs listed below</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Requires development of a Stormwater Management Plan addressing the requirements set forth in the TS4 GP ◆ Requires, at a minimum, compliance with all of the regulatory standards of those programs rolled into the TS4 GP ◆ Requires VTrans to develop and implement a Phosphorus Control Plans (PCP) in the Lake Champlain Basin for all of its land within the TS4 ◆ View the TS4 annual report.
MS4 → Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Includes VTrans highways and non-road developed lands in 12 MS4 communities including: Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, Milton, Rutland Town, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. Albans City and Town, Williston, Winooski ◆ Regulates discharge of stormwater runoff from construction activities ◆ Construct temporary stormwater management and treatment practices designed to control erosion and prevent sediment transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Public Education & Participation, Training & Education ◆ Compliance with State Stormwater Regulations and TMDLs ◆ Asset Mapping, Inventory, and management ◆ Spill Prevention and Stormwater Pollution Source Control ◆ 17 of the 117 active construction projects required Construction Stormwater Permit coverage and implemented erosion prevention and sediment controls, with a total of 197 compliance visits by agency staff
TMDL → Total Maximum Daily Load	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establishes reduction targets for specific pollutants (i.e., stormwater flow, phosphorus, etc.) to attain water quality standards. ◆ Applies to watersheds with identified impairments for which a TMDL has been issued by ANR and approved by EPA ◆ Phosphorus Control Plans (PCP) in the Lake Champlain Basin and Lake Memphremagog, Flow Restoration Plans in Stormwater Impaired watersheds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 54 practices identified, 8 designed, and 31 constructed to meet the agency's Flow Restoration Reduction Targets across 10 stormwater impaired watersheds ◆ Completed the VTrans generalized PCP and first and second 4-year implementation plan. Continued work on the Lake Memphremagog PCP due April 2025 ◆ VTrans has implemented BMPs to reduce P by more than 28% of the 1605 kg/yr target after the 2023 construction season
MSGP → Multi-Sector Industrial Stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Covers discharges of stormwater from industrial facilities which conduct activities and use materials that have the potential to impact the quality of Vermont's waters ◆ Regulated VTrans facilities including 9 State Airports and 3 State Gravel Pits ◆ Facilities are required to examine potential sources of pollution, implement measures to reduce the risk of stormwater contamination, and test stormwater discharges for sources of pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ VTrans develops and maintains Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) at each facility that include training and education, stormwater management, asset management, erosion control, spill prevention, and stormwater pollution source control ◆ 42 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for VTrans maintenance facilities, airports, and gravel pits being maintained.
State OSW → Operational Stormwater Discharges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Coverage under the general permit is required for discharges of regulated stormwater runoff from the construction, expansion, and redevelopment of impervious surfaces pursuant to the permit threshold triggers established in Vermont Statutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 4 projects in the project development process were designed pursuant to, applied for, and/or obtained permit coverage under the State Operational (post-construction) Stormwater Program ◆ 4 new projects constructing new stormwater treatment practices ◆ 92 previously constructed projects with stormwater treatment practices were inspected and maintained