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Funding Spotlight Transportation

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Vermont League of Cities and Towns

VLCT's Municipal Operations Support Team

**Running a Vermont Municipality is Complicated.
We Can Help You Uncomplicate It.**

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Contact us: info@vlct.org or [Ask A Question*](#)



Today's Topics



Changes to the transportation grant landscape



Transportation funding opportunities

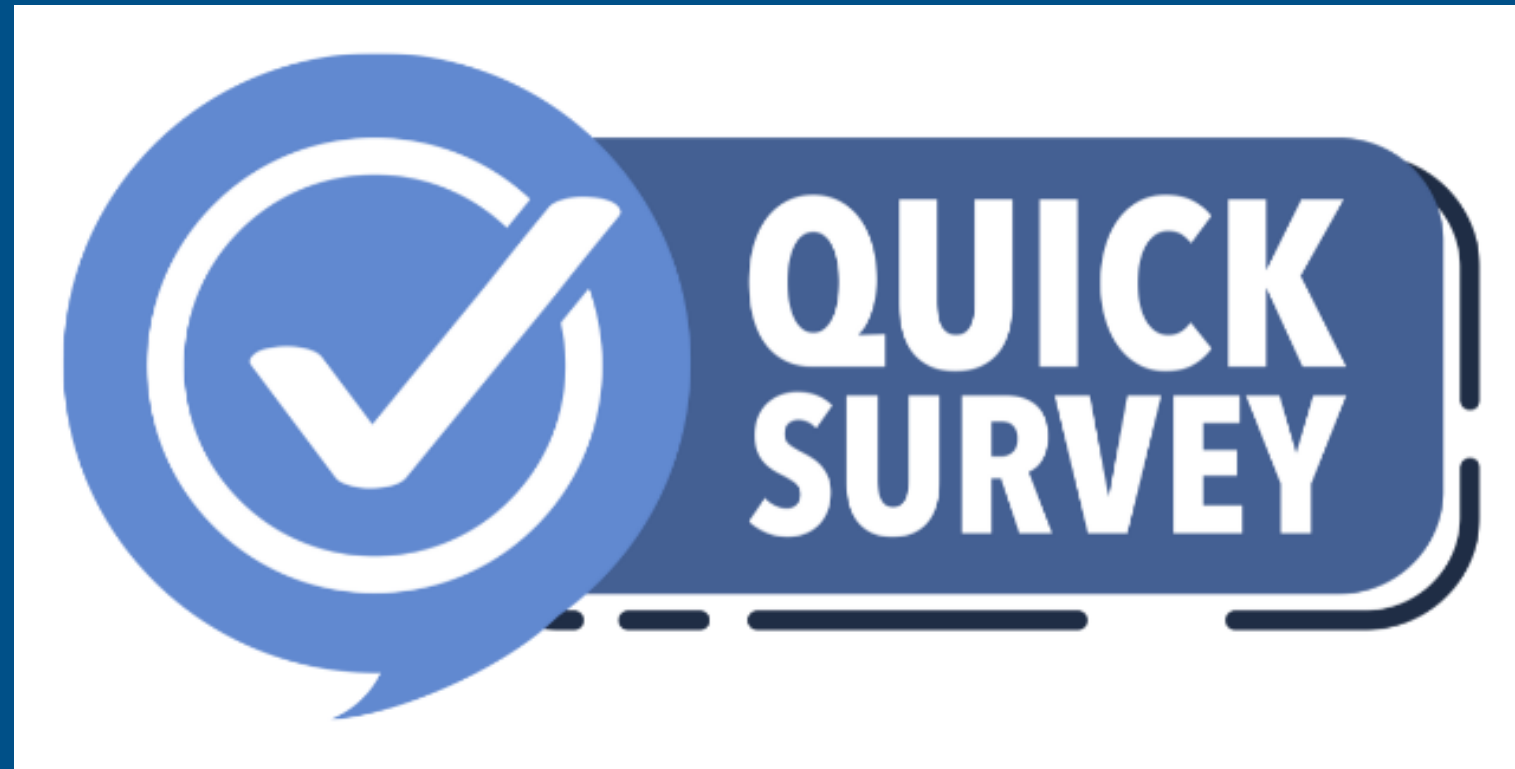


Municipal successes and challenges



Resources for increasing grant capacity

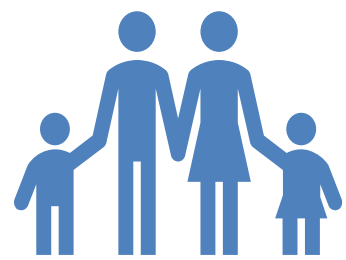




What is your main interest today?

- 1) Highway infrastructure
- 2) Public works and highway garages
- 3) Trails, paths, and sidewalks
- 4) Vehicles
- 5) Transportation adjacent projects (EVs, EV infrastructure, stormwater treatment, disaster mitigation, etc.)

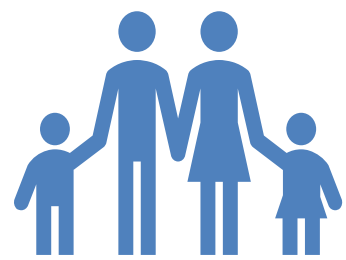
Please type your response in the chat.



Transportation Funding Landscape Changes

- Benefit the economy, workforce, and families
- Be data driven
- Have strong co-funding (higher local match)
- Use non-federal funding for maintenance and replacement

Focus on *federal*
benefits



Transportation Funding Landscape Changes

- Deliver what you promise in the application and agreement
- Focus on performance
 - required policies and procedures in place and used
 - progress and financial reporting on time
 - local match included and documented
 - metrics for success included and achieved

**Focus on
commitments
made**

Transportation Funding Opportunities

Where Can I Find Them?

✓ VLCT Municipal Funding Resources

- [Open Funding Opportunities](#) webpage
- Funding Opportunities webpages for:
 - [Highway Garages and Public Works Buildings](#)
 - [Trails, Paths, and Sidewalks](#)
 - [Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure](#)

✓ [**Show Me The Money!**](#)

VTrans guide to frequently used funding opportunities

✓ [**US DOT Competitive Grants Dashboard**](#)

A searchable database of competitive grant opportunities

Short on capacity?

Use VLCT's [Meet with a Project Pro](#) service to narrow the world of funding possibilities down to the ones most applicable to your project.



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Highway Infrastructure

The Basics

- **Better Roads Program** – small, competitive grants for erosion control
- **Grants in Aid Program** – small grants for water quality compliance
- **Town Highway Bridge Program** – medium to large grants for bridges that are 6 feet or greater in length
- **Town Highway Structures Program** - up to \$175,000 grant for short bridges, culverts >36 inches in diameter, and other structures
- **Town Highway Class 2 Program** – up to \$175,000 grant for preservation of any Class 2 highways for resurfacing or reconstruction
- **Systemic Local Road Safety Program** – VTrans does the work for these grants, which are aimed at high crash roadways that have <5,000 vpd

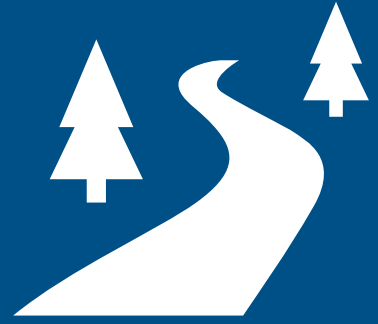


Transportation Funding Opportunities

Highway Infrastructure

Disaster Mitigation Grants – The Big Three

- **FEMA Public Assistance Program** – may reimburse up to 75% of eligible expenses for Presidentially’s declared disasters
- **FHWA Emergency Relief Assistance Program** – may reimburse 90% to 100% of eligible expenses related to Federal Aid Highways for Presidentially’s declared disasters
- **Town Highway Emergency Grants** – may reimburse up to 90% of eligible expenses when no Federal disaster declaration



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Highway Infrastructure

Other Disaster Mitigation Grants

- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** – after disasters, states receive an additional 15% of Public Assistance costs for mitigation
- **USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program** – for severe erosion or debris that is jeopardizing public infrastructure. No disaster declaration required!
- **Other Disaster Recovery Programs** – post-disaster, Congress may authorize US EDA, USDA Rural Development, or HUD CDBG-DR \$\$



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Highway Infrastructure

Other Highway Funding Programs

- **Municipal Park & Ride Program**
- **Better Connections Grant Program**
- **Highway Safety Grants & Work Zone Safety Program**
- **Vermont State Infrastructure Bank**
- **Northern Border Regional Commission Programs** – Catalyst if economic benefit; Timber for Transit if using wood-based materials and composites
- **US EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance** – if investment catalyzes economic development
- **US DOT Programs** – nationally competitive programs fit certain Vermont projects



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Public Works Buildings

Primary Sources

- Municipal budget
- USDA Rural Development Community Facilities
- Vermont Bond Bank Pooled Loan Program
- Congressional Appropriation

Other Potential Sources

- Northern Border Regional Commission Timber for Transit Program
- Transportation Alternatives Program or Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program for salt and sand sheds



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Trails, Paths, and Sidewalks

Primary Programs

- VT FP&R Vermont Recreation Trails Fund – recreation trails
- VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program – transportation facilities
- VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program – transportation facilities



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Trails, Paths, and Sidewalks

Other Funding Programs

- VOREC Community Grant Program
- VT B&GS Building Communities Program
- AARP Community Challenge Flagship Grant
- NRBC Catalyst
- VT FP&R Land and Water Conservation Fund
- US DOT programs – large projects or part of a highway project



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Vehicles

Primary Funding Sources

- Municipal budget is still the primary source of funding
- USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grants/Loans
- Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund
- Vermont Bond Bank Pooled Loan Program
- EPA and Vermont Diesel Emissions Reduction Assistance - ending
- Various electric vehicle programs – most ending

Transportation Funding Opportunities

Break It Down

Standalone components of transportation projects may be eligible for other grants

- Salt sheds
- Small components, like planning or archeological assessment
- Energy improvements
- Stormwater
- Environmental challenges (brownfields)
- Electric vehicle fueling infrastructure



Transportation Funding Opportunities

Municipal Successes and Challenges

- **Develop a funding plan early**
- **Process is important (and prescribed!)**
- **Projects will take longer than you think, and cost more than you hope**
- **The funding landscape and project costs are uncertain**
- **Paths and sidewalks are mini roads**
- **Use available program templates**
- **An experienced project manager will save you time and money!**

Transportation Funding Opportunities

Funding Trends

Funders are beginning to ask hard questions...

- Scrutiny for deferred maintenance
- Questions about future maintenance and replacement (capital planning, budgeting, reserve funds)
- How will you address cost increases?

Be prepared.

Proceed with caution.

Identifying and Closing Capacity Gaps

Grants require having capacity not only to write and administer them but also to complete the project and maintain it over time.

You can add capacity by:

- Enlisting volunteers to help.
- Hiring additional staff or sharing a position with another municipality.
- Working with a service provider.
- Retaining consultant services.

2025 Grant Basics Series



4/9, Session I - Before the Grant

- ✓ Picking the right project
- ✓ Understanding roles
- ✓ Working as a team
- ✓ Assessing capacity
- ✓ Understanding grant readiness

6/3, Session II – Developing and Funding the Project

- ✓ Project development lifecycle
- ✓ Building a funding stack
- ✓ Project budgets
- ✓ Grants and how they work
- ✓ What funders want (and don't want) to see in applications
- ✓ Understanding local match
- ✓ Accessing capacity and filling gaps

8/5, Session III – The Application

- ✓ The grant landscape and how it's changing
- ✓ Grant basics*
- ✓ How grants work*
- ✓ What funders want (and don't want) to see in applications*
- ✓ Tips, tricks, and best practices for grant writing*

*deeper dive

10/21, Session IV – Grant Management

- ✓ Intro to grant management
- ✓ The grant agreement
- ✓ Grant implementation and management
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting
- ✓ Evaluation
- ✓ Grant closeout
- ✓ Best practices

Recording and slides for the Grant Basics series is posted in the VLCT Resource Library at <https://www.vlct.org/resource-library>.

Have questions?

LET US KNOW!



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Vermont League of Cities and Towns

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