

APPENDIX C: Funding Sources

The following summary of transportation funds available to Vermont municipalities was developed by Vermont Local Roads. This list has been modified based on recent changes to funding programs. For a more detailed description of programs administered by VTTrans, including application forms, refer to the most recent edition of the VTTrans *Highways and Bridges Handbook for Local Officials* (the "Orange Book"). For more information, contact your District Transportation Administrator, your regional planning commission or Vermont Local Roads (1-800-462-6555).

HIGHWAYS

1. Town Highway Grants (\$23.5 million in FY 2000) (Distributed quarterly)

State annual allocation based on Class 1, 2, and 3 miles. For highway and bridge improvements, maintenance or construction. Funds may be used to maintain recreation paths.

2. Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program (2/3 State – 1/3 Local)

Distributed by VTTrans highway districts and allocated based generally on the number of class 2 miles in the district, although there is some discretion by the DTA. A reduced local match (20%) is available to communities who have satisfactory town highway codes and standards, and a highway infrastructure study. Check with DTA for application deadline which varies by district.

- a. Project cap is \$150,000.

3. Federal Aid Town Highway Program

State/Federal grants for reconstruction of class 1, 2, or 3 town highways which are on the federal –aid system. 10% local match required. Projects recommended by the regional planning commission's transportation plan and included in the VTTrans State Development Program. Not FEMA eligible. These are large rehabilitation projects in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range (Severance Hill Road, St. Johnsbury; Bethel Mountain Road, Rochester to Bethel; The Sharon – Strafford Road has been scoped). The State may undertake a project a year on an experimental basis.

4. Public Lands Highways

Funding for projects that are on, adjacent to or providing access to federal public lands such as Green Mountain National Forest or the Army Corps of Engineers. In Vermont PLH funding has been used for the West River Trail, protection of scenic properties along highways and visitor improvement at Quechee Gorge. January application request. First point of contact is the regional planning commission. Also call VTTrans 802-828-3966.

5. Scenic Byways Program

For projects including acquisition, development and planning along designated scenic byways. January application request.

Contact VTrans at 802-828-0057.

Bridges and Culverts

6. Town Highway Structures Program (80% State – 20% Local)

Repair or replacement of bridges, culverts and retaining walls on Class 1, 2 or 3 town highways. \$150,000 project cap. Check with DTA early January. A reduced local match (10%) is available to communities who have satisfactory town highway codes and standards, and a highway infrastructure study. Application deadline varies by district.

7. Town Highway Bridge Program (\$13 million in FY 2000) (10% Local for replacement) (5% Local for rehabilitation)

For the repair, reconstruction or replacement of bridges twenty feet or longer on class 1, 2 or 3 town highways. A list of tentative new projects is drafted by VTrans based on statewide bridge data with recommendations from the DTA.

8. Historic Bridge Program

A program involving FHWA and four Vermont agencies to preserve historic metal, truss, covered, masonry arch and concrete arch bridges. Since municipalities own many, success is largely dependent on municipalities agreeing to the preservation alternatives.

Managed by Local Facilities Program (LTF, see below) at VTrans: 828-3966.

9. Adaptive Use Bridge Program (Metal Truss Bridges)

Part of VTrans Transportation Enhancement Program (Nos. 16 & 17 below) and Historic Bridge Program (# 9 above). Rehabilitation of historic metal truss bridges for adaptive re-use on other sites such as bicycle and pedestrian paths. 20% local match required for 80% federal dollars. No formal application process. Managed by the Local Facilities Program (LTF, P. 5 below) at VTrans, 802-828-3966.

Erosion Control

10. Vermont Better Backroads Small Grants (\$61,000 FY 2000) (1/3 Local Match)

Small grants up to \$2,500 either for inventorying and assessing drainage/erosion problems on roads or for actual projects. Projects must impact or potentially impact a waterway. Apply to Northern Vermont Resource and Conservation District by May 1. Source of funds in FY 2000: VTrans: \$48,000; VT Agency of Natural Resources: \$18,000, EPA Section 319. Call No. VT RC & D 802-828-4595 or VT Local Roads 800-462-6555.

Emergency

11. Town Highway Emergency Fund

Class 1, 2 or 3 town highways damaged by a natural or man made event of such magnitude that financial aid to the municipality is both reasonable and necessary to preserve the public good. Grant amounts are for the cost involved to repair the damage less a deductible of 10% of a town's non-winter budget.

Contact DTA immediately after the disaster occurs to permit timely appraisal of the damage. Complete Damage Survey Report or estimate damage. Complete an application including eligibility justification statement. Submit with a copy of municipality's annual plan to DTA.

12. Hazard Mitigation (3/4 Federal – 1/4 Local)

Following a federally declared disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) establishes a fund equal to 15% of the federal dollars dispersed. Municipalities apply for a competitive grant to fund projects that prevent future natural disaster losses. Funds are available statewide even though a municipality is outside the declared disaster area. Funds vary. Application is determined following the federal declaration. Contact your DTA or Vermont Emergency Management 1-800-347-0488.

13. Emergency Funds for 1998 Ice Storm (\$4 million from January, 1998 ice storm)

Applications for recovery money are being accepted. Call Ice Storm Recovery Coordinator 802-241-4453.

Local Transportation Facilities (LTF)

Communities which have an interest in managing the development and construction of their own transportation projects should contact the LTF office at 802-828-3966.

To be eligible a project must have a high degree of local focus, be a project under current development by the State and be recognized as a priority through the regional transportation planning process. More than 70 projects are underway: bridges, railroad crossings, many bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

LTF also manages the Historic Bridge Program (#10 above) and the Adaptive Bridge Program (#11 above).

14. Transportation Enhancement (\$2.4 million in 2000) (1/5 local)

Competitive federal grants are available from the VAOT for such projects as:

- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Acquisition of scenic easements or historic sites
- Scenic of historic highway programs including tourist and welcome centers
- Landscaping

- Historic preservation
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors
- Control and removal of outdoor advertising
- Archeological planning and research
- Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff
- Traffic calming
- Transportation museums
- Safety and education activities for pedestrians and bicyclists

About 20 out of 60+ applications are funded yearly. Early September letter of intent and an early November deadline. (In January 2000, \$2.4 million funded 23 projects)

Grants are not less than \$5,000. Call: LTF: 808-828-3966 or

VTrans Policy & Planning: 802-828-3960

15. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (\$2 million FY 2000) (80% federal, 10% State, 10% local match)

Competitive grants for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Four to six projects out of 15 to 20 applications are approved each year. May deadline. Call LTF: 802-282-3966.

16. Park and Ride

The Local Transportation Facilities at VTrans participates in the rehabilitation and development of park and ride facilities throughout Vermont. For information call LTF: 802-828-3966

Loan Programs

17. Equipment Loan Fund

State assistance for the purchase of municipal heavy equipment or vehicles, including fire trucks and buses. Cost of a piece of equipment must exceed \$20,000. Municipality pays first 25% of cost. Loan cap is \$60,000 and must be repaid within three years except in the case of a special hardship.

Interest rate is two percent; zero percent if purchase is for joint use by more than one community. Two application deadlines: April 15 and October 15. Work through DTA who sends application to VTrans Financial Services. VTrans contact: 802-828-6231.

18. State Infrastructure Bank

Loans for transportation projects that are eligible for federal funds. A 20% equity contribution is required. Interest rate is at or below applicable market rates. Contact the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA), 802-828-5627.

Other Programs

19. Transportation and Community and System Preservation Program (TCSTP)

Communities can apply for federal help to fight local sprawl under the U.S.DOT TCSP growth strategies. Helps communities solve interrelated problems involving transportation, land development, environmental protection, public safety and economic development. Deadline: July 15, 1999.

This is a very competitive program. Much effort required for little chance of being funded. Small towns would be hard pressed to apply. Projects funded in 1998 were two large areas and heavily leveraged. In FY 1999, \$13.1 million was awarded for 35 projects in 28 states.

20. Vermont Watershed Grants

Funded by the sale of Vermont's conservation license plates. Mini-grants of \$200 to \$1000 and larger grants of over \$1000 are available for a wide range of water-related projects, including developing or enhancing recreational access and trails. November deadline. Contact Vermont Watershed Grants 802-241-3770.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division, Building 10 North, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0408.

21. Vermont Recreational and Trails Grants (\$500,000 in FY 2000) (80% State – 20% Local match)

Matching grants of \$3,000 to \$10,000 or more. \$10,000 grants are typical. Mini-grants of \$500 or less are available (no match requirements). Very competitive.

The Vermont Recreation Trail Fund provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational use. Grants are financed by the portion of state and federal gas tax attributable to off-highway vehicle use (snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles). Eligible projects include trail development, maintenance and restoration, development of trail-side and trail head facilities, creating accessible trails, acquisition of trail easements or fee acquisition of trail corridors, maps/publications, and purchase of trail-building hand tools.

Contact Vermont Trails & Greenways Council: 802-241-3690.

22. Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

VYCC, a non-profit organization, coordinates Vermont youth crews who work on conservation projects on lands, waters or buildings open for public use. VYCC leaders provide expertise and oversight for crews. Communities can either hire a trail crew through fee-for-service or apply for a greenways crew funded by VAOT and FHWA. January deadline.

Contact the VYCC at 1-800-639-8922 or 802-241-3699 FAX: 241-3909

92 South Main Street, Waterbury VT 05676 www.vycc.org.

23. National Scenic Byways Program

For projects including acquisitions, development and planning along designated scenic byways. January application. Contact VTrans, Policy and Planning: 802-282-3960 or your regional planning commission.

24. National Forest Lands Highways (\$200,000 available in FY 2000)

Funds are to improve roads designates as a forest highway which give access to the national highway system. There are about twenty such roads in Vermont. Funds are obligated for the next three years due to flood damage and other emergencies.

Contact VTrans Planning Division: 802-828-5578.

25. Urban and Community Forest (\$85,000 statewide) (50% state –50% local match)

Grants to communities for developing and implementing local urban and community forestry programs. \$500 to \$4000 grants for community planning / education, planting, maintenance. Mini grants from \$25 to \$200 for training, single tree purchase, Arbor Day activities and millennium 2000 tree planting (no match required). Application deadline: February 21, 2000.

Urban and Community Forestry Program, 103 South Main Street, Building 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-3678 802-241-3678.

Resources

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance web page: www.gsa.gov

The catalog is available at depository libraries nationwide or contact the Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog staff, General Services Administration, 300 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20407. Telephone 1-800-669-8333.

Federal Funding and Assistance for Rivers, Trails and Open Space Conservation

This guide is compiled periodically by the national Center for Recreation and Conservation of the National Park Service. Contact the National Center for Recreation and Conservation, National Park Service, Room 3606, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240-0001/ Telephone 202-565-1200.

Acronyms

DTA District Transportation Administrator (DTA's manage the nine VTrans highway maintenance districts)

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

LTF Local Transportation Facilities (VTrans)

RPC Regional Planning Commission

VEDA Vermont Economic Development Authority

VEM Vermont Emergency Management

VTrans Vermont Agency of Transportation

VYCC Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

Programs Identified by CTAA as Regularly Providing Funding for Transportation:

Agency: Department of Education;
Program: Vocational Rehabilitation Grants;
Description: Assists states in operating programs that provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities. Services include counseling, training, job placement, and other supportive services, including transportation.

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services;
Program: Grants for Supportive Services and Senior Centers;
Description: Assists states in developing a community-based system of services for older individuals. Services provided include nutrition services, caregiver support services, senior centers, and transportation services.

Program: Program for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Elders;
Description: Assists tribal organizations in the delivery of supportive services to older Native Americans. Services provided include nutrition services, caregiver support services, senior centers, and transportation services.

Program: Head Start;
Description: Assists local grantees in providing a program of comprehensive health, educational, and other services to promote school readiness for low-income children. Transportation to and from program services is generally provided.

Program: Medicaid;
Description: Assists states in payments for medical assistance to populations that meet categorical eligibility (such as families with children or persons who are elderly or disabled) as well as income and resource requirements. States are required to assure transportation to medical services.

Program: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families;
Description: Provides grants to states or tribes to assist needy families with children. Grantees have the flexibility to use funds in any manner that meets the purposes of the program, which can include transportation to services.

Agency: Department of Labor;
Program: Senior Community Service Employment Program;
Description: Assists states and other grantees in providing work opportunities in community service activities for low-income individuals 55 years of age and older. Transportation to training and job placements can be provided.

Program: Workforce Investment Act Adult Services Program;
Description: Assists states in providing workforce investment activities. "Intensive" services provided to low-income participants include occupational and basic skills training, and transportation can be provided to access such services.

- Program: Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker Program;
Description: Assists states in providing workforce investment activities. "Intensive" services provided to low-income participants include occupational and basic skills training, and transportation can be provided to access such services.
- Program: Workforce Investment Act Youth Activities;
Description: Assists states in providing workforce investment activities that will help low-income youth acquire the skills, training, and support needed to achieve employment success. Transportation can be provided to access services.
- Agency: Department of Transportation;
Program: Capital Investment Grants;
Description: Assists states in financing facilities for use in mass public transportation service. Projects can include those that are designed to meet the special needs of elderly or disabled individuals.
- Program: Urbanized Area Formula Program;
Description: Assists urbanized areas in financing capital projects for use in mass transportation service. Ten percent of funds may be used to pay for ADA paratransit operating costs.
- Program: Non-urbanized Area Formula Program;
Description: Assists non-urbanized areas with capital and operating expenses needed to provide public transportation service. Ten percent of funds may be used to pay for ADA paratransit operating costs.
- Program: Job Access and Reverse Commute;
Description: Provides grants to develop transportation services to connect low-income persons to employment and support services. Funds can be used for capital and operating costs associated with new or expanded service.
- Program: Capital and Training Assistance for Over-the-Road Bus Accessibility;
Description: Assists private operators of over-the-road buses with financing capital and training costs associated with making buses accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- Program: Capital Assistance Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities;
Description: Provides financial assistance to nonprofit organizations in meeting the transportation needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities where public transportation services are unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate. Funds may be used for eligible capital expenses, such as purchasing vehicles, or to contract for service.

Funding Programs Identified As Spending At Least \$4 Million On Transportation For The Transportation-Disadvantaged In Fiscal Year 2001

Agency: Department of Agriculture;
Program: Food Stamp Employment and Training Program.

Agency: Department of Education;
Program: 21st-Century Community Learning Centers.

Agency: Department of Labor;
Program: Job Corps.

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services;
Program: Community Health Centers.
HIV Care Grants.
Social Services Block Grants.
State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development;
Program: Community Development Block Grant.
Supportive Housing Program.

Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs;
Program: Automobiles and Adaptive Equipment for Certain Disabled Veterans.
Veterans Medical Care.

Under most of the federal programs providing transportation services, funding recipients typically purchase the services from existing sources, according to program officials. This includes contracting for services with private transportation providers or providing bus tokens, transit passes, taxi vouchers, mileage reimbursement to volunteers or program participants, or some combination of these methods. For example, recipients of funds from DOL's Workforce Investment Act Adult Services Program typically provide bus tokens or mileage reimbursement for participants to access training, while recipients of HHS's Grants for Supportive Services and Senior Centers most often contract with local transportation providers to provide client transportation. The funding recipients of several programs, however, typically purchase and operate vehicles, or modify existing vehicles for use by individuals with disabilities. These programs include Head Start and the Program for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Hawaiian Elders in HHS; the Vocational Rehabilitation Grants Program in the Department of Education; and the six programs within DOT. Several of these programs have requirements for grantees to coordinate their services with other agencies providing similar services, which would include transportation, among other services. For example, Head Start grantees are required to make every reasonable effort to coordinate transportation services they provide with other human service transportation in their communities. Similarly, DOT's Capital Assistance Program for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities, Job Access and Reverse Commute, and Non-

urbanized Area Formula Program have requirements for grantees to coordinate their transportation services. In addition, some programs have provisions designed to avoid duplication of effort and encourage the use of existing community resources. For example, Workforce Investment Act programs may use funds to support those who are participating in the program only if those individuals are unable to obtain services through other programs, according to program officials. Also, the Veterans' Workforce Investment Program requires grantees to provide information on the linkages this program will have with other providers of services to benefit veterans.