Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program

Joel Perrigo, VTrans Municipal Assistance Bureau
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VTrans Municipal Mitigation Program

- **Better Roads Program**
  - Established in 1997 and formerly administered by local non-profit
  - In 2013 transitioned to VTrans oversight
  - Annual program, $3.0M, projects $10k-$50k
  - Constructed with State funding

- **Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program**
  - New in 2017
  - Approximately $5.9M annually
  - Intended for larger environmental mitigation related projects, >$250k construction
  - Combination of Federal and State funding
Program Funding

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds, ~$4.9M
- State Capital Bill funds, $1.0M
  - Supplements FHWA funds for comingling SW
  - Example: If the estimated proportion of the stormwater treated is 50% from the highway system and 50% from other sources (parking lots, roof, etc.), a grant could be awarded that would consist of 50% Federal funds and 50% State Capital Bill funds up to 80% of the total project cost.

- 80% federal/state share, requires 20% local match
  - Local match typically cash match, in-kind match rarely approved
Eligibility

Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.
Program Parameters

- No cap on funding for individual projects
- Applications accepted for scoping/planning, design and construction, equipment purchases
  - No design only projects
- Design and construction projects must advance to completion or risk chance of payback
- Reimbursement program
  - Municipality pays for project costs and submits reimbursement request to VTrans
Potentially Eligible Project Types

- Planning Studies
  - Stormwater Inventories
  - Flow Restoration Plans
  - Phosphorus Control Planning
- Salt/Sand Sheds
- Vactor Trucks/High Efficiency Sweepers
- Bank Stabilization
- Culvert Replacement/Re-sizing
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Detention Ponds

- Check Dams
- Swirl Separators
- Permeable Pavers
- Infiltration Basins
- Gravel Wetlands
- Subsurface Detention Systems
- Bio Filters
- Bio Retention Systems
Eligible Applicants

- A local or tribal government
- A regional transportation authority or transit agency
- A natural resource or public lands agency
- A school district, local education agency, or school
- Any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State determines to be eligible, consistent with the goals of the legislation
  - As of today, RPCs have been cleared for eligibility for non-construction projects
Project Development Process

- Municipal Project Manager Selection
- Design Engineer Selection
- Conceptual Plan Development/Review
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Approval
- Preliminary Plan Development/Review
- Right-of-Way (ROW) Plan Development and Clearance
- Final Plan Development/Review
- Project Advertisement, Bidding, and Award
- Construction and Oversight
- Maintenance

**Typical project takes 2-4 years to complete**
Municipal Project Manager

- May assign a municipal employee
  - Required knowledge base:
    - Can read engineering plans
    - Organized
    - Knowledge of FA project development process
    - Time commitment of up to 40 hours per week

- Request For Proposals
- At-the-Ready Selection
- Projects where municipalities have hired an MPM have typically been more successful
At-the-Ready Selection

- Available for MPM, Design Engineers, and Construction Inspectors
- VTrans has completed step one of two of the QBS process
- Pick from list of pre-qualified consultants
- Will still need to rank consultants and negotiate and contract with them
Design Engineer Selection

- RFQ/RFP or ATR

Conceptual Plan Development/Review

- Initial design
- Public involvement
- Requires 3 week Agency review
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Typically 6 months to complete

Preliminary Plan Development/Review

- Requires 3 week Agency review

ROW Plan Development/Clearance

- Highly variable in schedule duration
- If no ROW acquisitions required for construction/maintenance, 1 month to clear
- If acquisitions are required
  - Simple: 6-12 months
  - Complicated 1- several years
Final Plan Development/Review

- Requires 3 week Agency review

Project Advertisement, Bidding and Award

- Use of VTrans - Municipal Assistance Bureau standard bid documents
- Low bid sealed bid process
- Three week minimum advertisement period

Construction and Oversight

- Municipality must provide oversight/resident engineering services
  - ATR or RFP/RFQ
- Materials Testing and Acceptance

Maintenance

- Municipality must maintain project
Funding Requirements

- Buy America (steel & iron products)
  - Applies to equipment purchases
- Davis Bacon Federal Wage Rates
- Proprietary Products not allowed without Public Interest Finding
- Project must be design and constructed in accordance with all federal/state/local permits and regulations
Examples of Candidate Projects

- Construction cost >$250k
- Requires fully engineered design
- Treat substantial highway runoff
  - Non-highway runoff eligible, but projects that treat a higher portion of highway runoff are more likely to be awarded
- Clear water quality benefit
- Clearly fits within the program’s eligibility requirements
  - Pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities
  - Mitigation to address stormwater management, control
  - Water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff

New bridge, Duxbury
Large culvert, Cambridge
Retention pond, So. Burlington
Gravel wetland, St. Albans
Projects For Other Programs

- No engineering required
- Small construction cost <$250k
- Municipal crews plan to complete work
- Town will not be able to come up with 20% cash match
Successful Applications Include:

- Maps that clearly depict project location
- Clear pictures of the problem
  - Write on pictures if it’s not clear
  - If pictures cannot be taken, clearly describe the problem
    - Example: If a closed system has failed
      - Is it flooding basements?
      - Are there sinkholes in the street?
      - How often does this happen and how much sediment and pollutants are entering the water?
- Include detailed description of solution
- If available, include scoping reports and any preliminary engineering designs
- All questions are fully and clearly answered
Application Requirements

- Letter of Support from Regional Planning Commission
- If within State ROW:
  - Correspondence with VTrans District Transportation Administrator
  - Considerations for projects within the ROW may include:
    - Culverts/drainage
    - Signage
    - Driveway accesses
    - Maintenance
    - Comingling of stormwater
    - Lighting/security fences
    - Guardrail
How to apply:

http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program
http://vtrans.vermont.gov/, click on ‘Highways’ in left border
Click on ‘Local Projects’
MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE BUREAU - LOCAL PROJECTS

Municipal Assistance Bureau (MAB) technical staff is assigned to work with, and support, the municipalities in the development of projects while providing oversight and guidance to ensure projects are developed in accordance with applicable design standards and federal and state regulations. Projects can range into every area of transportation such as: development of scenic byway management corridor plans and other improvements to byways; comprehensive improvement projects; development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along with associated improvements; Safe Routes to School education and infrastructure improvements; municipal park and ride facilities; bridge improvements; roadway and intersection improvements; and a variety of transportation enhancements.

The Vermont Better Roads program is a unique addition to the MAB and offers municipalities the opportunity to work with experienced and qualified staff to improve and enhance local roads through grant opportunities.

+ **Annual Reports:**
  - 2014 Parks and Rec Annual Report
  - 2014 Bike and Pedestrian Annual Report
  - 2015 Better Roads Annual Report
  - 2016 Transportation Alternatives Annual Report

+ **MAB Guidebook, Appendix, and Project Bid Documents**
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
  - Transportation Alternatives
  - Park and Rides

+ **Municipal Mitigation**
  - Better Roads
    - Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program
  - FHWA Federal-aid Essentials (training videos and documents)

+ **Shared Documents and Templates**
Application

SFY 2013 Environmental Mitigation Grant Application

Title of Project

Project Description:

Objectives of Project:

Amounts Requested (March 2017):

Amount of Federal Match:

Amount of Local Match:

Total Project Cost:

Town/County:

Specific location (street or town):

Is the project on or intersecting with a state maintained highway? Yes No

If Yes, please indicate: Whether local funds will be used to make up the shortfall, if any:

Application Scoring Criteria:

1. Please provide a detailed description of the project. (10 points)

2. Please describe how the improvement will reduce pollution and ecological assessment activities and mitigation efforts to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention. (10 points)

3. If applicable, what is the estimated maintenance cost for the project? (5 points)

4. If applicable, what is the estimated maintenance cost for the project? (5 points)

In the municipality committed to exercising its right of eminent domain to acquire the right to construct the project? Yes No
Maps
Submission Format

- Electronically or hard copy by mail
  - If electronic submission, PDF required

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- Organization
  1. Application form
  2. Map
  3. Pictures
  4. Scoping study/engineering plans
  5. Letters of Support
  6. Any other misc. supporting documentation
Program Schedule

- July 7 - Program Announcement and release of applications information
- July 20 & 25, Informational webinars
- August 15, Applications due
- August 15-30, Potential site visits
- Aug 15- Sep 11, Selection Committee Evaluations
- September 15, Project Awards announced
- Early January, Grant agreements executed
Transportation Alternatives

- Announced after awards of Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation
  - Applications will be due end of November
  - Awards made February 2018
- Use same eligibility requirements
- Use same application
- $2.2M available funding
- Projects capped at $300K federal
- 80% federal & 20% local cash match

- No State funding to supplement Federal
  - Example: If the estimated proportion of the stormwater treated is 50% from the highway system and 50% from other sources (parking lots, roof, etc.), a grant would only be awarded up to 50% of the total project cost.

**PROJECT EXAMPLE:**

Total Project Cost: $375,000
50% Highway Runoff, 50% Other Sources

Grant Amount: $150,000 Federal, $37,500 Local Cash Match

Grant will be for 50% of total project cost
Questions?

Atlanta, GA
4th Ward Park

Lancaster, PA
Plum & Walnut St.

Plum & Walnut Streets Intersection, Lancaster, PA before GSI

Intersection after GSI, traffic, and safety improvements
Applications due August 15


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