



VTrans Fall 2022 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant Application

Thoroughly read the ***Vermont Transportation Alternatives Fall 2022 Application Guide*** before you begin your application. It includes important program information and step-by-step instructions. Pay particular attention to the application process requirements. **Applications are due in hand or by e-mail by December 14, 2022.** Please e-mail the completed application to: Scott.robertson@vermont.gov

Town of Middlebury- Stormwater Feasibility Study
(Project Name/Title)

802-388-4045
(Phone)

Emmalee Cherington
(Municipality contact person responsible for the management of this project)

echerington@townofmiddlebury.org
(e-mail address)

Middlebury
(Town)

~~\$ 19,800~~ **\$40,000**
Amount of **Federal Funds requested** (no more than 80% of the project cost estimate).

05743
(Zip Code)

~~\$4,950~~ **\$10,000**
Amount of Local Match. Example:
Federal Award = \$300,000 (80% of total)
Local Match = \$75,000 (20% of total)
Total Project Cost = \$375,000 (100% of the total)

77 Main Street,
Middlebury, VT 05753
(Mailing Address)

County: Addison

Town/Village/City: Town

Specific location, street, or road: Townwide

Regional Planning Commission: Addison County Regional Planning Commission

If a linear project, what is the length in feet? NA

Is the project on or intersecting to a State maintained highway? Yes No

- *Note: If yes, be sure to include documentation that you have notified the VTrans District Transportation Administrator of the intent to apply for TA funding and have provided them with a brief (one paragraph) description of the proposed project.*

Project type being applied for: **Scoping** **Design/Construction**

The municipality understands that a typical construction project utilizing Transportation Alternatives Program funds will take roughly three years (min.) in the Design and ROW phases prior to going to construction (as pointed out in the TA Program Application Guide)? Yes No

Does this project have a previously completed scoping or feasibility study? Yes No

- *The project will incorporate two previous plans that were not inclusive of the entire Town and did not involve an engineering phase.*

Note:

Attach a map(s) of the project area and clearly show the limits of the project as well as surrounding benefits from the proposed improvement. If the project is within or adjacent to a designated downtown, village or growth center, clearly indicate the relationship of the proposed project to the boundary of the designated area. Color photos of the area are also recommended.

Fiscal Information:

Accounting System Automated Manual Combination

SAM Unique Identifier # F3VRVGP3FNB9

Fiscal Year End Month June

Property Ownership:

If the proposed project is on private property that will need to be acquired by the Municipality through purchase, easement, or eminent domain (includes temporary construction rights) in accordance with the "Uniform Act", then the municipality is committed to exercising its right of **eminent domain** to acquire the rights to construct the project if necessary. Yes No

The proposed projects will likely be at least partially on private property that will need to be acquired by the Municipality through purchase, easement, or eminent domain (includes temporary construction rights) in accordance with the "Uniform Act".

Funding:

Does this project already have existing funding? If so, please describe. Yes No

The project has the funding necessary to supply the required match through the Stormwater Capital Improvements Fund. The project does not have existing funding to pay for the entire project.

Will you accept an award less than you applied for? Yes No

- If yes, please indicate whether local funds will be used to make up the shortfall, or if the project scope will be reduced. If the project scope is to be reduced, describe what part of the project (please be specific) you would accept partial funding for.

Funds from the Stormwater- Capital Improvement fund will be used to match the remaining 20% of the project cost. The Town will attempt to make up any shortfall if only partial funding is awarded.

A support letter from the governing body of the applicant municipality or organization and an acknowledgement and source of the local match and commitment to future maintenance responsibility for construction projects is required (must be dated within 1 year of the application). Is a letter of support attached?

Yes No

Regional Planning Commission Letter of Support:

In order to apply, the project must have a letter of support from the regional planning commission. Is a letter of support attached?

Yes No

Application Scoring Criteria:

- 1. Please give a brief description of the project (be sure to indicate the primary facility type being applied for and be concise). (10 points max.)**

The Town is working to provide stormwater treatment for the runoff generated from our roadways and other Town-owned surfaces. To achieve our water quality goals, we would like to complete a Townwide Stormwater Scoping (Feasibility) Study that will help prioritize stormwater treatment projects and address expired permits.

The goal of the study is to identify the Best Management Practices (BPMs) for the existing Town stormwater permits in addition to analyzing the feasibility of concepts discussed in the 2020 Middlebury Downtown Master Plan. The potential sites will be evaluated for feasibility including potential environmental impacts, right-of-way concerns, and preferred alternatives. Projects that provide the most benefit will be advanced to a 30% design with estimated construction costs.

- 2. What is the feasibility of this project? Feasibility (or Scoping) study applications will not be scored on this criterion. Also, please describe the extent of project development completed to date. (10 points max.)**

The project is a feasibility study to help provide the Town direction on how to best treat the stormwater from our roadways and Town owned surfaces. The Town has two separate documents related to stormwater planning. The 2020 Middlebury Downtown Master Plan, identified several potential stormwater projects in the downtown region, including eight that were featured in the Downtown Stormwater Master Plan (2016) developed by Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Additionally, the State 2012 Otter Creek Basin Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping Project identified several subwatersheds within the Town as potential priority areas due to having a high percentage of impervious cover, observed drainage issues, sediment loading, and the possibility for retrofitting existing treatment practices.

- 3. Does this project address a need identified in a local or regional planning document? If so, please describe. (5 points max.)**

The project addresses local planning goals to improve water quality in Middlebury. Components of this study have been discussed at local, regional, and state level for over a decade. The 2020

Middlebury Downtown Master Plan set out a long-term vision for incorporating Green Infrastructure practices in the core of downtown. The goal of the plan was to increase accessibility while also improve water quality.

Similarly, this project is supported by the ACRPC’s Regional Plan, as outlined in their attached letter of support. In their support letter, they noted that, “The proposed study would allow the Town to prioritize stormwater remediation projects, address existing expired stormwater permits, distinguish the responsibilities of the town from those of private and other public entities, and better identify funding sources for the different types of projects that might arise.”

4. Does this project benefit a State Designated Center per the link below (i.e., downtowns, villages, or neighborhood growth centers recognized by the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development)? (10 Points Max.)

<http://maps.vermont.gov/ACCD/PlanningAtlas/index.html?viewer=PlanningAtlas>

The project will include areas within the State Designated Downtown District in addition to the areas surrounding— including major corridors and connector roads that serve as transportation links between municipalities and neighborhoods. The Downtown District of Middlebury is located adjacent to the Otter Creek. The segment of the Otter Creek that flows through the Downtown District is listed as impaired for E. coli, while the downstream section is categorized as ‘stressed’. The river is a unifying element of the Town, drawing many businesses, consumers, artists, and people recreating to its banks. Otter Creek was mentioned in the Downtown Master Plan as being an important driver for the Town’s sustainability and recreational interests, in addition to providing environmental benefits.

5. Provide a project cost estimate below (project costs below include both federal dollars and local dollars). Projects will be scored based on whether the cost appears realistic for the size and scope of the project. For scoping studies, use PE and Local Project Management lines only.

Note: If you are applying for additional funds for an existing project, show the amount being requested for this grant in the PE, ROW, Construction, Construction Engineering, and Municipal Project Management rows below. Also, be clear regarding total project cost and other funding amounts and sources in the additional funding comments box below. (10 points max.)

Preliminary Engineering (PE) <i>(Engineering, Surveying, Permitting)</i>	\$ <u>45,000</u>
Right-of-way / Acquisition (ROW) <i>(appraisals, land acquisition and legal fees)</i>	\$ Click here to enter value
Construction <i>(construction costs with reasonable contingency)</i>	\$ Click here to enter value
Construction Engineering <i>(cost to provide inspection during construction)</i>	\$ Click here to enter value
Municipal Project Management Costs <i>(minimum of 10% of total PE, ROW and Construction Phases).</i>	\$ <u>5,000</u>

Total Project Cost \$ 50,000

Addition Funding Comments: (ex. Total and additional funding for existing projects)

Preliminary Engineering cost estimate is based on conversation with an Engineer selected through the Town Request for Qualifications process.

6. Select the eligibility category below (A, B, C or D) that best fits your project and answer the corresponding questions for that category (choose only one category). 10 bonus points will be awarded to projects that are primarily Bicycle or Pedestrian facilities.

A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (includes Safe Routes for Non-Drivers and Conversion of abandoned railroad corridors.

B. Community Improvement Activities:

C. Environmental Mitigation Activity Related to Stormwater and Highways

- i. Please describe how this application provides environmental mitigation relating to stormwater and highways. **(10 points max.)**

Currently, runoff, generated from over 48 miles of impervious roadways, discharges directly to the Otter Creek watershed. Regionally, stormwater runoff has been identified as a significant contributor to water quality issues. As watersheds become more urbanized the natural hydrologic function of streams become increasingly stressed, ultimately reducing water quality. Currently, very few of our Town roads receive any stormwater treatment. The runoff from Town-owned impervious surfaces, greatly impacts our local watersheds by increasing the pollutant loading, decreasing infiltration, reducing baseflow, and degrading streambank habitat.

The proposed feasibility study will examine the opportunities available to better manage stormwater runoff. The study will propose the use of green infrastructure and stormwater BMPs that are cost effective and maintainable to achieve our water quality goals.

- ii. What information or data is provided to substantiate the current stormwater problem and associated environmental impacts? **(10 points max.)**

The Town of Middlebury is located within the Otter Creek watershed, the longest river entirely within Vermont's borders. Water quality monitoring in the river began in 1992, regularly sampling for turbidity, *E. Coli*, and total phosphorous (TP). At the confluence of the Middlebury River to the Pulp Mill Bridge, the segment of Otter Creek that flows through downtown is impaired for *E. Coli*, partially attributed to Middlebury's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). Additionally, the entire stretch of Otter Creek from the Middlebury River to Vergennes is listed as 'Stressed' for an excess in turbidity, nutrients and sediment.

In addition to the studies for Otter Creek, the Addison County River Watch has been sampling locations along Barnes Brook— a small watershed that includes residential neighborhoods and drains to Otter Creek. The findings over a multi-year period show elevated levels of chloride, total phosphorous (TP), turbidity, and orthophosphate. Stormwater runoff plays an important role in the overall health of these watersheds. The uncontrolled runoff from Town-owned roads during storm events contributes to peak flows—leading to CSO discharges, turbidity, stream instability, and excess pollutant and nutrient loading.

- iii. What substantiating data or information is provided to show that the proposed application is an effective and maintainable solution to the problem? **(10 points max.)**

The goal of the Scoping Study is to identify a host of Best Management Practices (BMPs) capable of achieving Water Quality treatment and Channel Protection standards where possible. Stormwater management is important both because of what stormwater carries and how fast it moves. Water has tremendous power and can cause erosion, property and roadway damage, riverbank instability, and other safety concerns when moving quickly. However, the primary concern is that when rain falls and water rushes off our roads and driveways, it also picks up oils, debris, bacteria, and nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus naturally found in soils. This stormwater carries these pollutants to our streams and rivers, which all drain to Lake Champlain.

D. Environmental Mitigation Activity Related to Wildlife