

BETTER CONNECTIONS PROGRAM



The [Better Connections Program](#) seeks to align state and local investments to increase transportation options, build resilience, and strengthen economic vitality in Vermont's community centers, through an annual grant program administered by [Vermont Agency of Transportation \(VTrans\)](#), in partnership with the [Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development \(ACCD\)](#). Municipalities annually compete for approximately \$200,000 in projects funds. A 10% local cash match is required.

The program supports implementation-focused, municipal planning initiatives that:

- Provide safe, multi-modal and resilient transportation systems that supports the Vermont economy
- Support downtown and village economic development and revitalization efforts
- Lead directly to project implementation

Eligible Project Categories

The Better Connections Program grants are for planning work leading to local policy decisions and implementation. Projects should address land use and development, context-sensitive design, transportation network connectivity and roadway design, water quality, green and grey infrastructure capacity, and economic development. All projects must support the [Program Purpose and Objectives](#), include an effective community visioning process, and develop an implementation plan. The implementation plan should coincide with capital projects identified in the regional and municipal plan, municipal capital plan, or the VTrans Capital Program.

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not necessarily limited to:

A. Activity Center Plans. Activity Center plans are smaller in geographic focus than Municipal Plans, and because of their smaller geography and focus; they provide more detailed implementation recommendations for specific areas. Activity Center Plans are a community-driven physical plan for future improvements.

B. Corridor Transportation and Land Use Plan (CTLUP). A CTLUP supports and encourages safe, comfortable multimodal transportation options (bicycle, pedestrian, vehicles, and transit) on state and town highways. The CTLUP geography varies, but the plan should be implementation-driven and deliver strategies to improve both the transportation and land use along a specific area of the corridor.

C. Innovative Transportation and Land Use Guidelines and Policies. Guidelines and bylaws that integrate transportation and land use to increase transportation options, support economic development and community resilience. The guidelines must be specific to a certain area (downtown, village, neighborhood, or corridor) and not municipal-wide by-laws or standards.

Key Program Dates 2019-2021

DATE	EVENT
November 2, 2018	Grant Announcement

December 31, 2018 Pre-application Meeting Deadline & RPC Confirmation of Municipal Planning Process

January 31, 2019 Application Deadline

March 15, 2019 Award Decisions Announced
