

BWAC Meeting Minutes
12/14/20

In attendance: Raj Chawla, Annie Cooper, Brian Donohue, Elijah Massey, Micah Hagan, Holly Buckland Parker, Ramon Matanzo, Seth Cronin, Eric Bowker, and Linda Mahns.

Meeting began at 6:05 pm

First item on agenda was the sidewalk beacon. Raj recommended that a memo is written for the Trustees to consider. Robin can walk you through the Economic Development budget and/or grant, if needed. There was talk to potentially increase the BWAC budget to 10k so one of these can possibly be done each year. Seth attached a quote from 2019 that states \$6995 as a finish-only quote (attached to the minutes) and installation is not included. BWAC would have to ask Rick in Public Works to see about installing this. Robin sent over a potential grant for BWAC to apply for to see about maybe matching grants.

Micah asked the group if everyone has met Annie Cooper. Annie gave a short hello to members of the BWAC who weren't at last month's meeting.

Annie asked about the crosswalk details and is enthusiastic that this is already in a forward-motion. There has more than 100 signatures on a petition to get this going. Holly Buckland Parker offered her ability to help with anything that may help move this along better.

Micah asked if there's any concerns from BWAC for this project. Seth looked at the map to see if there's shading or potential shading for a solar beacon. Annie and Holly thanked the BWAC for their action for this need in the community.

Micah sent over the grant information to see if folks can easily see if this grant is applicable to apply for. (A pdf of the email is attached in these minutes.) The link for more information is here: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>. Micah asked for the BWAC to review and get back to the group via email by Friday 12/18/20 end of day. Elijah stated a letter of intent is due by Jan 15th so if this seems like a good fit, it would be good to get that in as a starting point. March 19th is the award notification and the grant application looks to be due on February 19th. Will need to check with Public Works to go over priorities and schedules for installation.

Micah was requesting that the BWAC updated the priority list for crosswalks and other needs that attention. Annie offered some possible locations for other crosswalk beacons. Crosswalk near high school. Church and Main was another potential location. Grove St (Earth Logic) was another possibility. Four locations are still on Micah's list and he will email the list that needs updating in a future email. Eric brought up a potential item for this priority list: UVM did study for areas of concern (Brickyard Rd) for a possible crosswalk or light or both. Elijah spoke about his experience with this grant and the potential of creating a community-wide process to engage in a more robust process to increase the bike walk paths and safe accessibility for these crosswalks. He's recommending the grant could be used for a bigger endeavor if that makes sense to the BWAC.

Micah brought up Pleasant and East was another possible location for a stop sign. This may or may not require a traffic study and will have to look into this. Micah wants to reach out to Public Works first to see what needs to happen and if BWAC needs to make a recommendation.

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Discussion continued about longer term goals of BWAC with regards to bike and walk paths that are currently in the works and how to combine Essex to potentially be a part of these rec paths that connect with Burlington and other towns. Local Motion was a resource for BWAC and wondering about reaching back out to them to have them attend meetings to see if can combine efforts for these longer-term goals. Essex Trails Committee might be another committee to join forces with as well as the Economic Development Commission.

Meeting ended at 7:03 pm.



SALES QUOTE

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| 600147 | RRFB, Solar 55/48, Radio, SOP, DS, Amber, PB, H Pole X2 | 1 | EA | | |
| 373-05076 | W11-2,36"x36"x.080 DG3 FYG, Pedestrian Crossing (Symbol) Fed Spec, Fluorescent Yellow-Green Sign | 4 | EA | | |
| 373-05066 | W16-7PL, 30"x18"x.080 DG3 FYG, Down Diagonal Left Arw(Fed Spec)sign, 1.875"Radius (2)3/8" Holes 3"ln | 2 | EA | | |
| 373-05067 | W16-7PR, 30"x18".080 DG3 FYG, Down Diagonal Right Arw(Fed Spec)Sign, 1.875"Radius (2)3/8" Holes 3"ln | 2 | EA | | |
| 107265 | Sign Mounting Kit, Banded, Flared Leg, Standard For Mounting B2B Static Signs to a Large Pole | 4 | EA | | |
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Linda Mahns

From: Micah Hagan <micahhagan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:21 PM
To: Elijah Massey; Seth Cronin; Ramón Matanzo; Linda Mahns; Annie Cooper
Subject: Fwd: Call for Applications: State announces \$260k in planning grants to increase transportation options, improve water quality, and support vibrant community centers
Attachments: image001.png

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Raj Chawla <RChawla@essexjunction.org>
Date: Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 12:50 PM
Subject: Re: Call for Applications: State announces \$260k in planning grants to increase transportation options, improve water quality, and support vibrant community centers
To: Robin Pierce <robin@essexjunction.org>, Micah Hagan <micahhagan@gmail.com>

Thanks Robin.

Member - Board of Trustees
Village of Essex Junction

From: Robin Pierce <robin@essexjunction.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:44:28 PM
To: Micah Hagan <micahhagan@gmail.com>
Cc: Raj Chawla <RChawla@essexjunction.org>
Subject: FW: Call for Applications: State announces \$260k in planning grants to increase transportation options, improve water quality, and support vibrant community centers

FYI.

Robin Pierce

Community Development Director

Village of Essex Junction

From: Amore, Richard [mailto:Richard.Amore@vermont.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:23 PM

Subject: Call for Applications: State announces \$260k in planning grants to increase transportation options, improve water quality, and support vibrant community centers

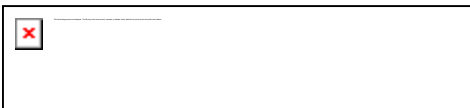
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Good afternoon,

Please see the announcement below for the solicitation of grant applications for FY21 Better Connections planning grant funds. **Note that interested applicants must submit a [Letter of Intent Form](#) by January 15, 2021, prior to submitting a formal [application](#), which is due by February 19, 2021.** Complete application instructions detailing required attachments are described in the [2021-2022 Grant Application Packet](#). Additional information is available in the [2021-2022 Program Overview](#) and on the [Better Connections Program website](#).

Please let us know if you have any questions or want to discuss a planning project for your village.

Happy Holidays!
Richard



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2020

Contacts:

Jackie Cassino, Agency of Transportation

802-272-2368, Jackie.cassino@vermont.gov

Richard Amore, Agency of Commerce and Community Development

802-585-0061, Richard.amore@vermont.gov

State announces \$260k in planning grants to increase transportation options, improve water quality, and support vibrant community centers

Barre, Vt.— The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) today announced that the Better Connections program is accepting applications for grants totaling approximately \$260,000 bi-annually in planning funds to help cities and towns build stronger communities that are more livable and walkable.

“Transportation is critical to the economic vitality and overall health of our communities.” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “This program provides communities with resources to plan for resilient transportation systems and sets them on a path toward implementation.”

The program was on hold for the past year as the partner agencies worked to re-evaluate and improve the program. Interested parties outside of Chittenden County may apply by submitting a pre-application letter of intent by January 15, 2021. Grant applications are due February 19, 2021.

“The design of streets has a direct impact on whether Vermonters choose to use a car to meet their daily needs,” said Josh Hanford, Commissioner of Housing and Community Development. “This program empowers local leaders to design safe and pleasant streets that invite Vermonters of all ages to walk or bike to work, take a child to school, buy groceries, or meet a friend for lunch.”

In 2019, Better Connections funded three projects that are in progress:

- The Town of Fairlee created a Route 5 corridor plan to improve walking and biking infrastructure, better connecting the village and the Connecticut River and its recreational assets.
- The Town of Middlebury developed a downtown master plan to enhance the streetscape through green stormwater infrastructure, identify steps to improve the connection to Otter Creek, and revitalize the designated downtown.

- The Town of Northfield created a master plan to better connect Northfield’s villages to one another, Norwich University, and their respective recreational centers by enhancing the streetscape and improving the water quality of the Dog River.

For more information, contact Jackie Cassino or Richard Amore (contact information listed above) and visit the [Better Connections website](#).

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Jacqueline "Jacqui" DeMent | Planning Coordinator

Vermont Agency of Transportation

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