

FY16 Municipal Planning Grant Projects

Municipal Planning Grants support local planning and community revitalization initiatives that build strong communities and improve Vermont's quality of life. Grants are awarded annually and administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Since 1998, the program has provided over \$11 million to 232 cities and towns. This year, over \$478,000 was awarded to 45 municipalities. The winning FY16 projects are described below.

Athens – Municipal Plan

Athens will use grant funds to write its first ever town plan. The plan will identify the community's challenges and goals, guide decisions on future growth and conservation, and help local leaders prioritize public investments. For more information, contact John Oberling joberling@vermontel.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$6,100 *

Bakersfield – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Bakersfield is working to reduce the effects of extreme weather events by strengthening the community's regulations regarding development near rivers, streams, and floodplains. The work will ensure their bylaws are in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program requirements and include provisions for the river corridors mapped by the Agency of Natural Resources. For more information, contact William Irwin william.irwin@vermont.gov.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,930 *

Bennington – Trail Mapping

Funds will be used to identify and promote hiking and biking trails in Bennington with new maps and recommendations for trail improvements and expansions. For more information, contact Daniel Monks danielmonks@gmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,749 *

Bolton – Municipal Plan

Funding will support the creation of an action-oriented, user-friendly municipal plan that utilizes the Department of Housing and Community Development's new framework for municipal planning. For more information, contact Sharon Murray frontporch@gmavt.net.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Brighton – Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Planning

The town will hire a consultant to develop plans to put the vacant third floor of the town-owned Opera Block back into productive use. For more information, contact Joel Cope joeltcope@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$13,707

Grant Funds Awarded: \$11,805

Canaan – Municipal Plan

The Town of Canaan will update their town plan to address economic development and flooding in the villages of Beecher Falls and Canaan. For more information, contact Vernon Crawford verninv@peoplepc.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,948 *

Chittenden – Flood Resiliency Planning

Chittenden will use grant funds to reduce local flood risks with new river corridor protection language and provide education and outreach on ways to reduce flood risks including protecting existing buildings with flood insurance and keeping new development out of harm's way. For more information, contact Robert Bearor chittendenvt@comcast.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$4,030 *

Dummerston – Municipal Plan

Funds will be used to identify strategies to protect the community from future floods and update regulations in the agricultural district to allow variable lot size development. For more information, contact Sam Farwell sam.farwell@gmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Duxbury – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

The Town of Duxbury will create new regulations to implement the recommendations in its 2014 town plan, including provisions to limit the impacts of future floods. For more information, contact Catherine Gjessing catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$16,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,333

East Montpelier – Planning for State Designated Village Center

Funding will create a master plan for the designated village center of East Montpelier and identify strategies and regulations to attract new development in and around the village. For more information, contact Bruce Johnson eastmontadmin@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$22,435

Grant Funds Awarded: \$17,623

Eden – Municipal Plan

Grant funds will support a town-wide survey and convene stakeholders to gather input on strategies to reduce future floods, site new energy generating facilities, and support future growth. For more information, contact Tracey Morin sbadmin@edenvt.org.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Enosburgh – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Enosburgh will implement the recommendations of the [Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative \(VERI\)](#) with an overhaul of the village land use regulations to promote business development, encourage responsible growth and address issues of clean energy and flooding. For more information, contact Polly Rico prico@fcsuvt.org.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,995 *

Fairfax – Planning for State Designated Village Center

Fairfax will work on implementing the community vision for their designated village center by identifying options to slow car and truck traffic, increase pedestrian safety, and support local businesses. For more information, contact Amber Soter zoningassistant@fairfax-vt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$12,505

Grant Funds Awarded: \$11,003

Fairlee – Planning for State Designated Village Center

Funding will help the town determine the capacity of the existing infrastructure to support the types of development the community wants. For more information, contact John Brimmer zoning@fairleevt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$10,872

Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,600

Greensboro – Municipal Plan

Grant funds will support community outreach to identify strategies to achieve town goals related to housing, renewable energy, and land use. For more information, contact Kristen Leahy greensborovtzoning@yahoo.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,872 *

Groton – Municipal Plan

The town will update its expired plan to address economic development and other issues facing the community. For more information, contact Peter Lyon peterlyon4413@yahoo.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,629 *

Hancock – Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Planning

This project will develop and gather public input on the 5-year capital improvement plan that identifies and funds high priority public improvements. For more information, contact Monica Collins collins.monica@gmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,950 *

Hardwick – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Funding will update local land use regulations to clarify development standards and include provisions to minimize or avoid future flood damages. For more information, contact Jon Jewett jon.jewett@hardwickvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,115

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,743

Hartford – Planning for State Designated Downtown

The grant will support the development of a parking management study for downtown White River Junction and recommend a range of options to improve parking in the designated downtown. For more information, contact Lori Hirshfield lhirshfield@hartford-vt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Holland – Municipal Plan

The Town of Holland will hire a consultant to prepare maps to inform and support the development of the new town plan. For more information, contact Brett Farrow holland1805@hotmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$2,810 *

Hubbardton– Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Grant funds will be used to address flood resiliency issues in both the town plan and the zoning regulations while also incorporating solar screening language into the bylaws. For more information, contact Shawn Dubois duboiss@rwsu.net.

Total Project Cost: \$10,895

Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,990

Jericho – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Jericho will update regulations in the commercial district to strengthen village vitality, limit strip development, and preserve scenic views along Route 15. For more information, contact Katherine Sonnick ksonnick@jerichovt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$17,300

Grant Funds Awarded: \$14,200

Johnson – Natural Resource Planning

The funds will help the town develop a natural resources inventory to inform and guide future decisions that both protect natural resources and allow for new growth and development. For more information, contact Lea Kilvadyova lkilvadyova@townofjohnson.com.

Total Project Cost: \$16,971

Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,981

Londonderry – Municipal Plan

Londonderry will use the funds to engage stakeholders in identifying local challenges and possible solutions and will create a 20-year town vision to guide future policies and public investments. For more information, contact Sharon Crossman shacro@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$11,200

Grant Funds Awarded: \$10,133

Manchester – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

The project will overhaul and consolidate local regulations to more effectively implement smart growth, housing, economic development and conservation goals set forth in the town plan. For more information, contact John O’Keefe j.okeefe@manchester-vt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$20,150

Grant Funds Awarded: \$16,100

Middlebury – Planning for State Designated Downtown

Increased downtown investment and activity has limited Middlebury’s available parking. Therefore, the town will use grant funds to study and evaluate its options including potential sites for a downtown parking garage. For more information, contact Jennifer Murray jmurray@townofmiddlebury.org.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Montpelier – Municipal Plan

Montpelier will update its municipal plan to create clearer and more cohesive implementation strategies to guide decision-making and future public investments. For more information, contact Michael Miller mmiller@montpelier-vt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$14,500

Grant Funds Awarded: \$12,333

Newbury – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

This project will update and align local land use regulations and policies with the newly adopted town plan that emphasizes economic development and preservation of the historic village character. For more information, contact Alma Royston alma.roystan@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$15,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$12,667

Newfane – Municipal Plan

Funding will update the town plan and incorporate goals and action items identified in the recent report “[Revitalizing Southern Vermont’s Village Strategies for Building Strong Communities & Economic Resilience](#).” The updated plan will support state designation of the villages of Newfane, South Newfane & Williamsville. For more information, contact Shannon Meckle tnewfane@svcable.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Panton – Municipal Plan: Grant funds will help update the town plan to address issues of flood resilience, stormwater management, shoreline protection, and water quality. For more information, contact John Viskup jhviskup@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$11,130

Grant Funds Awarded: \$10,087

Proctor – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Proctor will update and align their local regulations with the recently adopted town plan and the goals set out in the “[Proctor Prosperity Plan](#).” The update will support the revitalization of the state designated village center and develop polices for flood reduction and renewable energy. For more information, contact Stanley Wilbur proctor_administrator@comcast.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Reading – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

The Town of Reading will use funds to update their zoning bylaws and map to address several items identified in their 2015 town plan including flood hazards and wildlife travel corridors. For more information, contact Allen Robert rallen@star-su.com.

Total Project Cost: \$8,280

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,187

Rutland – Bylaw Adoption/Amendment

Funds will be used to create stormwater and stream corridor standards for the Moon Brook watershed. The project will involve public outreach and education on the benefits that reducing stormwater and protecting river corridors brings to the entire community. For more information, contact Joseph Zingale rutlandtown@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$25,684

Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,789

St. Johnsbury – Planning for State Designated Downtown

St. Johnsbury will develop a plan to increase recreational opportunities for residents and visitors by creating public access point on the Passumpsic River and connecting this recreational area to the state designated downtown. For more information, contact Chad Whitehead cwhitehead@stjvt.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Shaftsbury – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

The project will support investment and revitalization of the village center with updated local regulations that are concise, user-friendly and consistent. For more information, contact Shelly Stiles zoning@shaftsburyvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$12,525

Grant Funds Awarded: \$11,017

South Hero – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

South Hero will encourage development opportunities in the right places with updates to its regulations. The community will consider form-based code and ensure their bylaws are consistent with Act 250's new Criterion 9(L) which was recently enacted to limit strip development. For more information, contact Sandy Gregg frogrock37@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$17,700

Grant Funds Awarded: \$14,467

Stamford – Flood Resilience Planning

The project will revise the town plan with new recommendations to reduce flooding and update information in the natural, scenic, and historical resources sections. For more information, contact Stephen Bechtel sbechtel05352@gmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,600 *

Stockbridge – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

This project seeks to implement the newly adopted town plan with updates to their local land use regulations. For more information, contact Mark Pelletier townofstockbridge@myfairpoint.net.

Total Project Cost: \$9,504

Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,003

Strafford – Municipal Plan

This project will support a community conversation about ways to reduce floods and appropriately site renewable energy facilities. For more information, contact Lisa Kendall townclerk@straffordvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$10,872

Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,915

Weathersfield – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Weathersfield will update their zoning bylaws to conform with new policies in the town plan, focusing on economic development and flood resiliency. Grant funds will also be used to develop a website to provide easy public access to town plan information and gather feedback on proposed changes. For more information, contact Jim Mullen townmanager@weathersfield.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,410

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,940

Westford – Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Planning

The town will study its needs and financing options to develop and operate a community wastewater system to support new growth in the state designated village center. For more information, contact Melissa Manka planner@westfordvt.us.

Total Project Cost: \$15,866

Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,244

West Rutland – Planning for State Designated Village Center

West Rutland will develop a village master plan to explore redevelopment and revitalization opportunities to make the village more vibrant and pedestrian friendly. For more information, contact Mary Goulette mgoulette@westrutlandtown.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

West Windsor – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

West Windsor will combine its existing land use bylaws into a single unified development bylaw. This effort will include a variety of updates related to the new town plan including flood resilience, building densities, affordable housing, renewable energy, wildlife habitat, conservation, and development on steep slopes. For more information, contact Richard Beatty rjbeatty@cshore.com.

Total Project Cost: \$9,360

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,907

Windham – Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw

Funds will be used to update zoning regulations to align them with the community goals identified in the newly adopted town plan. For more information, contact Alison Trowbridge atrowbridge@myfairpoint.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,970 *

Wolcott – Energy Infrastructure and Flood/Community Resiliency Planning

The town will work with a consultant to develop a solar feasibility study on the town landfill site and advance local goals to generate more local clean energy. For more information, contact Belinda Clegg wolcott@pshift.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

State Award Funding Totals: \$478,317

*No local match is required for projects under \$8,000