

FY17 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 234 cities and towns. This year, over \$460,000 was awarded to 38 municipalities. The winning FY17 projects are described below.

Barnet – Town Hall Study

Barnet will hire the expert help it needs to develop a plan and budget to renovate and relocate the town offices to the historic McIndoe Falls Academy. For more information, contact Benjamin Heisholt, townclerk@barnetvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Bennington – Increasing Walking and Biking Opportunities

Bennington will develop a transportation infrastructure plan to increase safe walking and bicycling opportunities throughout Bennington's Designated Growth Center. For more information, contact Daniel Monks, danielwmonks@gmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Benson – Updating Policies to Shape Future Development

Benson will use grant funds to help preserve its rural character, promote traditional and diversified agricultural uses, and encourage renewable energy development consistent with local expectations. For more information, contact Thomas Bartholomew, tbarthol@shoreham.net.

Total Project Cost: \$8,000 *

Berkshire – Protecting Rural Character

Funds will be used to protect Berkshire's agricultural and forest lands and encourage traditional development in its historic villages. For more information, contact Virginia Messier, townclerk@berkshirevt.com.

Total Project Cost: \$14,067

Grant Funds Awarded: \$12,045

Bradford – Evaluating Development Potential

Bradford's grant will help the community evaluate potential locations to support businesses and create jobs in the designated village center and the Lower Plain Commercial District. For more information, contact Danielle Robinson, admistrator@bradford-vt.us.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Brattleboro – Studying Downtown Parking Needs

This comprehensive review of the downtown parking supply and demand will result in recommendations to support downtown vitality well into the future. For more information, contact Rod Francis, rfrancis@brattleboro.org.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Cabot – Revitalizing the Village

The funding will help the community prepare a detailed economic development plan with recommendations to bring new businesses, visitors, and vitality to the village. For more information, contact Betty Ritter, tcocabot@fairpoint.net.

Total Project Cost: \$25,989

Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,993

Concord – Expanding Tourism Opportunities

Grant funds will improve the connections with the Kingdom Trails biking network to give visitors at the Burke Mountain Resort more opportunities to visit Concord village businesses. For more information, contact Cynthia Stuart, cstuart3747@gmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$6,930 *

Cornwall – Protecting Working Lands and Natural Resources

Building on the success of the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife's Community Values Mapping Project, Cornwall will update its regulations to preserve its working landscape and natural resources. For more information, contact Susan Johnson, cornwallvt@shoreham.net.

Total Project Cost: \$18,680

Grant Funds Awarded: \$15,120

Fairlee – Studying Household Income

Fairlee will conduct a household income study aiming to improve the town's eligibility for state water system improvement funding for the village. For more information, contact Chris Sargent, csargent@trorc.org.

Total Project Cost: \$8,552

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,368

Hardwick – Locating New Sites for Business

Hardwick's downtown offers great incubator space for small businesses, but in-town space for mid-sized business expansion is limited. Grant funds will evaluate several new locations to create jobs and connect residents to new economic opportunities. For more information, contact Brittany Currie, brittany.cote@hardwickvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$20,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$16,000

Highgate – Creating a Community Center

The town will hire experts to help it explore options to renovate, expand or construct a new library and community center in the village. For more information, contact Heidi Britch-Valenta, hbvalenta@comcast.net.

Total Project Cost: \$15,125

Grant Funds Awarded: \$12,750

Irasburg – Developing First Ever Municipal Plan

Irasburg 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 development and conservation, and help local leaders prioritize public investments. For more information, contact Danielle Ingalls, irasburgtc@comcast.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Jamaica – Preparing for Floods and Revitalizing Villages

The grant will help the town reduce damage from floods and improve conditions for businesses in its two villages, including strategies to address the lack of water and wastewater infrastructure. For more information, contact Sarah Bassett, vedajamaica@gmail.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Jeffersonville – Protecting the Village from Future Floods

Furthering Jeffersonville’s innovative work to reduce and better manage flood risks and protect the village from future disaster, the grant will help the town update and refine the regulations that govern building in vulnerable locations. For more information, contact Seth Jensen, seth@lcpvvt.org.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,000 *

Manchester – Mapping Downtown Manchester Future

Manchester will bring townspeople together to map-out desired changes for downtown, resulting in a vision and action plan that will guide both public and private improvements over the next ten to fifteen years. For more information, contact Janet Hurley, j.hurley@manchester-vt.gov.

Total Project Cost: \$25,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,333

Milton – Coordinating Public and Private Investments

Milton will use grant funds to streamline the local review process and ensure new projects and public improvements meet the goals of the community. For more information, contact Jacob Hemmerick, jhemmerick@town.milton.vt.us.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Peacham – Guiding New Economic Development Opportunities.

Grant funds will enable Peacham to organize a robust community conversation on revitalizing the village, encouraging housing, businesses and farming, addressing renewable energy, and more as part of the town plan update. For more information, contact Stanley Fickes, townclerk@peacham.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$6,465 *

Putney – Protecting the Community from Future Floods

Putney will update its regulations to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure, private property, residents and the environment. For more information, contact Phillip Bannister, pip@sover.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,750 *

Randolph – Exploring a Virtual Community Center

The grant will facilitate a public discussion about the feasibility of a “virtual” community center to organize a wide range of community activities that serve the region. For more information, contact Julie Iffland, julie.iffland@racdc.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,998 *

Rutland City – Aligning Policies to Support Downtown Revitalization

Local leaders will use grant funds to keep up the momentum of Rutland’s downtown renaissance by crafting zoning updates aimed at improving housing opportunities, attracting new businesses, and encouraging infill construction. For more information, contact Barbara Spaulding, spauldingrra@rutlandvtbusiness.com.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Ryegate – Modernizing its Town Plan

Ryegate will use grant funds to update its local policies on economic development, flood resilience, housing and renewable energy siting. For more information, contact Marsha Nelson, ryegateclerk@yahoo.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,160 *

St. Albans City – Getting the Most out of Taylor Park

Grant funds will result in an action plan for Taylor Park recommending options to improve the vitality, use, and maintenance needs of St. Albans’ premier downtown gathering space. For more information, contact Chip Sawyer, c.sawyer@stalbansvt.com.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Springfield – Promoting a Healthy Community

Springfield is turning its town plan goals into action with new regulations to enable compact, walkable development. For more information, contact Bill Kearns, toszoning@vermontel.net.

Total Project Cost: \$9,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,667

Starksboro – Sustaining Rural Economy

Grant funds will help the town engage citizens to chart a path towards reducing local flood risks, preserving scenic resources, and providing guidance to site renewable energy projects. For more information, contact David Wetmore, starksborozoning@gmavt.net.

Total Project Cost: \$9,100
Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,733

Tunbridge – Shaping Future Development

Concerns over a development proposal to urbanize this small rural town have spurred local leaders to hire experts to help them take proactive steps to ensure new development meets the needs and expectations of residents. For more information, contact Chris Sargent, csargent@trorc.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,964
Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,309

Vernon – Identifying New Opportunities

Grant funds will help the residents create a vision to restore the vitality of the village with a vision and strategies to attract new businesses and job opportunities. For more information, contact Robert Spencer, spencebbc@aol.com.

Total Project Cost: \$16,975

Grant Funds Awarded: \$13,983

Wallingford – Planning for Change

Grant funds will help the community update the town plan to improve the village and address concerns about renewable energy siting, flood resilience, and the identification of important forest lands and wildlife corridors. For more information, contact Julie Sharon, townadmin@wallingfordvt.com.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,955 *

Warren – Thinking Beyond its Borders

Warren will use grant funds to integrate its municipal plan with neighboring towns, define its community priorities, and develop a user-friendly road map to guide local decision-making and investments. For more information, contact Alma Royston, alma.roystan@gmail.com.

Total Project Cost: \$14,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$12,000

Waterbury – Bolstering Housing and Commerce

Waterbury will update its local regulations to promote housing and commercial development opportunities while preserving the surrounding rural countryside. For more information, contact Stephen Lotspeich, slotspeich@waterburyvt.com.

Total Project Cost: \$20,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$16,000

Waterford – Improving Local Regulations

Funds will be used to protect Waterford's working lands and scenic views, expand housing options and improve stormwater management in the town. For more information, contact Alison Low, alison@nvda.net.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$7,180 *

Waterville – Mitigating Future Floods

Grant funds will help Waterville develop a plan to reduce and mitigate the impacts of future flooding events on private property and public infrastructure. For more information, contact Scott Johnson, sjohnson@lamoillefamilycenter.org.

Grant Funds Awarded: \$3,159 *

Weathersfield – Increasing Economic Village Vitality

Weathersfield will obtain expert assistance to help develop a plan and strategies to leverage recent water system improvements to attract new businesses to its two village centers. For more information, contact David Osgood, landuse@weathersfield.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,210

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,807

West Fairlee – Planning for Economic Development and Floods

West Fairlee will develop new policies and strategies to support economic development in its village center and identify ways to reduce flood risks. For more information, contact Chris Sargent, csargent@trorc.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,830

Grant Funds Awarded: \$9,220

West Rutland – Redeveloping the Westway Mall

Funds will support a public/private partnership to turn a 40-year old strip mall into a thriving, mixed-use development that welcomes residents and visitors to West Rutland's historic center. For more information, contact Elysa Smigielski, elysa@rutlandrpc.org.

Total Project Cost: \$25,993

Grant Funds Awarded: \$19,995

Windsor – Building Walkable Neighborhoods

Windsor will update its policies to preserve its rural areas, guide re-development of its former industrial properties, and encourage compact, walkable development in both its downtown and rural neighborhoods. For more information, contact Cori Baptisella, corib@windsorvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$9,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$8,667

Winooski – Strengthening the Local Economy

Winooski will develop a road map to improve the commercial vitality of the downtown, add more housing options, and increase employment opportunities for city residents. For more information, contact Heather Carrington, hcarrington@winooskivt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$26,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$20,000

Wolcott – Reducing Flood Risks

Wolcott will hire experts to prepare a flood analysis with alternatives for reducing flood impacts in critical areas of the town. This town plan update will build on recommendations and lessons learned in similar flood studies conducted in other towns along the Lamoille River. For more information, contact Seth Jensen, seth@lpcvvt.org.

Total Project Cost: \$13,000

Grant Funds Awarded: \$11,333

State Award Funding Totals: \$464,920

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