



Program Overview

The Better Connections program aims to improve state interagency coordination by providing targeted assistance and funding to awarded communities to align state and local investments to increase transportation options, improve water quality, public health and economic vitality in Vermont's community centers. The interagency program provides targeted assistance to: 1.) Help communities identify and prioritize their goals and projects; 2.) Develop an action-oriented roadmap to achieve the goals and move projects forward; 3.) Link the communities to a growing network of public and philanthropic partners to help them implement their priority projects. Municipalities annually compete for approximately \$200,000 in projects funds. A 10% local cash match is required.

Website: <http://trans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>

By the Numbers [2015 - 2018]

\$1.6 M

in grant
funds requested

\$715,000

in grant
funds awarded

\$133,000

in local
match funds

12

better connections
grants awarded

Grant Recipients

- 2015 - Warren/Waitsfield, Vergennes and West Rutland/Town of Rutland
- 2016 - Chester, Montpelier, and Springfield
- 2017 - Brighton, St. Albans and Windsor
- 2018 - Danville, Enosburgh and Hyde Park

Documenting Results - Vergennes Downtown Basin Master Plan



The City of Vergennes created an action-oriented plan to improve the biking and walking connections between the downtown and Basin Harbor. The plan recommended options to market the downtown, maximize recreational opportunities, connect community assets and stimulate the local economy. Implementation is currently underway, with the city installing streetscape retrofits and creating a walk/bike taskforce to improve safety and make downtown businesses more accessible for everyone, regardless of whether they travel by bus, bike, foot or car.

Website: <http://vergennes.org/downtown-basin-master-plan/>

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