Better Connections
Collaboration Leads to Results

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://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections

By the Numbers [2015 - 2019]

- $2.3 M in grant funds requested
- $1.1 M in grant funds awarded
- $155,000 in local match funds
- 15 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
2019 - Fairlee, Middlebury, and Northfield

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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