



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

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Vermont's Complete Streets Law and What It Means for You

For two years dozens of Vermont organizations, led by AARP Vermont, advocated for a Complete Streets law in Vermont. The Governor signed Vermont's Complete Streets bill (H.198, Act 34) into law, effective July 1st, 2011. What does this mean for you?

The principle underlying the Complete Streets concept is that streets should safely accommodate all transportation system users, regardless of age, ability, or what mode of transportation they prefer – walking, biking, driving, or use of transit. What need does the law address? *Approximately half of our population does not drive* (i.e., those under age 16, the elderly, the disabled, those who don't have the means to support the operating costs associated with driving, and those who choose not to drive). The purpose of the Complete Streets bill is to ensure that the needs of all transportation system users are considered in all state and municipally managed transportation projects and project phases, including planning, development, construction, and maintenance, *except* in the case of projects or project components involving unpaved highways. The policy applies when new roads are being constructed, and when paved roads are being reconstructed, rehabilitated, or otherwise maintained.

Note that the bill is not a mandate to retrofit existing roads. The bill identifies three circumstances in which these principles would not be incorporated:

1. Use of the transportation facility by pedestrians, bicyclists, or other users is prohibited by law.
2. The cost of incorporating complete streets principles is disproportionate to the need or probable use as determined by factors such as land use, current and projected user volumes, population density, crash data, historic and natural resource constraints, and maintenance requirements. The municipality shall consult local and regional plans in assessing these and any other relevant factors.
3. Incorporating "complete streets" principles is outside the scope of a project because of its very nature.

If the project does not include complete streets after consideration of the factors above, the managing municipality must make a written determination accompanied by supporting documentation that is available for public inspection at the office of the municipal clerk and the Agency of Transportation. Written determinations will be final and not subject to appeal or further review.

Our staff can help you better understand what the Complete Streets legislation means for your town, and how your projects and ideas could be impacted. For more information contact Bethany Remmers, bethany@nrpcvt.com or 524-5958.

Resources and more Information:

- The bill as enacted: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2012/Acts/ACT034.pdf>
- State of Vermont Press Release: <http://governor.vermont.gov/newsroom-complete-streets-signing>
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns Legislative Wrap Up: http://www.vlct.org/assets/Advocacy/2011_wrapup_web.pdf
- National Complete Streets Coalition: <http://www.completestreets.org/>
- AARP Vermont: www.blcp.org/about/complete-streets



Take a Seat in the Islands

Sixteen unique benches created by local artists were displayed in venues throughout the Champlain Islands during 'Take a Seat,' presented by the Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Lake Champlain Transportation. The benches were sold at a live auction on August 13th at the North Hero Community Hall. NRPC sponsored a bench by artist Sandra Lambert, which was displayed at the Alburgh Welcome Center.

Hurricane Irene

Thank you to all local officials who dedicated time and responded to Hurricane Irene. If you have questions about damage reports for recovery contact Allison at 524-5958 or astori@nrpcvt.com.

Road Workshop Roadside Ditch Management Workshop

The NRPC, along with Vermont Better Back Roads and the Town of Highgate, will host a workshop on roadside ditch management for road foreman and municipal officials. The workshop will include lunch, a presentation on effective maintenance techniques and site visit with hands on demonstrations. Road crew members who attend will be given erosion control blankets at no-charge. This training and free erosion control materials for workshop participants are funded through a Section 319 Non Point Source grant with the Vermont Department of Conservation.

Date: Monday,
September 12th, 2011

Time: 12:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Location:
Town of Highgate
Municipal Office
2296 VT Route 78
Highgate, VT 05459

Please RSVP by:
September 8th to
Bethany Remmers at 524-5958 or
bethany@nrpcvt.com

- Who Should Attend**
- Town Highway Departments
 - Public Works Departments
 - Municipal Officials

**FREE Lunch and Free Erosion
Control Materials to
Participating Road Crews!**

Start Your Own Business Seminars/Workshops

Starting your own business can be challenging...are you ready? If not, you'll want to attend! The Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC) offers 3-hour workshops on "how to start your own business" and write a business plan; designed for individuals who are thinking about going into business but need assistance with the procedures involved and government regulations regarding starting a business in Vermont.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday September 14	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Enosburg Library - 241 Main Street Enosburg Falls Village
Wednesday September 21	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce - 3501 US Route 2 North Hero
Wednesday October 5	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Richford Town Hall Richford
Wednesday October 12	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce - 3501 US Route 2 North Hero
Wednesday November 16	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Franklin County Industrial Corporation - 2 North Main Street St. Albans City
Thursday December 1	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Lake Champlain Chamber/Greater Burlington Industrial Corp. 60 Main Street - Burlington
Wednesday December 7	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce - 3501 US Route 2 North Hero

Laurel Butler will be the speaker at of these seminars/workshops.
For a complete listing of events or to register visit: www.vtsbdc.org (under Training).

Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 10th, 2011

Rail Trail Council member Jane Williams will lead participants in a hike up Burnt Mountain (elevation 2,600') in Montgomery Center. Meet at 9 am. Duration approx. 3 hours round trip. Level of difficulty – moderate to strenuous. Bring your own picnic/refreshments. No dogs allowed. Participation limited to 10 people. For directions to meeting place call 933-8851 or e-mail cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net, or 827-3879. Organized by the Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council.

Monday, September 12th, 2011

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council will hold it's next regular business meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 12th, at Sheldon Elementary School (in the library), Sheldon Springs, VT. All welcome. For more information call 933-8851.

NRPC SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 8th, 7:00pm, Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

September 14th, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

September 15th, 3:00pm, Brownfields Steering Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

September 28th, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Mtg., WIB Training Facility, Precision Lane, Swanton



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