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Agency of Transportation

Municipal Assistance Bureau

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TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Jon Kaplan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
DATE: April 29, 2019
RE: **2019 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**

I am happy to announce that we are soliciting applications for projects this year through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. The intent of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects.

The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for either a scoping study or a design/construction project for the following facilities:

- Bicycle lanes (on-road facility delineated with pavement markings and signs)
- Shoulders (generally a minimum of 3-foot wide to accommodate bicyclists)
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements, including median pedestrian refuge islands
- Pedestrian signals
- Improvements that address requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Shared-use paths (designed for use by both bicyclists and pedestrians)

Projects may be combinations of any of the above facilities.

Projects with the following emphasis will be considered favorably:

- Facilities that address a documented safety concern such as a high crash location
- Connectivity within overall bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Proximity and access to and within village centers and downtown areas
- Facilities that serve multiple uses e.g. access to businesses, residences and schools

In 2015, we added a “small projects” category that is funded with state dollars only and this type of project is eligible again this year. The intent of these projects is to implement necessary safety improvements like signs, pavement markings, crossing enhancements or on-road bike facilities through striping. These projects may be bid out or done by local forces. This category is not to be used to match federal funds on a larger project.

For a copy of the VTrans 2019 Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program Guide and to access the application materials, visit the VTrans Bike/Ped Program website: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>. You may also obtain a copy or ask any questions about the program or application process by contacting me by phone at (802) 498-4742 or email at jon.kaplan@vermont.gov.

As in previous years, there will be workshops provided to potential applicants. It is strongly recommended that an official representative of the applicant attend one of these sessions. This year, the sessions will be provided as a webinar and attendees will access them using a link provided in the Grant program guide. The two sessions are scheduled on Monday May 13, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM and Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. You can participate in the training from any computer connected to the internet. If you don't have an internet connection, you may access the training via phone by calling 1-802-552-8456 and entering the following conference ID: May 13 – 35417001; May 15 – 12794052. Reservations are not required for the workshops.

The preferred method to submit applications is in electronic format as Adobe .pdf files. Hard copy applications will still be accepted. Complete applications are **due by 1:00 PM on June 28, 2019**.

I strongly urge you to work with your Regional Planning Commission. These organizations are valuable resources and can help you refine your project. Additionally, VTrans staff are available to visit potential projects to offer suggestions on project scope and to help communities decide which category is best suited for the project. Contact Jon Kaplan regarding possible site visits.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is committed to this program and working with applicants to complete successful projects. This is not a block grant but rather a reimbursement program. Successful applicants will be expected to enter into a grant agreement with VTrans that will lay out respective responsibilities as all projects must be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state rules and regulations.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Kaplan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jon" being more prominent than the last name "Kaplan".

Jon Kaplan, P.E.
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