



**VTrans Transportation Alternatives (TAP)
and
Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program Grant (MHSMP)
Combined Application**

Thoroughly read the TAP and MHSMP application guidebooks before you begin your application. It includes important program information and step-by-step instructions. Pay particular attention to the application process requirements. Please e-mail the completed application to: aot.hwymunlactive@vermont.gov and cc: ross.gouin@vermont.gov and scott.robertson@vermont.gov.

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| <u>East Montpelier Village Sidewalk Extension</u> (Project Name/Title) | <u>802-279-9074</u> (Phone) |
| <u>Jennifer Divine</u> (Municipality contact person responsible for the management of this project) | <u>manager@eastmontpeliervt.org</u> (e-mail address) |
| <u>East Montpelier</u> (Town) | <u>\$ 56,000</u> Amount of Federal Funds requested (no more than 80% of the project cost estimate). |
| <u>05651</u> (Zip Code) | <u>\$14000</u> Amount of Local Match. Example: Federal Award = \$600,000 (80% of total) Local Match = \$150,000 (20% of total) Total Project Cost = \$750,000 (100% of the tot |
| <u>40 Kelton Rd, East Montpelier, VT 05651</u> (Mailing Address) | |

County: Washington

Town/Village/City: East Montpelier

Specific location, street, or road: RT 14

Regional Planning Commission: CVRPC

If a linear project, what is the length in feet? 1500

Is the project on or intersecting to a State maintained highway? Yes No

- Note: If yes, be sure to include documentation that you have notified the VTrans District Transportation Administrator of the intent to apply for TA funding and have provided them with a brief (one paragraph) description of the proposed project.*

Project type being applied for: **Scoping** **Design/Construction**

The municipality understands that a typical construction project utilizing TAP or MHSMP Program funds will take roughly three years (min.) in the Design and ROW phases prior to going to construction (as pointed out in the TAP and MHSMP Application Guides)? Yes No

Does this project have a previously completed scoping or feasibility study? Yes No

Note:

Attach a map(s) of the project area and clearly show the limits of the project as well as surrounding benefits from the proposed improvement. If the project is within or adjacent to a designated downtown, village or growth center, clearly indicate the relationship of the proposed project to the boundary of the designated area. Color photos of the area are also recommended.

Fiscal Information:

Accounting System Automated Manual Combination

SAM Unique Identifier # ZKA5KW8JA5K8 _____

Fiscal Year End Month 06 _____

Property Ownership:

If the proposed project is on private property that will need to be acquired by the Municipality through purchase, easement, or eminent domain (includes temporary construction rights) in accordance with the "Uniform Act", then the municipality is committed to exercising its right of **eminent domain** to acquire the rights to construct the project if necessary. Yes No

Funding:

Does this project already have existing funding? If so, please describe. Yes No

Please note that existing projects will not be considered for additional funding without a current NEPA clearance and ROW clearance. Please provide date of clearances below:
NEPA and ROW clearance will be investigated in the scoping study.

Will you accept an award less than you applied for? Yes No

- If yes, please indicate whether local funds will be used to make up the shortfall, or if the project scope will be reduced. If the project scope is to be reduced, describe what part of the project (please be specific) you would accept partial funding for.
Scope will be reduced.

A support letter from the governing body of the applicant municipality or organization and an acknowledgement and source of the local match and commitment to future maintenance responsibility for construction projects is required (must be dated within 1 year of the application). Is a letter of support attached?

Yes No

Regional Planning Commission Letter of Support:

In order to apply, the project must have a letter of support from the regional planning commission. Is a letter of support attached?

Yes No

Please note that applications for additional project funding will not be considered if they do not have a current NEPA clearance and Right of Way Clearance.

PLEASE NOTE: If this application is for salt or sand shed funding, the applicant must read and understand the Municipal Assistance Section Salt Shed Application Guide. All of the following scoring questions below must thoroughly convey an understanding of the salt and sand guidance provided.

Application Scoring Criteria:

1. Please give a brief description of the project (be sure to indicate the primary facility type being applied for and be concise).
(10 points max.)

This project will be a sidewalk project along Vermont Route 14, creating a safe and accessible pedestrian connection between the Upper and Lower Villages. This project represents a long-standing priority for our town and is essential for enhancing public safety, connectivity, and quality of life for our residents.

The current lack of a safe pedestrian route along Route 14 forces residents to walk on the shoulder of a busy state highway, putting their safety at risk. This is particularly concerning given the significant number of residents who walk or bike to access key locations such as the post office, the general store, rail trail, and other businesses. This sidewalk extension will provide a vital link, ensuring all members of our community—including children, seniors, and those with limited mobility—can travel safely between the two village centers.

2. **What is the feasibility of this project? Feasibility (or Scoping) study applications will not be scored on this criterion. Also, please describe the extent of project development to date.**
(10 points max.)
This application is for a scoping study. Feasibility will be addressed by the scoping study.

3. **Does this project address a need identified in a local or regional planning document? If so, please describe.**
(5 points max.)

This project aligns with the town's broader vision for a more walkable and bicycle-friendly community, as outlined in our Town Plan. The Town has already made progress on other sections of village sidewalks, and this extension represents the next logical and necessary step to create a complete and cohesive pedestrian network.

4. **Does this project:**

- A. Benefit a State Designated Center per the link below (i.e., downtowns, villages, or neighborhood growth centers recognized by the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development)?

Not applicable for Environmental Mitigation Categories (5 points max.)

<http://maps.vermont.gov/ACCD/PlanningAtlas/index.html?viewer=PlanningAtlas>

This project directly supports and connects to the sidewalk network in the East Montpelier Village center, which was granted Village Center designation by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

- B. Benefit mobility for disadvantaged populations to include elderly, disabled, minorities, and low-income residents. Please describe this impact (if applicable) in detail. Supporting documentation, including recent data must be included.

Not applicable for Environmental Mitigation Categories (10 points max.)

The current lack of a safe pedestrian route along Route 14 forces residents to walk on the shoulder of a busy state highway, putting their safety at risk. The lack of a safe route disproportionately affects the elderly, disabled, minority, and low-income residents. This is particularly concerning given the significant number of residents who walk or bike to access key locations such as the post office, the general store, rail trail, and other businesses. This sidewalk extension will provide a vital link, ensuring all members of our community—including children, seniors, and those with limited mobility—can travel safely between the two village centers.

5. Provide a project cost estimate below (project costs below include both federal dollars and local dollars). Projects will be scored based on whether the cost appears realistic for the size and scope of the project. For scoping studies, use PE and Local Project Management lines only.

Note: If you are applying for additional funds for an existing project, show the amount being requested for this grant in the PE, ROW, Construction, Construction Engineering, and Municipal Project Management rows below. Also, be clear regarding total project cost and other funding amounts and sources in the additional funding comments box below.

(10 points max.)

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|--|------------------|
| Preliminary Engineering (PE) <i>(Engineering, Surveying, Permitting)</i> | \$ <u>70,000</u> |
| Right-of-way / Acquisition (ROW) <i>(appraisals, land acquisition and legal fees)</i> | \$ <u>0</u> |
| Construction <i>(construction costs with reasonable contingency)</i> | \$ <u>0</u> |
| Construction Engineering <i>(cost to provide inspection during construction)</i> | \$ <u>0</u> |

*Municipal Project Management Costs
(minimum of 10% of total PE, ROW and Construction
Phases).*

\$ 0

Total Project Cost \$ 70,000

**Addition Funding Comments: (ex. Total and additional funding for existing projects)
None.**

6. Select the eligibility category below (A, B, C or D) that best fits your project and answer the corresponding questions for that category (choose only one category). 10 bonus points will be awarded to projects that are primarily Bicycle or Pedestrian facilities.

A. Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (includes Safe Routes for Non-Drivers and Conversion of abandoned railroad corridors.

(i) Will the project contribute to a system of pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities?
(10 points max.)

The project will have a valuable contribution to a system of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. This is an extension to the sidewalk network that was constructed a few years ago. It connects a residential and commercial area of the Upper Village to the lower village. More importantly, it would connect a residential community to critical shops and services like the post office, general store, and park n' ride. It also is along the cross-Vermont trail, a critical bicycle route for tourists and Vermont residents.

(ii) Will the project provide access to likely generators of pedestrian and/or bicyclist activity? **(10 points max.)**

This project will greatly expand the bicycle and pedestrian use of the route connecting the lower and upper villages. Currently, the route forces both bicyclists and pedestrians to travel very closely alongside highway traffic.

- (iii) Will the project address a known, documented safety concern? **(10 points max.)**
The pedestrian and bicycle route along RT 15 between the Upper Village and Lower Village is a known safety concern. Action 6.2.2 of the East Montpelier Town Plan is to provide safe and convenient pedestrian facilities in the East Montpelier Village. Connecting the Upper Village to the Lower Village is listed as a top priority.

B. Community Improvement Activities:

- i. Explain how the project improves the economic wellbeing of the community and/or provide a benefit to state tourism? **(10 points max.)**

This project enhances the wellbeing of the community by providing safe access to critical businesses and services. The East Montpelier Village is situated at the junction of two highways that are common paths of tourists in Vermont. Providing a safe, walkable community will enhance the vibrancy and pedestrian activity of the village, making more attractive to tourists. The added tourists would provide opportunities for a more vibrant commercial activities and associated jobs.

- ii. Describe the anticipated impact to the public; degree of visibility, public exposure and/or public use. **(10 points max.)**

The sidewalk extension project in East Montpelier is anticipated to have a significant and overwhelmingly positive impact on the public, particularly regarding increased safety and community connectivity. The project's degree of visibility, public exposure, and public use are expected to be high due to its location and function.

- iii. Answer only one of the following based on the type of project:

- a) Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas as related to scenic or historic sites.
To what extent will the project provide a view of a highly unique and scenic area?
b) **(10 points max.)**

Not applicable.

- c) Preservation or rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities. *Describe the historic significance of the historic transportation facility and the importance of the facility to the state.* **(10 points max.)**

Not applicable.

- d) Archeological planning and research related to impacts from a transportation project.
Describe the associated transportation project and benefit of the proposed activities.
(10 points max.)

Not applicable.

- e) Vegetation management in transportation rights of way to improve roadway safety, prevent invasive species, and provide erosion control. *Describe the extent of the current problem and the impact on the site and surrounding area. (10 points max.)*
Not applicable.

**C. Environmental Mitigation Activity Related to Stormwater and Highways
(Including Salt and Sand Sheds)**

- i. Please describe how this application provides environmental mitigation relating to stormwater and highways. **(10 points max.)**
Not applicable.
- ii. What information or data is provided to substantiate the current stormwater problem and associated environmental impacts? **(10 points max.)**
Not applicable.
- iii. What substantiating data or information is provided to show that the proposed application is an effective and maintainable solution to the problem? **(10 points max.)**
Not applicable.

D. Environmental Mitigation Activity Related to Wildlife

- i. Please describe how this application will reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or will restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats. **(10 points max.)**
Not applicable.
- ii. What information or data is provided to substantiate the current problem and associated environmental impacts? **(10 points max.)**
Not applicable.

- iii. What substantiating data or information is provided to show that the proposed application is an effective and manageable solution to the problem? **(10 points max.)**
Not applicable.

Project Map

