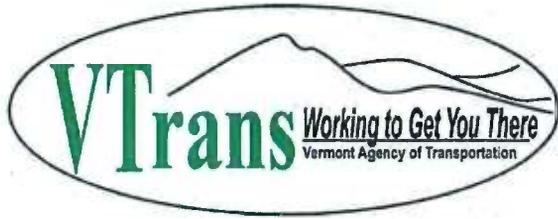


Sue Winter, MUI  
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# 2015 Vermont Better Backroads Program



The Vermont Better Backroads Program is pleased to announce its seventeenth year of funding to support projects on town or private roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The program began in 1997 and continued through 2012 and was administered by Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council. In 2013 the administration of the program was transferred to the Agency of Transportation. The grant funds are provided by the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Backroads Program's goal is to promote the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont's lakes and streams. Funds, subject to availability, will be distributed as small grants to municipalities and local organizations to address town or private road erosion problems.

## Category A – Planning Grant – Road and Culvert Inventory

### Category B – Implementation Grant



Fairfield Before



Fairfield After

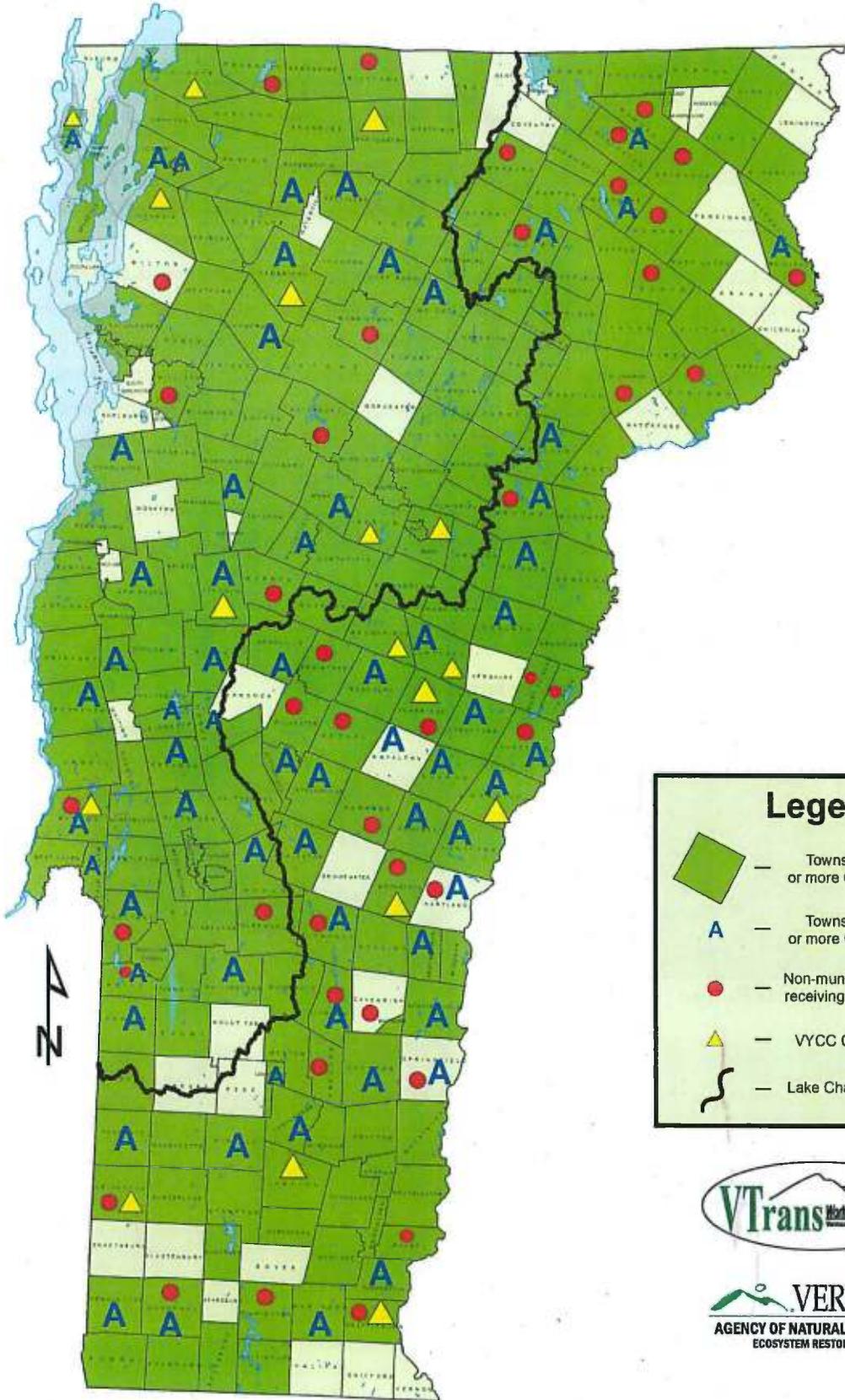


Benson Before



Benson After

# Better Backroads Grant Recipient Towns & Organizations 1997 - 2015

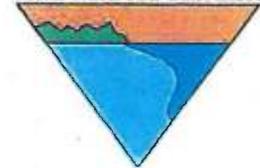


### Legend

- Towns receiving one or more Category B grants
- A — Towns receiving one or more Category A grants
- Non-municipal organizations receiving one or more grants
- VYCC Crew Project Sites
- Lake Champlain Watershed



**Better Backroads**  
Clean Water You Can Afford



**Better Backroads Grant  
Recipient Towns & Organizations  
2015**

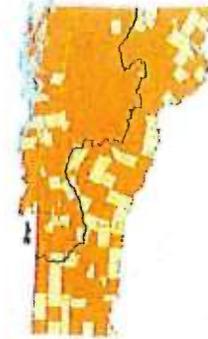
**Category A Grants**

**Contribution Breakdown**

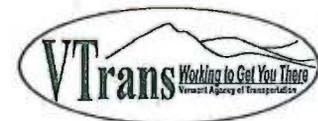
VTTrans: \$85,893.00

**Participation**

Town Category A Grants: 24 Towns



Applicant Name	Project Name/Description	Category	Amount Req.
Franklin Watershed Committee	Lake Carni Camp Road Inventory	A	\$800.00
Town of Andover	Road Inventory/Capital Budget	A	\$3,000.00
Town of Bennington	Road Inventory/Capital Budget Plan	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Bethel	Town wide Culvert Inventory	A	\$4,000.00
<i>Town of Braintree – NEW for 2015</i>	Town Wide Culvert Assessment	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Brighton	Road Inventory/Capital Budget Plan	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Burke	Road Inventory/Capital Budget Plan	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Cavendish	Bridge and Culvert Inventory	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Concord	Road Inventory and Capital Budget	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Groton	Road Inventory and Capital Plan	A	\$4,000.00
<i>Town of Irasburg – NEW for 2015</i>	Town Wide Culvert Inventory	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Marlboro	Road Inventory and Maintenance Plan	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Morgan	Road Inventory and Capital Budget Plan	A	\$1,694.00
Town of Newark	Road Inventory/Capital Budget Plan	A	\$3,840.00
Town of Putney	Road and Culvert Inventory/Capital Budget	A	\$2,993.00
Town of Randolph	Town Wide Erosion Inventory	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Richford	Town Wide Road Inventory Capital Budget	A	\$3,520.00
Town of Shrewsbury	Road Inventory and Capital Budget Plan	A	\$4,000.00
Town of St. Johnsbury	Road Inventory and Capital Budget	A	\$3,546.00
Town of Stockbridge	Town wide Culvert Inventory	A	\$4,000.00
<i>Town of Tunbridge – NEW for 2015</i>	Town Wide Culvert Inventory	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Westmore	Road Inventory and Capital Budget Plan	A	\$4,000.00
Town of Wilmington	Wilmington Town Road Survey	A	\$2,500.00
Town of Woodstock	Town Wide Culvert Inventory	A	\$4,000.00
		Total:	\$85,893.00



**Alan May**

Better Backroads Coordinator

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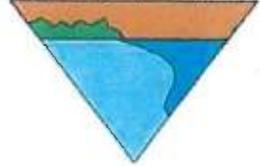
Alan.May@state.vt.us

The Better Backroads Program is in its second year of transition into State Government. The program is housed in the Highway Municipal Assistance Bureau and is funded jointly by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans) and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC). The program offers two types of grants to the municipalities. We have the Category (A) grant which is a planning grant for a maximum amount of \$4,000.00 and the Category (B) grant which is an implementation grant for a maximum amount of \$10,000.00, both with a 20% minimum match by the town. The goal of the program is to provide cost effective techniques to enhance maintenance of gravel roads while improving water quality.

This year we had (96) applications for a grant through the program. Out of the (96) we were able to fund (68) projects. For the (Cat A) planning grant there were (24) awarded, and for the (Cat B) implementation grant there were (41) awards. There were also (10) new towns to the program this year.

The program also reaches out to non-municipalities with funds from (VTDEC) which brings the total projects this year to (68). Technical assistance is offered through the program to all applicants. If you have a project that you think may qualify you can get in touch with **The Better Backroads Program** at the contact information included in this document, **The VT Local Roads Program** at VTTC, your District Contact, or **Local Regional Planning Commission (RPC)**.

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**Better Backroads Grant  
Recipient Towns & Organizations  
2015**

**Category B Grants**

**Contribution Breakdown**

VTrans: \$354,436.00

ANR: \$30,000.00

**Participation**

Town Category B Grants: 43 Towns

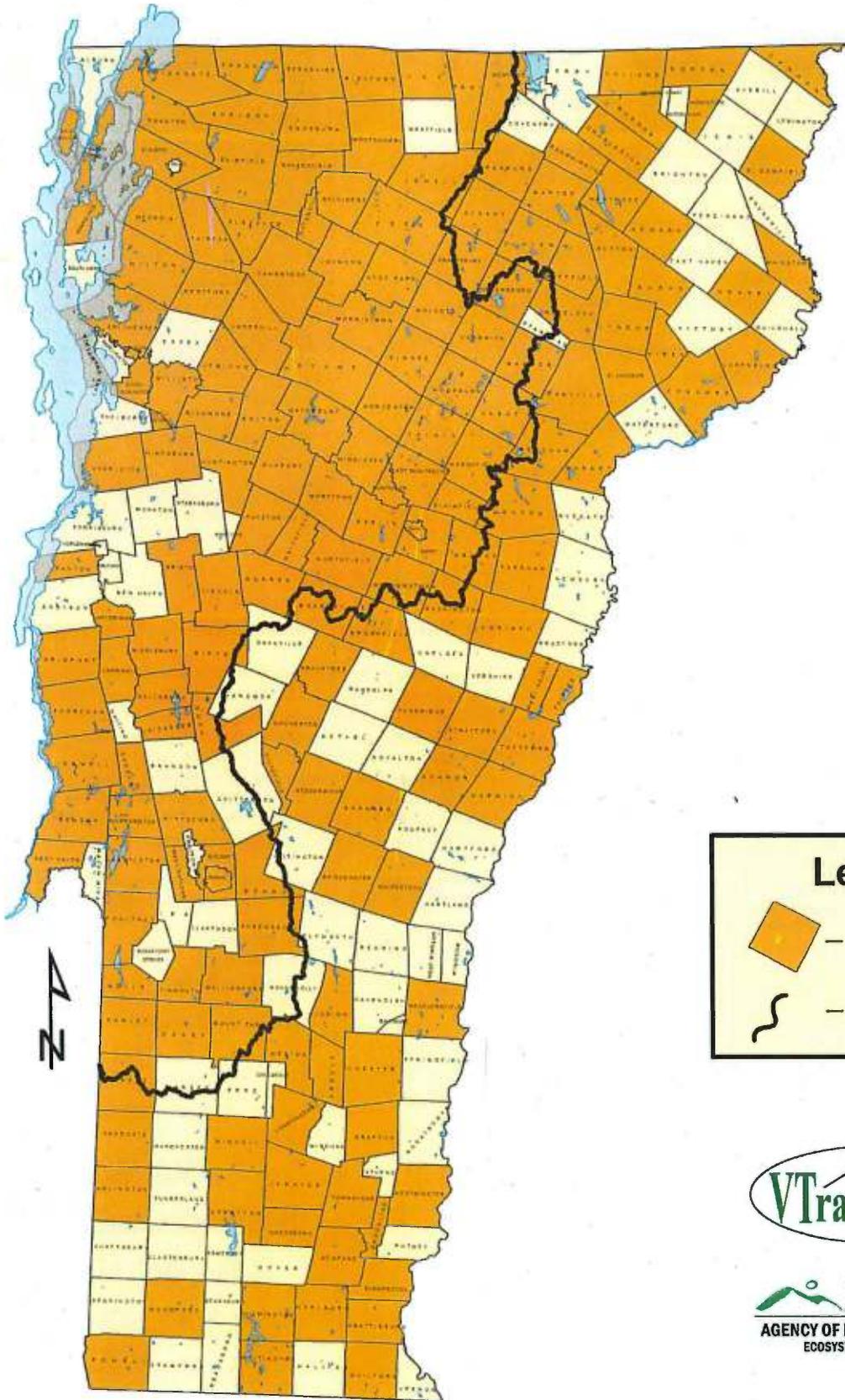


Applicant Name	Project Name/Description	Category	Amount Req.
Town of Barnet	Mosquitoville Road Project	B	\$5,000.00
Town of Belvidere	Laraway Mountain Road Drainage	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Benson	Sunset Lake Road Erosion	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Bridport	Snake Mountain Road	B	\$5,000.00
Town of Burke	Carter Road/Bugbee Crossing Erosion	B	\$10,000.00
<i>Town of Cabot – New for 2015</i>	Bailey-Hazen Culvert Upgrade	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Corinth	Magoon Hill Drainage Improvements	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Danville	Peacham Road Bridge#5	B	\$5,000.00
Town of E. Montpelier	Center Road Ditching	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Eden	Boomhower Brook -Phase Four Ditching	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Fairfield	Northrup Road	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Fletcher	Slattery Road Ditching	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Franklin	Webster Road Ditch Repair	B	\$4,108.00
Town of Huntington	Taft Road Erosion Control Project	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Hyde Park	Cricket Hill Drainage Improvements	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Londonderry	West River Street Culverts	B	\$10,000.00
<i>Town of Lowell – New for 2015</i>	Mink Farm Road/Ranch Road Bridge	B	\$5,504.00
Town of Marlboro	MacArthur Road Drainage	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Mendon	Meadow Lake Drive Erosion Project	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Newark	Newark Pond Road Erosion	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Norwich	Campbell Flats Culvert Replacement	B	\$6,334.00
Town of Orange	Upper Rock Place Road Restoration	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Peacham	Cemetery Hill Road Ditching	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Ripton	Goshen Road Culvert Replacement	B	\$10,000.00
<i>Town of Roxbury – New for 2015</i>	Webster Road Ditch Repair	B	\$10,000.00
Town of St. Johnsbury	Dahlbergh Ditching and Culvert Upgrade	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Sutton	Station Road Stone Line Ditch	B	\$6,350.00
Town of Underhill	Harvey Road	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Warren	Prickey MT Road Erosion Project	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Weathersfield	Thrasher Road Culvert Replacement	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Wells	Endless Brook Road Erosion	B	\$5,000.00
<i>Town of West Rutland – New for 2015</i>	Clark Hill TH#16	B	\$10,000.00
Town of West Windsor	Knob Hill Stream Bank Stabilization	B	\$4,640.00
<i>Town of Westfield – New for 2015</i>	North Hill Road/School Street Erosion	B	\$7,500.00
Town of Westmore	Coles Road Drainage	B	\$5,000.00
<i>Town of Weston – New for 2015</i>	Lawrence Hill Road/ West River	B	\$10,000.00
<i>Town of Weybridge – New for 2015</i>	Snake Mtn. Road/Perkin Road	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Wheelock	Burroughs Road South Ditching	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Williston	East Hill Stone Line Ditch	B	\$5,000.00
Unified Towns and Gores	Cottage Road/Forest Lake Road	B	\$10,000.00
	<b>DEC FUNDED</b>		
Birds of Vermont	Bank Stabilization	B	\$10,000.00
Town of Norton	Norton Town Roads East	B	\$10,000.00
Wayeesses Shore Erosion	Stone Line Ditch	B	\$10,000.00
			\$384,436.00



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# Better Backroads Technical Assistance Site Visits 1997 - 2015



**Legend**

-  — Towns receiving Technical Assistance
-  — Lake Champlain Watershed



# Better Backroads in the News

## St. Johnsbury gets 'Better Back Roads' thanks to grant

ST. JOHNSBURY – The St. Johnsbury Public Works Department has completed a \$16,000 grant project to improve Dahlberg Road.

The job included 700 feet of ditch upgrades, new culverts and rip-rap, said Public Works Director Hugh Wescott. The dead end dirt road is located off River Road, which is also dirt.

Improvements are meant to curb runoff problems that generated frequent washouts on River Road, Wescott said. And washouts deposit sediments into the nearby Passumpsic River, he said.

"The road couldn't take the water and would washout," Wescott said.

Improvements were funded by the Better Back Roads Program. The program provided a \$10,000 grant and St. Johnsbury footed the remainder with in-kind services like materials and labor.

Wescott said the project would not have occurred without the grant.

"We get a grant to take care of a problem road, where otherwise we wouldn't have money to improve them," Wescott said.

He plans to complete a Better Back Roads project annually. The program last year was used to improve a section of Mooney Road.

## Erosion control project completed in Corinth

CORINTH—The Corinth Highway Department has completed another erosion control project funded by Better Backroads.

The project consisted of replacing two culverts near the intersection of Magoon Hill Road and Juniper Chase and armoring the collection ditch above Juniper Chase and the ditch along Magoon Hill Road. Over the years runoff had silted in the collection area above the first culvert and deeply eroded the roadside ditch to a depth of over six feet, which at times had threatened to wash out Magoon Hill Road below Juniper Chase.

The crew filled the eroded roadside ditch, laid erosion control fabric and lined the ditch with heavy erosion stone. Brush and silt was cleared out of the collection ditch above Juniper Chase and it was lined with stone. The heavy stone reduces the velocity of the runoff and dissipates the energy of the flow, reducing the threat of washouts and erosion. This work will protect town infrastructure and eliminate the silt runoff that degrades local trout streams.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation's Better Backroads grant program is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of helping towns reduce damage and erosion on local gravel roads. The grants pay for 80 percent of the costs and the towns make up the balance, which can be offset by using town labor and equipment.

For immediate release:

### Road Improvements in Benson

The Town of Benson has just completed a 1100' stone lined ditch on the west side of Sunset Lake Road, along the section of the road that collapsed last winter. This section of Sunset Lake Road is ledge and the water had been running beneath the road, undermining the road. By getting the water below the ledge and controlling the kinetic energy of the water with 6"-12" rip rap, the road will be safer. At the same time, this project is beneficial to Lake Champlain: the runoff from this section of the road flows into the Hubbardton River which flows into Lake Champlain. Lowering phosphorus flow into the Hubbardton River helps lower the flow into Lake Champlain. \$10,000 of this project was funded by a Better Backroads grant.

Submitted to the Lakes Region FreePress on October 27, 2014.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### West Windsor Highway Department Completes Stabilization Project

With grant funding provided by Better Backroads, the West Windsor Highway Department stabilized three sections of eroding stream bank along Knob Hill Road. The Better Backroads program has been working with towns and nonprofit organizations to correct road-related erosion problems and improve water quality since 1997. The Knob Hill Road project was a collaborative effort involving Better Backroads, the West Windsor Highway Department, and Dan Lesnick Excavating (DLX). "I would like to thank Better Backroads for funding this project," said West Windsor Road Foreman Michael Spackman. This project will improve water quality, protect the road and the stream bank, and prevent material from washing into the stream.

"Projects like these save us money in the end because we don't have to go back year after year and keep shoring up the stream bank when it erodes" Spackman said.

For more information, contact:

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