

VTrans and Water Quality

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Senate Transportation Committee

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VTrans Water Quality Funding Summary for State and Town Highways



Program of Activity [mixed funding sources]	SFY '15	SFY '16 Proposed	SFY '17 Estimate	Comments
State Transportation System Stormwater Compliance, Clean Water Initiative Support and TS4 Initiation	\$3.2 million	\$3.2 million	\$3.56 million	Multiple Federal and State Permits. Begins preparing for TS4 in SFY 2017.
Municipal Mitigation Grant Program (Includes Better Back Roads)	\$872,000	\$650,000	\$470,000	SFY 15 & 16 Includes Earmarks and additional ANR EPR Funding
VTrans Training Center (VTTC)	\$47,000	\$47,000	\$47,000	
Vermont Local Roads	*	*	*	*\$394,700 budgeted annually. Many, but not all of the VLR workshops, have a water quality component
Transportation Alternatives Program	\$0	\$1.1 million	\$1.1 million	FY 17 Assumes that Congressional action allows the program to continue
VTrans Hydraulics Support to Maintenance Districts and Municipalities	\$340,000	\$340,000	\$340,000	
VTrans Hydraulic contribution to Stream Gage Contracts	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	
VTrans ongoing technical support to towns	\$81,000	\$81,000	\$81,000	By VTrans District Techs related to TH Codes & Standards; River Management, TH Grants
Town Highway Grant Programs	\$10.2 million	\$10.2 million	\$10.2 million	Of the \$40.7 million in various TH Grant Programs Managed by VTrans. Includes Class 2 TH, TH Structures, TH Non-Federal Emergency grants; and State Aid Formula Funds for THs)
Total Agency Funds or Federal Pass Through	\$14.8 million	\$15.7 million	\$15.8 million	

VTrans' Roles in the Future: Compliance with the Lake Champlain TMDL

The state's Water Quality Initiative includes several strategies to address stormwater pollution. Those most relevant to transportation include:

- A new statewide transportation stormwater permit for state roads – dubbed a “TS4” permit under the Clean Water Act
- New local roads stormwater standards and permitting program for municipal roads
- Expansion of the number municipalities covered by state stormwater permits (“Municipal separate storm sewer system” (MS4) permit or equivalent)



VTrans' Roles in the Future: TS4 Permit

What is it?

- Federal NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System – Clean Water Act) permit issued under the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) program
- Specific to VTrans and the unique linear nature of its infrastructure
- Ability to roll several stormwater programs under one permit
- Encompasses the entire VTrans System Statewide (roads, air, rail, public transit, maintenance facilities)



VTrans' Roles in the Future: TS4 Permit

Benefits:

- Increase Program effectiveness (for both VTrans and ANR)
- Reduce duplicative administrative burdens (inspections and reporting)
- Cost Savings in project delivery due to streamlined permitting
- Increased predictability and consistent statewide approach
- Targeted resources and prioritized asset management
- Addresses uniqueness of the transportation sector
- Proactive approach to addressing “stressed” waters in an attempt to keep them from having a TMDL

VTrans' Roles in the Future: TS4 Permit

More Benefits:

- Building more stormwater treatment practices especially on projects that may not have previously considered doing so
- Fully integrating Green Stormwater Infrastructure into VTrans project delivery process
- Building a successful stormwater retrofit program focused on addressing environmental mitigation/restoration for legacy impervious surfaces
- Address source control, pollution prevention, and stormwater management at all of the Transportation Maintenance Facilities (65 plus sites)
- Better manage “run-on” and enforce against illegal connections and illicit discharges into the ROW

