



## Memo

**Date:** June 11, 2014  
**To:** Parks, Arts, & Culture Committee  
**From:** Jesse Bridges, Director of Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront  
**Subject:** Project Selection for the 2014 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

### BACKGROUND

The Vermont Agency of Transportation's 2014 Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant is now open, with applications due on June 27, 2014. The City has an opportunity to apply for one construction project – which can include design – and one scoping project.

The Bike/Ped Program provides funding for:

- Bicycle lanes (on-road facility delineated with pavement markings and signs)
- Shoulders (generally a minimum of 3-feet 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)
- Pedestrian-scale lighting (not likely to rank highly as a standalone project, but eligible as a project component)

Projects may be combinations of any of the above facilities. Applications may be for construction of new facilities, reconstruction of existing infrastructure to meet current design standards, or a combination of both. However, projects that consist solely of preventive maintenance (e.g. repaving an existing shared use path) are not eligible.

Projects that do not have a transportation purpose are not eligible for this funding. One of the prime considerations of eligibility of a project is that it have "independent utility," with clear and logical origins and destinations served by the facility. Examples of ineligible projects include loop trails for fitness or facilities that do not serve population centers and destinations.

Projects with the following emphasis will be considered favorably:

- Facilities that address a safety concern such as locations with documented crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists
- Connectivity to other bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Proximity and access to and within village centers and downtown areas
- Facilities that serve multiple uses e.g. access to businesses, residences and schools



There is no minimum or maximum grant amount, but \$4 million is available statewide.

### PROJECT SELECTION

The Department of Parks & Recreation has discussed project candidates with other city departments (Public Works, Mayor's Office, City Arts, Community and Economic Development Office, and Planning and Zoning) and has identified the further design and construction of the Burlington Bike Path from the Urban Reserve to North Beach **as the city's preferred grant candidate**. Other projects that were considered include:

Project	Notes
Scoping North Avenue improvements	Concepts not ready for 2014 program; reconsider in 2015.
Design/Construct Colchester Avenue Sidepath from Mansfield Avenue to Prospect Street	Not highly ranked using program criteria
Design/Construct Bike Path Intersection Improvements	Not highly ranked using program criteria
Design/Construct Bike Path from Home Avenue to Oakledge Park	Needs scoping and project definition; needs DPW coordination
Design/Construct Bike Path Urban Reserve to North Beach	<b><i>This is the City's preferred candidate</i></b>
Construct Bike Path North Beach Overpass	Has local funding available for design and construction

The Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront is prepared to provide the local match and the staff resources to administer the grant. VHB is prepared to assist the Department with grant preparation for submittal by the deadline of June 27, 2014.

### PUBLIC PROCESS

The application process requires a public meeting to solicit comments on the projects and the application. We invite the PACC and the general public to comment on the process and the projects for the 2014 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant application.

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