

Hyde Park Awarded \$63,000 VTrans/ACCD
Better Connections Planning Grant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Hyde Park, VT – 03/01/2018] The Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) awarded \$63,000 to Hyde Park in Strong Communities, Better Connections (SCBC) Grant funds to develop the Hyde Park Main Street Action Plan.

Annually, the Better Connections Grant program supports a range of locally identified initiatives to grow the local economy, increase transportation options and improve the quality of life for Vermonters.

Community members, municipal staff and regional planner, Seth Jensen, worked together over the past year to prepare the grant application. Better Connections Working Group Co-Chairs Tim Yarrow and Susan Bartlett led the community effort. “The partnerships developed while preparing the grant application have resulted in renewed interest in Village revitalization using a community-wide level of energy,” according to Tim Yarrow. “The work anticipated will foster improved connections with North Hyde Park and neighboring communities, while taking advantage of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, existing businesses and the opportunities available within and adjacent to our historic Village,” envisioned Susan Bartlett.

Hyde Park will have a year and a half to complete this project.

“Vermonters depend upon their transportation system to provide access to work, school, shopping and other activities. We need to collaborate with communities and coordinate public policies and investments in order to grow our economy and improve quality of life for all Vermonters,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “This inter-agency collaboration is doing just that by supporting communities to plan and grow in a way that integrates transportation and land use planning with economic development decision making.”

“This exciting agency partnership aligns state and local transportation investments to build strong local economies and improve the quality of life for Vermont families and businesses” said Housing and Community Development Commissioner Katie Buckley.

2017 Grant Winners:

- The Town of Danville will develop an action plan to improve safety and accessibility along Route 2 and strengthen the connection between the village and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. (Alison Low, Northeastern Vermont Development Association, alow@nvda.net)
- The Town of Enosburgh will develop a vision to draw more residents, visitors and business to the village by creating a marketing and economic development plan that identifies projects to make the village more pedestrian and bike friendly. (Greta Brunswick, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, gbrunswick@nrpcvt.com)
- The Town of Hyde Park will develop a plan to coordinate and increase public and private investments in the village and strategies to entice more Lamoille Valley Rail Trail users to visit the village and its businesses. (Ron Rodjenski, Town of Hyde Park, ron@hydeparkvt.com)

For more information and to learn more about the Better Connections Grant Program, visit the grant website <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>.

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