DEC Municipal Roadway General Permit Timeline

Fall 2015 & Winter 2016
Outreach to municipalities and regional planning commissions will commence

Winter 2016
Undertake stakeholder process to develop permit and standards

Fall 2016 & Winter 2017
Draft general permit

Fall 2017 & Winter 2018
Issue final general permit

2018–2021
Specific permit application and implementation deadlines will vary and will be determined during the development process

Contact Information

DEC Municipal Roads General Permit
Regulatory process and requirement questions
Jim Ryan, DEC, jim.ryan@vermont.gov, 802-490-6140

Vermont Back Roads
General Information and application instructions
Alan May, VTrans Municipal Assistance Bureau, alan.may@vermont.gov, 802-828-4585

Transportation Alternatives Program
Scott Robertson, VTrans Municipal Assistance Bureau, scott.robertson@vermont.gov, 802-828-5799

VTrans District Offices
vtransoperations.vermont.gov/maintenance_districts

Regional Planning Commissions
http://www.vapda.org/

Vermont's Clean Water Act and Municipal Transportation

How Act 64, the 2015 law to improve water quality, will affect municipal roadways

VERMONT CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

VERMONT

VTrans Working to Get You There
Vermont Agency of Transportation

Act 64 and Transportation

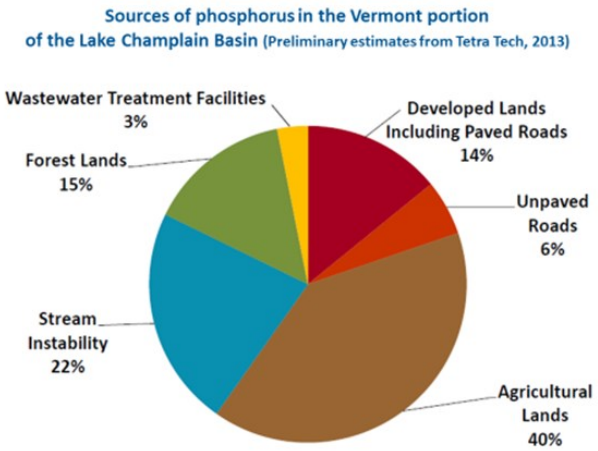
Cap on phosphorus levels in Lake Champlain

The Environmental Protection Agency has developed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TDML) that sets a cap on the amount of phosphorus that is allowed to enter Lake Champlain. Excess phosphorus is a main contributor to blue-green algae blooms that impair the lake's water quality.

Pictured: Blue-green algae bloom in Lake Champlain

Transportation infrastructure and phosphorus

Developed lands, wastewater treatment facilities, agriculture, unstable stream banks, and forestland all contribute to phosphorus loading. State and municipal roadways and other transportation infrastructure constitute a considerable portion of pollution from developed lands.



Act 64 and municipal roads

In response to the TDML phosphorus loading allocations, the Vermont legislature passed Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Initiative, which creates a new permit process for municipalities aimed at addressing stormwater run-off from roadways, both paved and unpaved. The Vermont Department of Conservation (DEC) and VTrans are developing new financial and technical assistance programs to aid municipalities in their efforts to comply with this new mandate.

VTrans: Lending a hand to Municipalities

DEC Municipal Roads General Permit

Under the DEC Municipal Roads General Permit (DEC MRGP), municipalities must implement a customized, multi-year municipal stormwater management plan. Strategies may include:

- inventorying roadways and identifying connections to surface waters;
- implementing solutions such as stone-lined and U-shaped ditches, turnouts, check dams, road crowning, and grass -lined drainage ditches;
- upgrading drainage culverts and stabilizing culvert outlets where erosion is present.

Pictured: Stone-lined ditch

Technical and financial assistance from VTrans and DEC

VTrans, DEC scientists and regulators, and regional planning commissions will be available to help municipalities understand the requirements and implement their stormwater management plans.

VTrans will continue to provide funding and technical assistance through the Municipal Mitigation Grant Program, which includes the Vermont Better Roads Program (formerly Vermont Better Back Roads), and the Transportation Alternatives Program—all growing sources of funding for developing and implementing municipal stormwater plans. Managing stormwater protects roadways from deterioration and makes our natural and built environment more resilient to future flood events, thus saving taxpayer dollars.

Once the permit is in effect, municipalities will be given a 20-year implementation schedule that is prioritized based on the greatest water quality benefit and the road stormwater management plan. VTrans Regional Maintenance Districts will be available to help provide direct technical assistance to municipalities. The VT Local Roads Program will provide training and other resources starting in 2016.