

Town of Hardwick Planning Commission
Community Development Coordinator's Report
August 9, 2022

1. *Safe Streets and Roads of All*

US Department of Transportation

<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>

Positive aspects of program include:

- Emphasis on the importance of planning
- Focus on multimodal transportation issues
- Large grants (minimum of \$200,000 per project)
- 20% match can be cash + in-kind

Challenges include:

- Emphasis on safety requiring injury and death statistics - Hardwick's numbers may be too low to be considered statistically meaningful
- Nation-wide competition for funding
- Complex application requiring significant ground work (some still to be done)
- Short timeframe to apply – Due September 15
- 20% match = \$40,000 minimum value (can't use other federal funds)

After reviewing the goals and requirements of *Safe Streets and Roads for All*, the CDC met with Planning Commission Chair David Gross and Select Board member Danny Hale, to discuss the potential for Hardwick to receive funding through this program. Given probable tough nation-wide competition, a tight timeframe, and the complexity of the application process, the three agreed that *Safe Streets and Roads for All* was not a realistic source of funds for continued transportation planning in Hardwick. Other possible sources for such funding discussed at the meeting included AOT and ACCD's *Better Connections* grant program, and Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) funding managed by NVDA.

2. *Better Connections*

State of Vermont/VTrans & ACCD

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections#:~:text=Applicants%20have%20the%20opportunity%20to,ACCD%2C%20DEC%2C%20and%20VDH.>

Positive aspects of program include:

- Grants for transportation "master planning" projects
- Emphasis on downtown and village center revitalization
- Focus on planning for multimodal transportation
- State program = more support available during application process
- Grants range from \$35,000 to \$67,500
- Longer timeframe to prepare application – Due in February
- Previous application came close to being successful
- Feedback from previous application can inform new submission

Challenges include:

- Small number of projects funded in each round (every other year)
- Emphasis on broad community and stakeholder collaboration
- Focus on maximizing funding from other sources
- 10% local cash match

While the *Better Connections* program is highly competitive, Hardwick has the advantage of having come close to getting a grant through this program in 2021. The feedback received as a result of that effort can inform a new application/proposal, should we decide to submit one.

3. *Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI)*

VTrans/Policy and Planning & NVDA

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/policy-planning/regional>

Through the Transportation Planning Initiative, RPCs are able to provide transportation planning support to municipalities within their respective regions. Funding for the TPI program comes from the Federal Highway Administration, VTrans, and RPCs.

NVDA also oversees a Transportation Advisory Committee (required as part of the TPI program). Hardwick's seat on that committee is currently vacant.

The CDC is investigating the possibility that the Town of Hardwick could receive TPI support for transportation planning in Hardwick's downtown and in East Hardwick Village.