

VT DEC Municipal Roads Program

Questions & Answers

- 1. Will the DEC Municipal Roads Stormwater General Permit (GP) apply to the entire state or to the Lake Champlain basin?** The DEC Municipal Roads General Permit will cover the entire state and result in improvements in water quality and aquatic habitat statewide. Addressing sediment and nutrient sources from municipal roads will also reduce phosphorus loads to Lake Champlain and other waters in the state, such as Lake Memphremagog. The Implementation schedule will be determined during the permit development process.
- 2. Will the DEC Municipal Roads Stormwater GP cover paved and gravel roads?** Yes, the Municipal Roads GP will cover all municipal road systems, paved and gravel.
- 3. Will the DEC Municipal Roads GP apply to all Classes of municipal roads including Class 4 roads?** Yes, the Municipal Roads Stormwater GP will apply to all Classes of municipal roads. Management options for Class 4 roads will be included in the GP but best management practice implementation will be more limited in scope than more regularly traveled roads.
- 4. Is there technical assistance available for municipalities in identifying high priority road erosion segments and determining appropriate solutions?** Yes, technical assistance will be available for towns from a number of different organizations including DEC, VTrans, regional planning commissions and other organizations. DEC and VTrans are currently developing enhanced trainings for road foremen and others to inventory and prioritize road erosion sites and have developed a new series of trainings called *Road Roundtable Forums* this is in addition to the existing DEC-VTrans *Rivers-Roads Trainings* for VTrans and municipal road crews. Municipalities will be made aware of available trainings.
- 5. Will the new Municipal Roads Stormwater Standards be consistent with current VTrans Road and Bridge Standards? How will they be different?** The BMPs that are developed as part of the Municipal Roads Stormwater GP will be consistent with the *Road and Bridge Standards*, although the geographic applicability of practices may differ. For example, the MRGP will only apply to hydrologically-connected road segments while the VTrans Road and Bridge Standards usually apply town-wide. The existing VTrans *Road and Bridge Standards* will remain in place until the MRGP is fully implemented. A map layer of hydrologically-connected municipal road segments is available at:
<http://anr.vermont.gov/maps/nr-atlas>

6. **Will culvert replacements be required in the new DEC Municipal Roads Stormwater GP?** Replacement or stabilization retrofits will apply to eroding road drainage culverts and driveway culverts located within municipal right-of-ways as part of the new GP. In-stream culvert and bridge replacements will not be required in this permit. Culvert headwall erosion and/or culvert outlet scour, for both drainage culverts and driveway culverts, maybe included in the new GP if they are identified as significant sources of erosion.
7. **How long will towns have to implement their roads stormwater management plan?** Municipalities will be required to develop a road stormwater management plan. The *Implementation Plan* will be based on the water quality impacts of a stormwater discharge, the current state of a municipal road, the priority of a municipal road in any existing transportation capital plan, and the benefits of the stormwater improvement to the life of the municipal road. The implementation plan shall address all sources of erosion as soon as possible, but not to exceed 20 years. Some towns will be required to implement measures on a faster time schedule.
8. **Will there be funding to assist municipalities in implementing road restoration practices?** Yes, additional funding will be available from VTrans and DEC to implement restoration practices on high priority road erosion segments through programs such as the Better Backroads grant from VTrans or Ecosystem Restoration grant program from DEC. Municipalities will likely have to contribute a portion of the total cost or in-kind measures.
9. **Will the DEC Municipal Roads Stormwater GP be required for municipalities that are already authorized under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit?** No, MS4 communities will not have to apply for the Municipal Roads GP. The MS4 permit will be amended to incorporate the road requirements, with the goal of simplifying implementation and reporting requirements for MS4s.