



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

January 17, 2017

Re: Town Road and Bridge Standards  
(as they relate to the Municipal Roads General Permit)

Dear Municipal Officials:

Act 110 of the 2009 – 2010 legislative session added Section 996 to Title 19 (Highways) of the Vermont State Statutes. In accordance with 19 VSA §996(b), the Secretary of Transportation "...in consultation with municipal representatives and with approval from the agency of natural resources shall review and revise, as appropriate, town road and bridge standards in order to ensure the standards are protective of water quality" every four years beginning on January 15, 2013.

Act 64 of the 2015-2016 legislative session requires the creation of a permit process for municipalities to address stormwater run-off from both paved and unpaved roadways. In response to Act 64, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation is in the process of developing a Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). This permit will include many of the recommendations currently addressed in the State-approved Town Road and Bridge Standards.

At this point, it appears that the inventories, standards, and implementation plans associated with the MRGP will be due in the fall of 2020. Given the fact that the next review of the Town Road and Bridge Standards will be due in January 2021, the Agencies will maintain the current State-approved 2013 Town Road and Bridge Standards. This will minimize any potential confusion to municipalities that might result from changing the Town Road and Bridge Standards prior to the implementation of the MRGP.

As the MRGP process unfolds over the next couple of years, the Agencies will work with the stakeholders to come up with a plan that addresses the various needs associated with stormwater, as well as the needs associated with infrastructure resiliency and disaster recovery. One of our primary efforts will be to make sure that in the event of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance declaration, municipalities have the opportunity to follow a set of "codes and standards" that achieve the water quality and resiliency goals and that will stand up to FEMA scrutiny.

Our Agencies look forward to working with you on these efforts and to providing you with the assistance needed to manage a municipal transportation network that is safe, flood resilient, and that helps to improve water quality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Flynn".

Joe Flynn  
Secretary  
Vermont Agency of Transportation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Moore".

Julie Moore  
Secretary  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources