



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

January 21, 2026

Re: 2026 Town Road and Bridge Standards

Dear Municipal Officials,

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Agency of Transportation have jointly updated the Town Road and Bridge Standards, effective January 21, 2026. These standards are an updated version of the 2019 Town Road and Bridge Standards. Sections 1 and 2 (Municipal Roads and Class 4 Roads) are still required for hydrologically-connected roads under the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). Section 3 (Perennial stream crossings) is still required statewide and must follow the DEC Stream Alteration Standard. Adoption of standards for non-hydrologically-connected roads remains optional. Municipalities may continue to use their own town road standards if the town standards meet or exceed the State template.

The major changes to the optional standards (Sections 4-8) apply to **Section 5 – Drainage Crossings**, cross culverts that move water from one side of the road to the other. When a municipally owned or maintained cross culvert is replaced, it must now be at least 18 inches in diameter, where road layout allows. Culverts that frequently plug, wash out, or fail during storms are expected to be upsized when replaced. Section 5 provides a clearly adopted standard for drainage (cross) culverts that are not otherwise covered by the MRGP or stream alteration standards. This section does not apply to intermittent or perennial streams, which continue to be handled under their own standards.

Municipalities are encouraged to consider adoption of additional optional standards to improve the resiliency of municipal highway infrastructure, enhance public safety, and to realize as many benefits as possible from the FEMA Public Assistance program. VTrans District personnel are available to work with any municipality in explaining the various options and to answer questions related to the new town road and bridge standards template. Please contact your nearest VTrans District Office for assistance and information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Moore".

Julie Moore P.E.

Secretary

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Flynn".

Joe Flynn

Secretary

Vermont Agency of Transportation