



October 11, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Better Backroads program, a grant program to fund erosion related road inventory and capital budget plans with a water quality benefit and the correction of road related erosion problems with a water quality benefit, is funded in half by federal funds and in half by state funds. With the passage of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) Federal Highway transportation bill (the new Federal Highway transportation bill) it is unclear whether federal funds can be used for the Better Backroads program as they have in the past. As we try to figure out our funding situation, we have decided to delay the 2013 Better Backroads program application process.

The application process usually starts with us sending out applications to all selectboards, road foremen, and non-municipalities in mid-September and they are returned to us by late October. After a grant selection committee meeting to review the applications and award the grants, grant recipients are then ready to begin their work the next summer. We are not sure how long it is going to take to figure out this funding issue (it might be weeks or months), but we hope to send out the 2013 Better Backroads program applications as soon as possible. If you believe you might want to apply for a 2013 Better Backroads grant, we suggest that you take any pictures of your project site before snow is on the ground so that the Better Backroads Grant Selection Committee can consider your project without snow obstructing the project location pictures. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jarrod Becker

Project Manager, Better Backroads Program

Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council

(802) 828-4595 (Ph)

[rcdbizmanager@yahoo.com](mailto:rcdbizmanager@yahoo.com)