

State Highway Status (as of 9/24/11)

State Route Segments Closed Post-Storm	146
State Route Segments Reopened	141

(Road segments are open to varying levels of service – 9 are open only to emergency vehicles)

State Route Segments Closed Today	5
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State Bridges Closed Post-Storm	34
State Bridges Reopened	27

State Bridges Closed Today	7
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Total Closures Road & Bridge Post-Storm	180
Total Reopened (many limited service)	167

Total State Road & Bridge Closures	12
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The timing of completing the last 12 closures is not completely clear and is weather dependent. Hopeful that temporary bridges will be in place where needed by the end of October. Route 131 Weathersfield, Route 106 Cavendish and Rt. 107 between Bethel and Stockbridge could take another 8-10 weeks.

State Rail System Status (as of 9/24/11)

Total estimated damage to the State-owned rail system is \$20 million to \$26 million. Five bridges were closed and all but one (Bridge 501 in White River Junction) has reopened.

Local Highway Status (as of 9/23/11)

The Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), in partnership with Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), are assisting towns and helping to assess and document damage to the local system. Damage estimates for the local road system will not be available for some time.

2,135 town roadway segments damaged, 178 town roads remain closed and 36 are open only to emergency vehicles.

283 town bridges damaged, 99 remain closed and 4 are open only to emergency vehicles. 931 town culverts were damaged.

FHWA Emergency Relief Program (ER) – Covers damage on Federal-aid highway system (excludes most town highways)

- Current estimate for damages to Federal-aid system is \$500 million to \$700 million.
- Cap is \$100 million in ER funding to a State for each disaster. For disasters that exceed the \$100 million per State cap, Congress may pass special legislation lifting the cap for that disaster.
- VT has already received \$5 million in ER "quick release" funds. We also expect to receive a portion of another \$100 million that becomes available after Oct. 1, 2011.
- Emergency repair work accomplished in the first 180 days after the disaster occurs may be reimbursed at 100 percent Federal share.
- Permanent work (replacing a bridge for example) is generally funded at 80 percent Federal.

Joint Fiscal Committee
September 26, 2011

- There is a large unfunded backlog of ER nationally – more than \$1 billion.
- VT can use FHWA annual formula funds for ER projects if ER funds are not yet available. \$37 million of FFY2011 FHWA formula funds have been obligated to Irene – ER emergency work. To date no project advertisements have incurred significant delays, but design has slowed as resources are redirected to Irene.
- Senate Appropriations Committee has passed legislation that:
 - Appropriates additional funds for the ER Program.
 - Increases the \$100 million per state cap.
 - Extends the deadline for emergency work beyond the current 180 day limit.
 - Makes the cost of permanent work eligible for 100 percent Federal share.

FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program – Covers highway damage off the Federal-aid system (including most town highways)

- FEMA covers 75 percent of all approved costs. This increases to 90 percent when damage surpasses \$127 per capita, or approximately \$79 million for VT.
- State funds (ERAF - Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund) typically cover half the non-federal share, or 12.5%. ERAF fund is typically funded by transfers from the General Fund.
- Local funds typically cover half the non-federal share, or 12.5%. Local share is reduced to 10% if town has an approved mitigation plan ERAF (state) share increases to 15%.
- FEMA disaster relief fund is largely depleted. VT needs for Congress to act quickly to approve additional FEMA disaster assistance funding.

Recovery Effort Assistance to Towns

- VTrans processed \$6.2 million in Town Highway Aid payments early last week that were scheduled for mid-October to assist towns' with cash flow.
- RPC's have taken on the role of coordinating resources for the towns to begin the rebuilding process. The RPC's banded together and formed a Command Center located in Winooski.
- The Lieutenant Governor enlisted the Association of General Contractors to maintain a clearinghouse of contractors and construction assets that were available to the towns. The RPC Command Center is helping to link towns to contractors using this clearinghouse.
- VTrans has hired over a dozen consultants to provide technical assistance directly to the towns to assist them with the FEMA Public Assistance process.
- VLCT is working with the RPC's to provide towns with lists of available Project Managers should towns be overwhelmed with the amount of damage and the resulting large number of construction projects occurring simultaneously.
- VTrans continues to monitor the situation with towns and temporary bridges and is working closely with the RPC Command Center to identify towns that are struggling to secure contractors, project managers or temporary bridges. VTrans is ready to assist as needed.