



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2022

Contact: Rich Grogan

rgrogan@nbrc.gov

(802) 461-8089

Northern Border Regional Commission – U.S. Economic Development Administration Joint Awards Announced

Today, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) announces the funding of five projects under a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the NBRC and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to amplify both agencies' economic development impact in Northern Border communities. The NBRC has received a special appropriation since 2018 for these awards, which has resulted in working closely with the EDA to award funds to projects that meet the strategic objectives of both agencies.

The total of the awards made in 2022 is **\$3,000,000**, and a brief summary of each of the awarded projects is below:

Town of Fort Kent, ME - \$750,000: The project will replace deteriorated water mains on Route 1 from Pump House Road to Northern Maine Medical Center (NMMC). This work will improve the water distribution system by replacing the three current water mains presently at high risk of failure. [Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional **\$250,000** as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]

Town of Newport, NH - \$750,000: This project will establish an additional water supply well in the northern portion of the Town to increase the water system's supply capacity, resiliency, and security. The increased water system resiliency will provide the Town with added confidence that its existing water customers will maintain the level of service provided by the water system while supporting economic growth. [Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional **\$250,000** as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]

Village of Nelliston, NY - \$750,000: The project will rehabilitate approximately 15,000 linear feet of existing sewer main within the Village to enhance environmental health as well as promote future development and job growth. [Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional **\$50,000** as part of the Agency's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]

Town of Rockingham, VT - \$350,000: This funding will facilitate the acquisition of the Bellows Falls train station, built in 1923 and listed as a contributing structure on the National Register of Historic Places. Following the acquisition, this project will abate lead and asbestos, repair the bulkhead foundation door, restore historic canopies, and rehabilitate windows and the station's brick facade to US Department of Interior Historic Preservations standards.

Rutland Economic Development Corporation, VT - \$400,000: The Rutland Airport Business Park expansion project will extend the water infrastructure from Phase I of the Park to additional parcels that will make up Phase II. This project will create over 40 acres of prime developable real estate for manufacturing property inventory and will allow expansion of manufacturers and producers, creating high-quality jobs and benefitting all of Rutland County and surrounding areas. [Note: The NBRC also awarded this project an additional \$89,746 as part of the Agency’s Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program, on August 18, 2022]

“Our nation’s aging infrastructure has increasingly brought a renewed focus on the importance of reliable access to water. Safe drinking water and resilient wastewater infrastructure is critical both for public health and as an essential building block for economic development,” **said Chris Saunders Federal Co-Chair of the NBRC.** “These public investments will support communities in northern New England and New York retain existing businesses and create opportunities for new businesses to thrive.”

“The Northern Border Region is a major driver of economic activity critical to our nation’s overall economic competitiveness,” **said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Y. Castillo.** “EDA is pleased to partner with the NBRC to support projects that will diversify and grow the regional economy and we wish these grantees much success.”

The funds for this program, and all NBRC programs, are available thanks to the support of the Congressional Delegations of all four NBRC states: Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Depending on the availability of funds in 2023, the NBRC anticipates another round of joint NBRC-EDA project awards next year. Please refer to NBRC’s website, www.nbrc.gov, for announcements about future Funding Opportunities.

About the Northern Border Regional Commission (www.nbrc.gov)

Created in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership whose mission is to help alleviate economic distress and encourage private sector job creation in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. In its thirteen-year history, including these new awards, the commission has awarded 387 grants, amounting to more than \$114 million in direct investment and \$416 million in additional leveraged investments, across the four states through its primary State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant program and other special initiatives.

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.