



Chittenden County  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization

## Executive Director's Report

Communities working together to meet Chittenden County's transportation needs

**FISCAL YEAR 2010  
April 2010**

### **Local Transportation News, Activities & Events**

High Risk Rural Roads To Be Evaluated in Charlotte and Hinesburg. VTrans has chosen two High Hazard and Programmatic Corridor locations from CCMPO's prioritized list of locations for this year's High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Program. The Programmatic Corridor location is Hinesburg and Charlotte Roads in Charlotte and Hinesburg respectively. The High Hazard location is a mile section of Hollow Road in Hinesburg. For additional information, please contact CCMPO's Jason Charest.

Road Maps for Local Rescue Providers. CCRPC Staff created road maps of several municipalities for members of Richmond Rescue and Charlotte Rescue to use in rescue stations and ambulances. These maps aid in the training of new rescue personnel and in real time response events. For additional information, please contact CCRPC's Pam Brangan.

### **Regional Transportation News, Activities & Events**

Turn Off Texting Event & Legislation. CCMPO staff participated in the Turn Off Texting campaign (<http://turnofftexting.com/>) by helping with golf cart demonstrations at local high schools where students drive a predetermined course (set up using cones) twice – first without using their phone and the second time while texting. Demonstrations consistently show that texting while driving creates unsafe conditions on the course with more cones being struck. It also takes longer to navigate the course when students text and drive. Meanwhile, on May 6<sup>th</sup> the Vermont General Assembly completed work on a bill to ban texting for all drivers and to limit cell phone use for teenage drivers. S. 280 is now headed to the Governor for signature.

Tilley Drive Now Accessible by Public Transportation. After many months of effort by a variety of regional stakeholders, the public can now access the medical facilities at Tilley Drive in South Burlington via the region's public transportation system. A public recognition event was sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action to recognize the efforts of the various public and private entities who participated in making public transportation available for the greater Burlington community. The event was covered by Channel 17 and can be viewed through their website. For further information please contact CCMPO's Michele Boomhower.

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the seventh annual Way to Go! Commuter Challenge, which will take place May 17-21, 2010.** This event encourages the use of healthier, more earth-friendly transportation, and less expensive alternatives to driving alone. Online registration is fast and easy at <http://www.waytogovt.org>.



Study Reveals Economic Impact of Regional Path Network. A recent [report](#) has confirmed that the [Burlington Bike Path](#) & [Colchester Causeway](#) attract many visitors and significant money to the region. Using automated trail counts from the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization, a 2008 Local Motion survey of path users, and Vermont tourism data, a recently-released UVM Transportation Research Center report found:


- At some locations, up to 50% of path users are visitors from outside Chittenden County
- The path welcomes over 100,000 users between May and September (800 people/day on average)
- Path visitors cumulatively spend approximately \$4.5 million annually during their days on the trail (lodging, food, rentals, etc.)
- Each day the [Causeway Bike Ferry](#) operates, non-local ferry passengers spend \$13,700 in our region.
- During weekdays, about 22% of path users are using the path to get to work, school, stores, etc.

The report includes additional information including percentage of path users walking, biking, running, and inline skating, age demographics and the percentage of cyclists wearing helmets.

The report also drew attention to a challenging issue – the condition of the path. A majority of trail users surveyed beyond [Burlington's](#) waterfront said that the trail needed improvement. Surface quality and trail width were the biggest concerns.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

Burlington's Colchester Avenue Corridor Management Planning. A Colchester Avenue Corridor Planning Public Meeting is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm—for more information please visit the Colchester Avenue website at <http://www.colchesteravenue.org/> or contact CCMPO's [Eleni Churchill](#).



## Wildlife & Transportation

Mon, June 7 OR Wed, June 9  
Your Choice!  
6 – 8:30 p.m.

CCMPO/CCRPC  
110 West Canal St, Suite 202, Winooski

The Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization and Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission are hosting a meeting to discuss the connections & impacts between wildlife and transportation

For more information visit [www.ccmpto.org](http://www.ccmpto.org)  
Pam Brangan, 846-4490 x22, [pbrangan@ccrvcvt.org](mailto:pbrangan@ccrvcvt.org)



### Chittenden County Sidewalk Grant Program

Applications are now available for the [FY 2011 Sidewalk Grant Program.](#)



#### Upcoming Events at the CCMPO:

[CCMPO Transportation Advisory Committee](#) – Tuesday, June 1, 9:00 a.m.

[CCMPO Board Meeting](#) – Wednesday, June 16, 5:00 p.m. – Special Retreat Meeting to be held offsite.

Please contact CCMPO Executive Director, [Michele Boomhower](#), with any questions or comments.  
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