



Executive Director's Report

Communities working together to meet Chittenden County's transportation needs

FISCAL YEAR 2010
June 2010

Local Transportation News, Activities & Events

[Safe Routes to School Grant Awards](#) – With the assistance of [Local Motion](#) – the Chittenden County Safe Routes to School program coordinator - the following Chittenden County schools were successful in this year's statewide Safe Routes to School Grant round bringing \$273,537 in new funding to the region for safe routes planning and projects:

[Jericho Elementary School, Jericho](#)

Construction of a connecting sidewalk from VT Route 15 to the school entrance - \$175,000

[Chamberlin School, City of South Burlington](#)

Development of a Feasibility Study to look at a sidewalk on the North side of White Street from Patchen Road to the Chamberlin driveway - \$20,000

[Champlain Elementary School, City of Burlington](#)

Development of a Feasibility Study to look at pedestrian routes to Champlain School through the 5 Sisters neighborhood and Birchcliff Road - \$24,000 & Upgrade of signs around school including radar speed sign - \$23,000

[Malletts Bay School, Colchester](#)

Multi-Use path to access Malletts Bay School: small sections and crosswalks - \$31,537



Governor Douglas Walks Hinesburg Kids to School

[Winooski](#) requested CCMPO technical assistance to investigate traffic safety issues on Saint Peter Street near the Saint Francis Xavier School. MPO interns have collected data on traffic and pedestrian movements and staff are compiling this information for review with the city and school officials to determine next steps for improving school safety at this location. For more information contact CCMPO's [Dave Roberts](#).

The [South Burlington Orchard Elementary School](#) project to assess and recommend sidewalk and bicycle access improvements at the Orchard School site on Baldwin Avenue has commenced with consulting firm [Lamoureux & Dickinson](#). For more information contact CCMPO's [Bryan Davis](#).

[Burlington's Colchester Avenue Corridor Management Planning](#) is in full swing – the first public workshop to gain input on the project was held on May 27th – the meeting can be viewed online through the project website. For more information contact CCMPO's [Eleni Churchill](#).

[Colchester's I-89 Exit 16 Scoping Study](#) got under way with a Local Concerns Meeting which was held on June 17th. Over the last few decades, significant development pressure has had a sizable impact on the US 2/7 corridor in the vicinity of the I-89 Exit 16 interchange in Colchester. Simultaneously, this corridor has grown to become a key arterial that connects Burlington and Winooski to points north, which further burdens the corridor with significant commuting pressures. These two forces have combined to create excessive intersection congestion during peak hours throughout the corridor. As a result, the corridor is faced with the challenge of how to enable further growth and development in the area with increasingly scarce funding for the necessary transportation infrastructure improvements. For more information contact CCMPO's [Eleni Churchill](#).

Regional Transportation News, Activities & Events

The [Circ Highway](#) cleared another hurdle on July 7 when the Army Corps of Engineers approved a modified Circ A/B alternative as the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) for the Corps' consideration in reviewing wetland impacts to comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This clears the way for VTrans to issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) - with the formal Record of Decision on the preferred alternative following a few months later once a public comment period on the FEIS has concluded. VTrans hopes to issue the FEIS this summer and the current VTrans schedule indicates construction may begin in 2013. For more information contact CCMPO's [Dave Roberts](#).

CCRPC and CCMPO staff hosted two [Wildlife Connectivity and Transportation meetings](#) in June which attracted 25 participants. Sue Morse ([Keeping Track](#)) and Jens Hilke ([VT Fish & Wildlife](#)) presented valuable information about wildlife and aquatic species in regards to road crossings, followed by group discussion about current local and regional initiatives and future projects. The FY11 CCMPO work program includes activities to work with 1-2 pilot communities to compile existing wildlife connectivity related data from local, regional and state entities, identify gaps in data and to work with partners to fill gaps in order to create a community inventory for wildlife and transportation planning. For more information contact CCMPO's [Bryan Davis](#).

[CCTA](#) installed a new shelter at the University Mall in South Burlington on June 20th. The shelter measures 22'x5' and includes a solar light. About one week prior the new Williston Road corridor service began operating. The new service design consists of four main components; Williston-To Wal-Mart, Williston-To Essex, Williston Village, and the South Burlington Circulator. These services have replaced the Umall/Airport and Williston routes. Based on [very early](#) ridership reports, the average weekday ridership on the new routes is trending about 9% higher than the previous routes (after accounting for new transfers). CCTA anticipates ridership will continue to grow as passengers become accustomed to the new routes and expanded hours of service.



[HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program](#) - HUD announced the availability of \$100 million in funding for this program on June 24. The program will support regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic competitiveness and revitalization; social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; energy use and climate change; and, public health and environmental impacts. The program will place a priority on investing in partnerships, including nontraditional partnerships (e.g., arts and culture, philanthropy, etc.) and bringing new voices to the regional planning process. The [CCMPO](#) & [CCRPC](#) are convening discussions through July and early August to determine the applicability of this program to our region. For more information contact CCMPO's [Michele Boomhower](#).

[Meeting the Challenge](#) - Legislation was passed during the 2010 legislative session, and signed by the Governor, directing the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to develop a merger plan and timeline. To that end, the CCMPO, CCRPC, and the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC) are working collaboratively to explore a variety of organizational efficiencies which may be gained by our three organizations. The ["Chittenden County Regional Cooperation Progress Report & Plan"](#) has been developed as a living document to inform Chittenden County residents. For more information contact CCMPO's [Michele Boomhower](#).

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