



Executive Director's Report

Communities working together to meet Chittenden County's transportation needs

FISCAL YEAR 2011 Fall 2010

Merger of the CCMPO and CCRPC – In the 2010 Legislative session the Challenges for Change Bill was passed, including language directing the CCMPO and Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to develop a plan for merger and a timeline. As a result, the staff and Boards of the two organizations have been researching various governance models, holding joint Committee and Board meetings, and have begun an outreach effort to engage elected officials in each municipality regarding possible effective solutions for moving forward to benefit our communities and the region. For nearly a decade the CCMPO and CCRPC have been working on the process of consolidating services and gaining cost savings and efficiencies – starting with co-location in 2001 at our former offices on Kimball Avenue in South Burlington. Our move to Winooski last year netted the two organizations an annual cost savings of \$40,000. Additionally, internal alignment has been implemented for employee benefits, salary structures and job classifications, various administrative procedures and back office support functions. Click on this link to learn more about how the two organizations are [“Meeting the Challenge”](#) as well as the schedule for meeting the January 15th legislature reporting deadline. For more information contact CCMPO's [Michele Boomhower](#).

Local Transportation News, Activities & Events

[Exit 12B Meeting in South Burlington](#) - More than 50 people turned out for the September 9 presentation on the [Exit 12B](#) Interchange Justification Review at the South Burlington City offices. The event was filmed and can be viewed through the [CCMPO website](#). A final report is expected by the end of the year. Discussion continues with VTrans and the City of South Burlington regarding next steps in the process. For more information contact CCMPO's [Michele Boomhower](#).



Bridge No. 8 Over Huntington River

Bridge 8, a 1934 bridge, is also located Main Road, South of the Moody Road intersection. The improvement Alternatives included: 0) Do Nothing, 1) Maintenance & Repairs, 2) Rehabilitate Existing Structure with Temporary Bridge, 3) On-Alignment Rehabilitation, 4) On-Alignment Reconstruction. The Selectboard will have to decide how to proceed with repairs/replacement for both bridges. For more information contact CCMPO's [Christine Forde](#).

Huntington Main Road Bridge Improvements

Bridge No. 10 Over Huntington River

Scoping Studies were prepared to outline the alternatives for correcting existing deficiencies on Bridges No. 8 & 10 over the Huntington River in Huntington, Vermont. Bridge 10, a 1929 bridge, carries a town-maintained highway and is owned by the town. The improvement Alternatives included: 0) Do Nothing, 1) Maintenance & Repairs, 2) Rehabilitate Existing Structure with Temporary Bridge, 3) Rehabilitate and Widen Existing Structure, 4) On-Alignment Reconstruction.



[Underhill Speed Limit Study for Poker Hill Road](#) – CCMPO staff recently completed a speed limit study for the section of Poker Hill Road from Vermont Route 15 to Deer Run. The study concluded that the limit of 25 miles per hour was reasonable for both directions due to the restricted sight distances, roadway geometrics, and residential nature of the abutting land. For more information contact CCMPO's [Daryl Benoit](#).

[Huntington Road Sign and Culvert Inventories](#) – Over the summer CCMPO staff completed both a Road Sign Inventory and a Culvert Inventory for the Town of Huntington. Both studies will allow town staff to maintain information with regards to maintenance of upgrades for these community infrastructure resources. In addition to databases, the town was provided with detailed maps. For more information contact CCMPO's [Daryl Benoit](#).

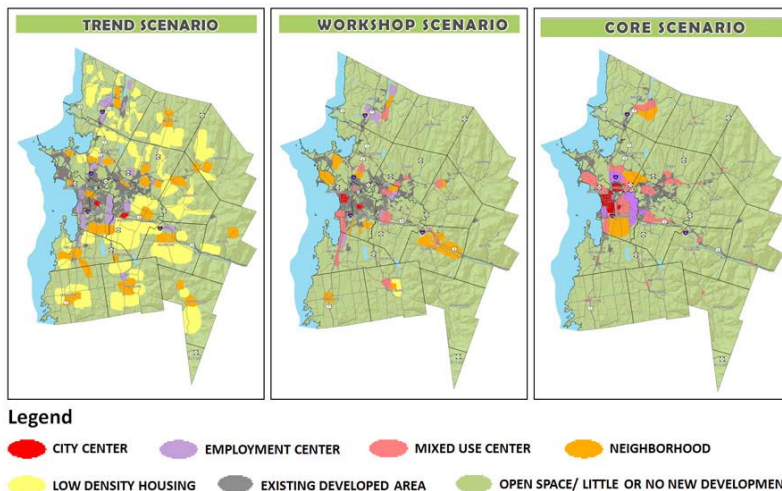
[CCMPO Board Endorses Regional Vermont Transportation Enhancement \(TE\) Grant Applications](#) – At their October meeting the CCMPO Board prioritized four regional grant applications for the TE program. Twenty four statewide applicants are competing for more than \$3 million in funding this round for funding of bike, pedestrian, and other qualified activities. For more information contact CCMPO's [Peter Keating](#).

1. Local Motion - Causeway bike ferry (\$300,000)
2. Williston - VT RT 2A shared use path (\$208,806)
3. Essex - scoping, permitting, conceptual plans for Sunderland Brook Path (\$48,000)
4. Richmond - Jericho Road sidewalk reconstruction (\$100,000)

[CCMPO Awards \\$250,000 in Sidewalk Grants](#) – Following the [Transportation Advisory Committee's](#) (TAC) recommendation the CCMPO Board selected 3 of 6 applicants for Sidewalk Grant funding. The successful communities will enter into Local Transportation Facilities (LTF) agreements with VTrans to complete their projects. The awardees are the Town of Milton for the construction of sidewalks along Hobbs Road (\$150,000), the Town of Essex for funding of engineering for a sidewalk and shared use path on Pinecrest Drive and VT Route 2A (\$52,500), and the City of South Burlington (partial funding) for the engineering and construction of a sidewalk from Hinesburg Road to Tilley Drive (\$47,500). For more information contact CCMPO's [Peter Keating](#).

Regional Transportation News, Activities & Events

[Sandra Dooley of South Burlington](#) recently joined the CCMPO Board of Directors as the representative for the community. Sandra serves on the South Burlington City Council. Welcome Sandy!



[Metropolitan Transportation Plan \(MTP\) Survey](#) Staff, consultant, and advisory committee contributions have led to an on-line survey regarding development scenarios generated from the 2008 planning workshops. This survey is designed to both: 1) educate the public on the transportation impacts of different development patterns, and 2) elicit their development preferences. Survey results will help the CCMPO and CCRPC refine the 2035 land use element of our travel demand model - an essential component of transportation analysis that will ultimately suggest the projects and strategies recommended in the MTP. For additional information contact [Peter Keating](#).

[CCRPC Awarded Nearly \\$1 million Federal Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant](#) – Through an unprecedented interagency partnership of a countywide consortium of municipal, planning, transportation, energy housing, conservation and other interested non-profits, CCRPC will lead an implementation process of policies, programs and funding to consider a holistic regional planning approach that integrates economic workforce development, housing, land use, transportation, and infrastructure investments with mindful and efficient use of federal dollars. For more information contact CCRPC's Director [Charlie Baker](#).

[CCMPO Selects Three-Year Pre-Qualified Consultants for Technical Assistance, Scoping & Corridor Studies](#) Following Committee Review of 11 proposals, four respondents were recommended for TAC & Board review and approval. The four firms—Hoyle Tanner, PB America, Resources Systems Group and Stantec—were selected

for their expertise in traffic engineering, highway and structural engineering, bicycle and pedestrian planning, survey, historic preservation, landscape architecture, archaeology, wetlands biology, wildlife habitat, NEPA compliance, hazardous waste identification, corridor and circulation studies, and public involvement. At least one of each of the firms had extensive experience in bicycle and pedestrian feasibility studies; scoping studies for bridge rehabilitation or replacement; and in planning studies with rail elements. These four consultants will be available for selection by the CCMPO and municipalities for projects funded through the CCMPO programs. For additional information contact CCMPO's [Christine Forde](#).

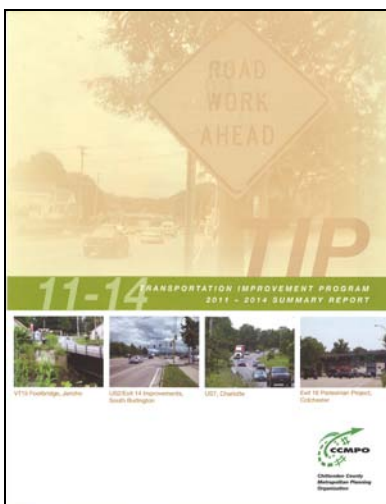
Casella Waste Management Compressed Natural Gas Fleet Initiative Up and Running – In collaboration with Vermont Gas Systems, Casella is developing a natural gas fueling station in Williston. Their new natural gas powered truck will be deployed on a Burlington City route, two more vehicles have been ordered. Natural gas is the cleanest burning fuel for heavy duty vehicles and reduces GHG emissions by 23% compared to diesel. One diesel heavy duty vehicle replaced with a natural gas heavy duty vehicle has the same emissions benefit as taking 325 cars off the road. Plans are underway to continue expanding Casella's



natural gas fleet at this location beyond the 7 truck capacity. For more information contact Casella's [Peter Vanderhoof](#).

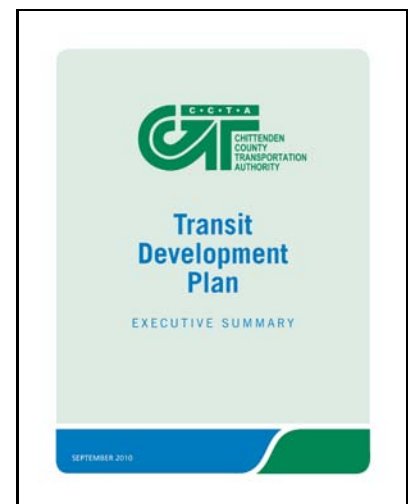
VTrans recently launched **VTransparency**, a new on-line tool designed to help Vermonters easily access information regarding roads, bridges and culverts. Vermonters can now access bridge inspection reports, pavement condition reports, and find out where in the process a future project in their neighborhood now stands - from their own computers. Using a map interface, VTransparency asks the user to provide an address as a reference point, and then allows the user to seek information about roads, bridges and culverts ranging as far as five miles from that location. The map will display where the transportation assets are located, and all users have to do is click on the asset icon to view information regarding that highway, culvert or bridge. For more information contact VTrans' Director of Planning, Outreach, & Community Affairs, [John Zicconi](#).

Local Motion Releases the Revamped Trail Finder – In case you missed Local Motion's recent [announcement](#), there are big changes afoot for the Trail Finder. The site is moving to www.trailfinder.info with a brand new design! The move to a new, independent domain name comes after a year-long effort to expand the Trail Finder's geographic scope. By collaborating with three other trail organizations, Local Motion now has a site that's quickly becoming a statewide resource. Trail data is posted from collaborators including the [Upper Valley Trails Alliance](#), the [Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission](#), and the [Rutland Area Physical Activity Coalition](#). For more information contact Local Motion's Director [Chapin Spencer](#).



The [2011-2014 Chittenden County Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) was recently finalized. The TIP programs over \$219 million in federal funding for the development of transportation infrastructure and services over the next 4 years. Contact CCMPO's [Christine Forde](#) for information.

CCTA also recently released the updated [Transit Development Plan](#) which outlines a program for the expansion and enhancement of public transportation service in Chittenden County over a 10-year period and beyond. Contact CCTA's [Meredith Birkett](#) for information on the TDP.



Please contact CCMPO Executive Director, [Michele Boomhower](#), with any questions or comments. CCMPO (802) 660-4071; 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, VT 05404