



## Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Directors' Report

Fall 2011

**ECOS Project** - Draft #2 of the Analysis Reports have been submitted and the public comment period is open until December 31, 2011. The Working Groups have begun to meet to discuss each Analysis Report in further detail. For example, the Built Environment Working Group met with the CCRPC's Long Range Planning Committee on Dec 1, 2011; they reviewed the Land Use/Transportation Analysis, discussed a hybrid scenario for the MTP, and started to review an ECOS influenced Regional Plan outline. Please visit [ecosproject.com](http://ecosproject.com) to review the Analysis Reports, provide comment, and find out when the Working Groups are meeting. In addition, the indicators are being prepared and will be presented to the Steering Committee on Jan 25, 2011. Finally, the UVM class should soon be done with their work on pulling together the initial list of action items from over 60 existing plans in the County. A project website is available for information updates at <http://ecosproject.com/category/tags/chittenden-county>. For information contact Regina Mahoney ([rmahoney@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:rmahoney@ccrpcvt.org)).

**Lake Champlain Byways Program** – Using a large National Scenic Byways program grant, the CCRPC completed management of the design and construction of two, 12' x 16' portalet shelters in the Champlain Islands. CCRPC administered the grant on behalf of the three-county Lake Champlain Byway Council, of which CCRPC is a member. The shelters each enclose two portable toilet units and include display space for bilingual visitor information about the Byway. Secured by twenty year easements on private property in South Hero and Grand Isle, the shelters will be owned and managed by the Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce. For additional information contact Dan Albrecht ([dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org)).

### **Municipal and Regional Planning Technical Assistance**

**Jericho Buildout Analysis** - Staff is working on finalizing a build out analysis that quantifies additional development under current zoning and potential alternative zoning. This analysis also includes impact indicators associated with future growth and development. These indicators include population, school children, energy use, auto emissions, water use, and others. The impact indicators were generated for each future growth scenario and compared to the impacts of existing development. For additional information contact Melanie Needle ([mneedle@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:mneedle@ccrpcvt.org)).

**South Burlington Future Impervious Surface Analysis** - Staff is working with Paul Conner and Tom Dipietro to develop data on potential future impervious surface for each parcel in the Bartlett Brook watershed that would be considered "non-jurisdictional" growth or impervious surface that is less than one acre. This analysis is intended to assist the City with modifying the future growth estimate for "non-jurisdictional" growth reported in the Total Maximum Daily Load permit. For additional information contact Melanie Needle ([mneedle@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:mneedle@ccrpcvt.org)).

**CIRC Highway** –The CIRC Task Force finalized a list of immediate implementation projects designed to address mobility, congestion, and safety in the CIRC Study Area. The list was forwarded to VTrans for consideration of inclusion in the Governor's FY12 Budget Adjustment/FY13 Capital program and included the following projects:

- Interstate 89 Exit 16 Interchange Improvements, Colchester
- VT2A/VT289 Interchange Improvements, Essex
- Crescent Connector Road, Essex Junction
- VT2A/James Brown Drive Intersection Improvements, Williston
- Regional Transportation Demand/ System Management Projects and Programs

Next the Task Force will program \$466,665 in planning funds which will inform Phase II implementation recommendations. A project website is available for information updates at [www.circtaskforce.org](http://www.circtaskforce.org). For additional information contact Michele Boomhower ([mboomhower@ccmpo.org](mailto:mboomhower@ccmpo.org)).

### **Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Execute Partners MOU**

CCRPC and partners Local Motion, CarShare Vermont, CCTA, CATMA, Go Vermont and VEIC signed an MOU for the federal TCSP grant which will fund a regional TDM pilot project aimed to reduce SOV travel. The suite of projects

includes: expanding CarShare VT beyond Burlington; establishing two regional multi-modal hubs; creating and implementing a neighborhood-based VMT reduction marketing program; launching a regional bike parking program and expanding bike commuter workshops; piloting an employee transit pass program; and expanding CATMA's outreach to employers to address their parking and transportation challenges. Contracts are under development with each partner and work on the six components will soon begin. For additional information contact Bryan Davis ([bdavis@ccmpo.org](mailto:bdavis@ccmpo.org)).

### **Transportation Technical Assistance Activities**

Huntington Main Rd Pavement Evaluation – A draft report of this consultant study was delivered in November and is under review at the town. The report notes the road base is generally in good condition, but many sections should be reclaimed with significant removal and recycling of surface pavement material. The annualized cost for an 8 year program to upgrade the road condition is more than double the \$100,000 the town currently spends annually, so town budgeting discussions will need to balance the maintenance needs with available funding. For additional information contact Dave Roberts ([droboterts@ccmpo.org](mailto:droboterts@ccmpo.org)).

Wildlife and Transportation - CCRPC staff, along with partners VT Fish and Wildlife Dept. and VNRC, hosted a workshop on November 14 for conservation and planning commission members from Bolton, Huntington, Hinesburg, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill. Volunteers from Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill collected wildlife tracking data over the past few years and this event focused on how they and other rural towns can incorporate wildlife data collection results into town planning efforts. The CCRPC is interested in incorporating and considering wildlife (habitat, road crossings, etc.) in regional planning projects. For additional information contact Bryan Davis ([bdavis@ccmpo.org](mailto:bdavis@ccmpo.org)).

### **Transportation Planning, Scoping, Corridor & Circulation Studies**

West Lakeshore Drive Shared Use Path - CCRPC, with assistance from Stantec, is scoping a potential shared use path alignment on West Lakeshore Dr. (from Church Rd. to Prim Rd.). The project steering committee met on December 1 to review a draft conceptual path alignment alternatives matrix, and a draft report will be available in the next month or so. A public meeting to present the alternatives will be scheduled for late winter/spring 2012. For additional information contact Bryan Davis ([bdavis@ccmpo.org](mailto:bdavis@ccmpo.org)).

Burlington Colchester Avenue Corridor Study Complete – Finalized in late November the plan will be posted on the project's web site in early December (<http://www.colchesteravenue.org/>). A final presentation of the plan to the Burlington City Council is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>. For additional information contact Eleni Churchill ([echurchill@ccmpo.org](mailto:echurchill@ccmpo.org)).

Williston Road Circulation Study South Burlington - Results from this Complete Streets evaluation for the section of Williston Road between Dorset Street and Kennedy Drive were presented at the November 7<sup>th</sup> South Burlington City Council meeting. Consultant (RSG) is working on the draft report for this study—it will be ready for review and comment mid-December. For additional information contact Eleni Churchill ([echurchill@ccmpo.org](mailto:echurchill@ccmpo.org)).

Shelburne Road Corridor Study South Burlington - The first public meeting for this study took place on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the South Burlington City Hall. It was very well attended and we received great comments focusing on issues with the study corridor (IDX Drive to Burlington City Line). The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>. For additional information contact Eleni Churchill ([echurchill@ccmpo.org](mailto:echurchill@ccmpo.org)).

Burlington Downtown Parking Study - This project, part of the PlanBTV (Burlington Waterfront and Downtown planning initiative) provides information, perspective, analysis and recommendations to inform the planning process with regard to parking and circulation, including: synthesis of prior plans and studies, existing and future circulation, existing and future parking, parking ordinance and policy review, and recommendations to overcome transportation and parking barriers to infill development. For additional information contact Peter Keating ([pkeating@ccmpo.org](mailto:pkeating@ccmpo.org)).

Colchester Exit 16 Scoping Study Complete - The Exit 16 scoping report has been finalized and is posted at <http://www.ccrpc.us/library/189/Exit16/>. The outcome of the process resulted in a preferred alternative to implement a

Double Crossover Diamond interchange at the Exit, as well as upgrades to Route 7 extending east to Rathe Road. For additional information contact Eleni Churchill ([echurchill@ccmpo.org](mailto:echurchill@ccmpo.org)).

Industrial Avenue Sidewalk Scoping Study - The consultant, Stantec, is developing and evaluating alternatives for this sidewalk to be constructed along Industrial Avenue from US2 to North Brownell Avenue. This project is being reviewed in light of the US2/Industrial Avenue intersection project programmed for construction in FY14 and will potentially include a temporary sidewalk in the vicinity of the US2 intersection. For additional information contact Christine Forde ([cforde@ccmpo.org](mailto:cforde@ccmpo.org)).

Burlington Bike Path Improvement Study – After an extensive analysis of the Burlington Bike Path by RSG, and input from city and RPC staff along with the city council appointed Task Force, final recommendations have been prepared. The Burlington City Council will be briefed on December 19<sup>th</sup> and project priorities selected shortly for implementation. The Task Force anticipates that an item on the project will be on the November 2012 general election ballot. For additional information contact Peter Keating ([pkeating@ccmpo.org](mailto:pkeating@ccmpo.org)).

Exit 14 Intermodal Intercept Facility – A Stakeholder meeting was held on November 8 to review the existing conditions as developed by project consulting lead RSG and to obtain feedback on potential demand from Stakeholders. For additional information contact Christine Forde ([cforde@ccmpo.org](mailto:cforde@ccmpo.org)).

Milton US7/Middle Rd/Railroad St. Scoping Study – A phase one memorandum will be completed in December including a review of previous studies, volume assumptions, capacity analysis, and safety evaluation. Meetings with the Steering Committee and Selectboard will be held early in the new year. For additional information contact Jason Charest ([jcharest@ccmpo.org](mailto:jcharest@ccmpo.org)).

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### **CCRPC Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 p.m., CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St., Suite 202, Winooski, Vermont

#### **CCRPC Executive Committee**

Wednesday, January 4, 5:30pm, CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St., Suite 202, Winooski, Vermont

#### **CCRPC Long Range Planning Committee Meeting**

January, TBD, CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St., Suite 202, Winooski, Vermont

#### **CCRPC Transportation Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, December 6, 9:00 a.m., CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St., Suite 202, Winooski, Vermont

#### **ECOS Public Health Working Group**

Monday, December 5, 2:00 p.m., Vermont Department of Health, 108 Cherry Street Conference Room 2B, Burlington

#### **ECOS Natural Resources Working Group**

Wednesday, December 7, 11:00 a.m., CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St., Suite 202, Winooski, Vermont

#### **ECOS Energy Advisory Team**

Thursday, December 8, 10:00 a.m., Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, 128 Lakeside Avenue, Burlington

#### **ECOS Education Working Group**

Monday, December 12, 9:30 a.m., United Way of Chittenden County, 412 Farrell Street, Suite 200, South Burlington

#### **CIRC Task Force Meetings**

Task Force - Thursday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. Williston Town Hall, 7900 Williston Road, Williston

Public Hearing - Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m., Albany College of Pharmacy, 261 Mountain View Drive, Colchester