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SERVING THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF

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Underhill
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Williston
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CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ESSEX TOWN REPORT 2010

Created in 1966 by Chittenden County municipalities, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a 24-member board consisting of one delegate from each of the County's 19 municipalities and five at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, housing, and transportation. CCRPC provides a forum for discussion of common municipal issues and planning assistance to our municipalities and the region. CCRPC appreciates the opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County.

In FY2010 the following assistance was provided to Essex:

- *Provided maps for the "Views to the Mountain: Protecting Scenic Road Corridors in Essex & Jericho" (a project with Smart Growth Vermont, Essex, and Jericho)*
- *Staff applied the volunteer's viewshed information to existing GIS data and generated maps that were used in presentations to Essex and Jericho Planning Commissions. Prior to creating these maps, a meeting was held with Smart Growth staff to discuss placing weight on certain criterion. Staff applied specified weights and then recalculated the final score for each viewpoint. This data was translated into showing sections along the assessed roads in certain colors – green being most scenic and orange being the least scenic*
- *Collected and assisted with completion of Basic Emergency Operation Plan. Worked with local fire and police on Emergency Preparedness planning and management of Commodity Points of Distribution sites*
- *Staff uploaded towns culvert inventory data into VOBCIT (Vermont Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool)*
- *Provided staff support for the Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program of which the town is a member*
- *Secured funding to run a pilot project, the Chittenden County Stream Team, to explore potential multi-municipal cooperation to comply with stormwater permit requirements for Public Participation and Involvement*
- *Updated the Essex/Essex Junction annex of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan and submitted it to FEMA for review*
- *CCRPC staff researched and compiled data for the Essex Town Plan*
- *Staff created a slope data layer for Hinesburg. This data was extracted from the LiDAR data from the 2004 orthophoto project*

In addition, CCRPC provided the following services region-wide:

- *Developed and awarded a Regional Energy Grant Program; ten applications were funded totaling approximately \$240,000 of EECBG funds from both federal and state grants*
- *Organized and hosted two regional energy forums for local energy committee members*
- *Began preparing the Initial Draft of the Chittenden County Regional Plan with a focus on modifying Planning Areas to be consistent with current municipal zoning and updating data*
- *Worked collaboratively with CCMPO to map future land use scenarios for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Scenario Planning project. The future land use scenarios will enable stakeholders to visualize different growth patterns in Chittenden County and the associated impacts on the transportation system, energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and land consumption*
- *With CCMPO, finalized a study on strategies to improve air quality in Chittenden County*
- *Facilitated a joint effort of municipalities with police departments to inventory the existing resources in a report titled: Regional Policing Study - Phase One*
- *Updated the Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan and municipal annexes*
- *Provided staff support to Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and provided educational training to Chittenden County Emergency Preparedness community including trainings for Emergency Management Directors and the Citizens Emergency Response Team*
- *Provided a DVD or CD with the 2007 VT Mapping Orthophotos to each municipality*
- *Reviewed Census Tracts and Block Groups boundaries in preparation for the Census to better match municipal boundaries*
- *CCRPC is working to develop online mapping functionality. The software has been purchased and the base map is under development through ESRI's Community Maps Program*
- *Identified wetland restoration opportunities within the rest of the Winooski Watershed and then the direct drainage areas of the county. The goal is to identify wetland restoration opportunities within areas of the county that have not been looked at in the previous two years*
- *Staff surveyed municipal staff, engineers and regulators to produce a detailed report on "Perceived barriers to the implementation of Low Impact Development practices in Chittenden County"*
- *Organized and hosted the 3rd Annual Chittenden County Planning Conference to facilitate continuing education of municipal staff and citizen planners*
- *Worked with Local Motion to produce maps for use in the Safe Routes to School program. In addition to the regular walkable area maps, we produced maps for parent volunteers to use in evaluating walking routes to various schools in the region*

- *Two wildlife connectivity meetings were held for Chittenden County municipal planners, Conservation Commissioners, Planning Commissioners and VTrans staff*
- *Working with CCMPO to draft revisions to the process of jointly reviewing municipal plans and Act 250 applications to improve the connection between transportation and land use and better support our member municipalities*
- *Participated in the State's Challenges for Change legislative process*
- *Provided assistance as requested to our municipalities*