

CCRPC wishes you a Happy Holiday Season!

December 2010 Edition

NEARLY \$1M SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT AWARDED CCRPC AND PARTNERS

On behalf of a County-wide consortium of municipal, planning, transportation, energy, housing, conservation and other interested non-profits, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) was awarded a nearly \$1 million grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to further holistic regional planning. The grant will assist in integrating workforce development, housing, land use, transportation and infrastructure investments with efficient use of federal dollars.

In this nationwide process, 45 regional areas were funded with this new initiative that empowers jurisdictions to consider interdependent planning challenges.

"Vermonters have long led the way in proactive, careful planning for the future of their communities. This grant will help Chittenden county residents continue to make smart planning decisions about important economic development, transportation, housing and infrastructure decisions," said Congressman Peter Welch.

Charlie Baker, CCRPC Executive Director, Sarah Carpenter, Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and Paul Conner, South Burlington's Director of Planning and Zoning discuss this exciting opportunity on CCTV's [Live at 5:25](#).

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

In compliance with directives from the 2010 Legislative session to develop a plan and timeline for the merger of Chittenden county Regional Planning Commission and Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and examining organizational efficiencies with the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), the organizations have issued a report called *Chittenden County Regional Cooperation Progress Report & Plan*.

The Report is a living document, updated frequently, designed to keep our constituents apprised of our progress. To this end, CCRPC is working with GBIC and CCMPO in joint board and executive meetings to explore creative and collaborative ways to maximize and enhance services to municipalities.

Executive Directors, Charlie Baker and Michele



Peter Welch Speaking at HUD Grant Press Event
October 2010

MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development announced today that the following Chittenden County municipalities have received municipal planning grants: Town of Colchester, \$7,950 to develop zoning and/or subdivision bylaw updates; Town of Huntington, \$12,427 for infrastructure planning; Town of Jericho, \$7,223 for infrastructure planning; Town of Richmond, \$6,800 for a municipal plan update; Town of Shelburne: \$14,933 for zoning and/or subdivision bylaw updates; City of South Burlington: \$15,000 for zoning and/or subdivision bylaw updates. These grants total \$64,333.

In addition, fifty-seven other Vermont communities applied for municipal planning assistance totaling \$535,029. Available state-wide funding was \$417,588.



CCRPC/CCMPO Legislative Reception
November 2010

EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE

At the December Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting, State Toxicologist, Dr. Bill

...vices to municipalities. Executive Directors, Charlie Baker and Michele Boomhower, have visited the 19 municipalities to share the history, evolving consolidation strategies and cooperative efforts of the two organizations and to solicit input from our communities. Follow our progress on our website—[Meeting the Challenge](#).



Joint CCRPC/CCMPO Board Meeting
November 2010

CCRPC'S NEW WEBSITE

At long last, CCRPC has a new, simple, easy-to-use website. While it is technically still “under construction” while we take steps to reorganize the format and fit the content to our new template, we hope you will find our new site modern and user-friendly. See what we’ve done and offer constructive comments to [Leslie Bonnette](#).



ONLINE MAPPING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Staff has been creating a base map for an online mapping application. The base map cartography is based on ESRI’s Community Map Template. Once the base map is finalized it will be available at www.arcgis.com as part of a multi-scale global topographic map and through an online mapping link from the CCRPC website. The online map accessible through CCRPC’s website will include data layers that are unique to Chittenden County and its municipalities. Staff expects that the base map will be completed by early Spring of 2011.

If you would like more information about this project or have questions contact Pam Brangan at 846-4490 ext. 22 or Melanie Needle at 846-4490 ext. 27.

mittee (LEPC) meeting, State Toxicologist, Dr. Bill Bress presented on chemical hazards in the community, the importance of tracking chemicals and some of the problems associated with response as evidenced in two case studies from local scenarios. In addition, CCRPC staff is collecting information from local businesses on the ability to sustain operations with generator power. Solicitation for this information went out to all major media conduits, including the Burlington Free Press. <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20101216/NEWS02/12160322/Emergency-managers-seek-information-on-generators>

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Wildlife movement and habitat connectivity are key considerations in transportation and land use planning. To advance this focus regionally, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) hope to work with communities having an interest in wildlife connectivity and transportation.

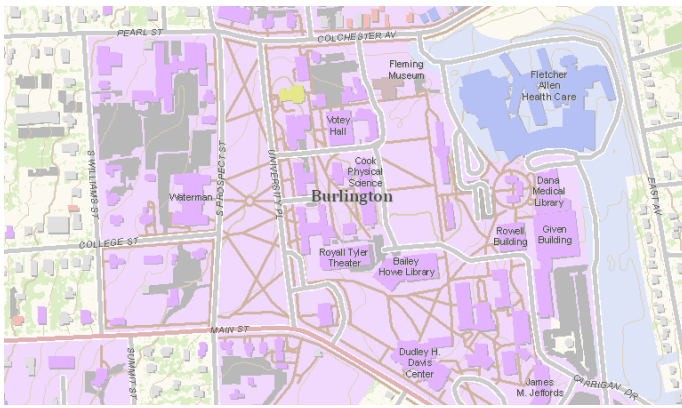
The selected pilot communities will work with staff to identify sensitive wildlife areas and crossings along state and municipal transportation corridors. This project supports the many of 2006 Chittenden County Regional Plan’s policies and the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Vision and Goals.

In this project, CCRPC/CCMPO staff will work collaboratively with the pilot communities to gather all existing wildlife and transportation data, including data developed by State agencies and non-profit organizations. Once all existing data has been gathered, participants will determine if other data collection is needed to accurately depict sensitive areas along transportation corridors. The partners will work together to fill in the data gaps. Once the data has been collected, CCRPC/CCMPO staff will analyze the data and work with the pilot communities to identify critical wildlife road crossings. The next phase of the project will be to work with other local, regional and state partners to develop appropriate best management practices (BMPs) related to wildlife and transportation.

For more information on this project contact [Pam Brangan](#) or [Bryan Davis](#).



RICHMOND BUILDOUT



CCRPC created a 3-D scene for the Willis property along Route 2 in Richmond, to help the Planning Commission, Town Planner, and property owner visualize the effect potential new development will have on the scenic entrance of Richmond. To preserve the scenic corridor of Route 2, additional development is sited on the northeast side of the property behind the existing barn and house to preserve the southern view approaching the Village. If you are interested in 3-D visualizations, contact Melanie Needle 846-4490 ext. 27.

BROWNFIELDS

Staff is currently working with members of the Brownfields Advisory Committee to review submitted applications from both environmental and archeological consultants to be part of a short list of companies used for future assessment projects. We are currently looking for sites that would like to participate in a Brownfields assessment. Please contact Samantha Tilton (stillton@ccrpcvt.org) or Julie Potter (jpotter@ccrpcvt.org) if you are interested in hearing more about the program!



The **Burlington Bike Path Task Force** wants to hear from you on what the path needs as future improvements are considered. The Task Force was established by a [City Council resolution](#) after a number of planning meetings among the Burlington Business Association, Local Motion and the City of Burlington. [Click here for more information on the Task Force.](#) This online survey will be open through December 31, 2010. Please spread the word.

New Report Offers Strategies for Smart Growth in Rural Communities

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has released a new report, "Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities," which focuses on how to adapt smart growth strategies to rural communities. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, the report focuses on smart growth strategies that can help guide growth in rural areas while protecting natural and working lands and preserving the rural character of existing communities.

To download the full report or learn how to order a hard copy, visit: <http://www.icma.org/ruralsmartgrowth>

MS-4s MOVE FORWARD WITH NEW REGIONAL EFFORT ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & INVOLVEMENT

Eleven of the County's twelve MS-4 stormwater-regulated entities are making plans to form a new regional program to achieve compliance with Minimum Measure #2, Public Participation and Involvement. In the past several months, using grant funds secured by CCRPC, these entities implemented a pilot project known as the *Chittenden County Stream Team*. The Team carried out various workshops and projects to teach residents some key hands on techniques to reduce the negative aspects of stormwater run-off such as rain barrels, rain gardens and re-engineering your driveway. Similar to the Regional Stormwater Education Program (RSEP), which provides compliance with Minimum Measure #1, Public Education, each member will pay annual dues to fund the Stream Team effort. CCRPC will then use these dues to hire a contractor to carry out various public engagement strategies and implement workshops and projects in member communities.

Removing Barriers to Strengthen Communities: Affordable Housing and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing at the Local Level

This workshop will explain the relationship between fair housing law and land use regulations. Tools will be provided to help municipalities avoid violating federal and state fair housing laws.

All municipalities receiving community development grants from the Vermont Community Development Program must complete a Fair Housing Training as a condition of funding. Any municipality dealing with issues such as affordable housing, group homes, residential care facilities, requests for accessibility modifications, or seeking VCDP funding, cannot afford to miss this workshop.

February 3, 2011 5:30-8pm
Burlington, VT

