



Chittenden County
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

News Break

Communities working together to meet Chittenden County's transportation needs

Welcome to the spring edition of NewsBreak from the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization. For more details on these and other projects please consult our [Executive Director and monthly progress reports](#), or contact Bryan at 802-660-4071 x17, bdavis@ccmpo.org.

May 18 :: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Public Hearing

The CCMPO is developing the Fiscal Year 2012 work program and budget, known as the [Unified Planning Work Program](#) (UPWP). This year we had more than 100 ideas submitted from the public and our partners. There will be a public hearing to review and hear public comments on the draft work plan on Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the O'Brien Community Center, 32 Malletts Bay Avenue, Winooski. The draft work plan is [available online](#) and in hard copy at all Chittenden County municipal offices. Hard copies may also be requested by contacting Bryan at 660-4071 x17 or bdavis@ccmpo.org.

May 16-20 :: Way to Go! Commuter Challenge

This marks the 8th year for this popular program which encourages the use of cheaper, healthier, and more earth-friendly transportation alternatives to driving alone. In 2010 more than 3,000 commuters saved 191,000 pounds of greenhouse gases, commuted 200,000 fewer miles, and saved \$30,000 in fuel costs. This marks the second year for WTG to be a statewide event under the leadership of [Vermont Energy Investment Corp](#) (VEIC). Check out the new website and sign up today! www.waytogovt.org

May 11 :: Field Day for Municipal Highway Folks

The 29th Annual Vermont Municipal Highway Association (VMHA) Field Day and Equipment Show is right around the corner May 11 at the Municipal Civic Center in Barre City. The day consists of numerous exhibits from vendors, agencies and groups; time out for training exercises; the snow plow rally competition; lunch; backhoe competition; and award ceremony with door prizes. More info is available from [Vermont Local Roads](#).

May 15-21 :: National Public Works Week

Let your Selectboards and Councils know about National Public Works Week so they can recognize the hard work put forth by the municipal employees that maintain our Vermont roads and infrastructure.

CCMPO and CCRPC Merger :: Update

The Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) continue to move forward in merging the two

organizations. Several Board Work Groups have been developing a joint mission and vision, revising the bylaws, reorganizing committees, and overseeing the finances. The two organizations have held several joint Board meetings this winter and spring, which can be [viewed online](#).

Charlie Baker (CCRPC Director) and Michele Boomhower (CCMPO Director) have been visiting with Chittenden County municipal boards throughout March and April to seek support for a full merger of the two organizations. Should a merger be approved, it is anticipated that a joint governance body could be in place for the start of fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011). Answers to [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the merger are available online, or contact Michele at mbbomhower@ccmpo.org for more information.

Flood Damage and Funding Opportunities

With the recent heavy rains many towns are experiencing significant flooding, road damage, travel delays and more. There are several FEMA funded mitigation grant programs available for public infrastructure repair and mitigation. These mitigation grant programs are administered at the state level by Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) and include the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDMC) program, Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

One of the requirements for a successful grant application is a full benefit-cost analysis (BCA), which requires documentation of past damages and repair costs. **To make your application more competitive, and to complete the BCA requirement, the local community/road commissioner should document and record storm damages with dates, costs of repairs, and road closures/detours.** Without detailed documentation it is difficult to make a strong case for a project, and it may not meet the BCA requirement. Remember that CCMPO and CCRPC staff are available to help with grant applications. More information can be found on the VEM website at www.vem.vermont.gov, or contact Bryan (bdavis@ccmpo.org) or Dan Albrecht (dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org).

Richmond Checkered House Bridge :: Update

Excavation began in March for the temporary bridge piers for the Route 2 Checkered House Bridge in Richmond. To learn more about the project and get up-to-date information, visit www.checkeredhousebridge.com. From the website you can also sign up to receive e-mail notices about lane closures and other key information.

Green Streets Webinar available online

The CCMPO recently hosted a webinar on "Green Streets as a Community Revitalization Strategy." The speaker's slides, a recording of the event, and Frequently Asked Questions (with answers provided by Dan Christian) are now available at <http://www.raingardeninitiative.org/infrastructure.html>. We can also email the complete slideshow (.pdf) and questions/answers (.doc) – [contact Bryan](#) if you are interested.

New EPA Study: Emissions Reduction Potential of 'Travel Efficiency' Strategies

In 2009-2010 the CCMPO participated in a research project led by the Environmental Protection Agency to examine travel activity and potential emission reductions. The study, *Potential Changes in Emissions Due to Improvements in Travel Efficiency*, was intended to determine the effectiveness of various strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and corresponding potential for reductions in emissions in metropolitan areas. The CCMPO and other organizations from around the country provided travel model data and other travel activity information so researchers could estimate potential emission reductions from urban areas of varying sizes and characteristics. The results were applied to other urban areas of similar characteristic to estimate reductions on a national scale. The study may be accessed on the EPA website at <http://epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/policy/420r11003.pdf>.

Online Survey Results Available for Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Over the winter the CCMPO and CCRPC asked for feedback on long-range regional development and transportation strategies to accommodate anticipated growth while maintaining a high quality of life. An online survey offered choices about how and where Chittenden County might grow in the future, and respondents could weigh in with opinions and concerns. The final report of that survey is [now available](#) (~6Mb file). For more information on the MTP process visit <http://www.ccmppo.org/MTP/>.

Regional Park and Ride/Intercept Facility Plan :: Update

The CCMPO continues an update to the Chittenden County Park-and-Ride & Intercept Facility Plan. This update to the 2004 Plan has a broader scope and includes a well defined purpose and need, plan goals and objectives, a more detailed view of high priority sites and projects, outreach to user groups and a look at facilities in neighboring regions. The draft Plan is now available on the [Park and Ride webpage](#). Contact Peter Keating (pkeating@ccmpo.org, 802-660-4071 x14) for more details.

Wildlife and Transportation Pilot Project :: Update

The CCMPO and CCRPC continue collaborating on our Wildlife and Transportation project to help communities identify sensitive wildlife areas and crossings along state and municipal transportation corridors. The Towns of Jericho, Underhill and Richmond were selected to serve as pilot communities based on the success of their Regional Connectivity Project. Our staff will work with the towns to refine their methodology and data collection protocols so that other communities could follow their example. We will also help to package and distribute their methodology, data sets, and other resources as Phase I of our pilot project. Phase II would be to work with staff and volunteers in Bolton, Hinesburg, and Huntington (the other pilot project applicants) to apply the methodology in their towns. For more information contact Bryan Davis (bdavis@ccmpo.org, 802-660-4071 x17) or Pam Brangan (pbrangan@ccrpcvt.org, 802-846-4490 x22).

FREE Pedestrian Safety Webinar Series by FHWA

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) introduce a new seven-part Webinar series intended to help communities address pedestrian safety issues and initiate the steps to drafting a tailored

pedestrian safety action plan. Modeled after the FHWA/PBIC in-person training course “How to Develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan,” the Webinar series will focus on topics ranging from funding to safety enforcement. To register for upcoming Webinars and find out about future Webinar dates as they are released, please visit www.walkinginfo.org/webinars.

Kick-off for Corridor Studies

We recently hosted the kick-off meeting for the Shelburne Road Corridor Planning study. The corridor study will span the section of Shelburne Road (US 7) from the Burlington City Line south to the vicinity of GE Health and will evaluate current conditions along the corridor for all travel modes. In developing and evaluating recommended improvements, the study will also consider the corridor’s context related to economic development and quality of life.

The Williston Road Corridor Study began in February and will help the City of South Burlington explore a “complete street” concept for Williston Road (US 2) between Dorset Street and Kennedy Drive. This study follows the US 2 Corridor Management Plan completed in 2007 and is part of the recommended implementation plan currently being overseen by the Route 2 Corridor Working Group. For additional information about these projects contact Eleni Churchill at echurchill@ccmpo.org. To learn more about complete streets visit <http://www.completestreets.org/>.

All 2010 Traffic Data Posted Online

Click on these websites to access all 2010 traffic data:

http://www.ccmpo.us/data/traffic_data.php?town=ALL&year=2010&count=TM

http://www.ccmpo.us/data/traffic_data.php?town=ALL&year=2010&count=ATR

New Intersection Counts Available Online

CCMPO staff completed processing and posting of all regional Intersection Traffic Count data collected in 2010 (a total of 55 intersections). These can be downloaded from [our data page](#) – click on the "Turning Movement Report". For more information contact Daryl Benoit at dbenoit@ccmpo.org.

CCRPC and Partners Kick Off Regional Sustainability Project

On March 16 the CCRPC and dozens of regional partners gathered for the Regional Sustainability Project kick-off meeting. CCRPC and partners were awarded \$995,000 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program in 2010. The goal of the Regional Sustainability Project is to identify and implement strategies that improve Chittenden County’s long-term sustainability by addressing public and private costs in transportation, housing, energy and land use and social equity. The HUD program is designed to develop long-term strategies for growing communities in a way that improves quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. To view the kick-off meeting video visit <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/>.

Charlotte Receives High Risk Rural Roads Funding

Charlotte was recently awarded funding for safety improvements along seven miles of Mount Philo Road and one mile of Spear Street north of Carpenter Road. The funding comes from the federal High Risk Rural Roads program which provides small grants so towns can assess existing safety issues, and purchase and install equipment such as signs, guardrails, and pavement markings to enhance safety. In previous years the program has benefitted other Chittenden County towns including Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, Jericho, Underhill and Westford. For more information contact Jason Charest at jcharest@ccmpo.org. The award was recently featured in the [Burlington Free Press](#).

Safe Routes to School Projects

Two local SRTS projects are getting underway. A kick-off meeting was recently held for the Jericho Elementary construction project which will improve on-site conditions for walkers and bikers and reduce conflicts with autos. One of the improvements will be a new sidewalk to connect the school entrance to new sidewalks on Route 15.

In Burlington a feasibility study will assess the current travel conditions between Champlain Elementary on Pine Street and two nearby neighborhoods and then identify alternatives for improving facilities for walking and biking to school. For more information on either of these projects contact Bryan at bdavis@ccmpo.org.

Participate in a UVM Driving Behavior Study

The University of Vermont Transportation Research Center is looking for licensed drivers who reside in Vermont for a two-week-long study of driving behavior. The purpose of this study is to gather second-by-second data of an individuals' driving behavior (number of trips per day, destinations, etc.) in order to more accurately reflect driving behavior in Vermont for computer simulation-modeling. A \$25 gas card will be provided to all study participants. For more information and to sign up visit http://www.uvm.edu/~transctr/?Page=driver_behaviorA.html.

April 20 Board Meeting on TV

You can watch the April 20 Board meeting on Channel 17/ Town Meeting Television, on Comcast Cable and Burlington Telecom at the following times:

- Friday April 29, 8:00 PM
- Saturday April 30, 1:00 AM
- Saturday April 30, 7:00 AM

As always CCMPO Board meetings are [available online](#) as streaming video, and handy clickable agendas allow you to jump to the topic that interests you most. CCMPO Board, TAC, and other meeting [agendas and minutes](#) continue to be on our website.

Until next time...

Be sure to share this news update with others and [contact Bryan](#) with what you'd like to see in the next issue.

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