

## January 2012

### **New look, same great programs and services!**

You've probably noticed our new CCRPC logo over the past month or so – it's been a soft rollout but we're proud of the updated look and will soon be using it exclusively on office documents, mailings, etc.

**We're also proud to announce our new website, [www.ccrpcvt.org](http://www.ccrpcvt.org).** Many thanks to staffers Daryl Benoit and Leslie Bonnette for building the new site and migrating the previous CCRPC and CCMPO sites into the new platform. We think it's easy to use, navigate and read – please let us know if you can't find something or experience any issues. Contact Daryl at [dbenoit@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:dbenoit@ccrpcvt.org).

### **Vermont Planners Lose a Friend and Colleague**

Vermonters lost a good friend and influential colleague on January 17. Mark Blucher, long-time director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, was an award-winning planner and dedicated community volunteer who shaped the vision for planning in Vermont and inspired many in the field. A celebration of Mark's life will be held at the Victorian Inn in Wallingford on Saturday, February 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. Read more about his life in the [Rutland Herald](#) and [Business People Vermont](#).

### **First Friday of Every Month :: Curb Your Car Day**

CURB YOUR CAR DAY is a CCTA event that takes place on the first Friday of every month. The purpose of the campaign is to inspire and motivate Vermont commuters and residents to drive less and utilize sustainable transportation options such as public transportation, bicycling, walking, car-sharing, or vanpooling. Join CCTA staff at the Cherry Street platform in Burlington for goodies! For more information visit [cctaride.org/cyc](http://cctaride.org/cyc).

### **Jericho Build Out and Community Impacts Analysis Complete**

CCRPC recently completed a build out and common impacts analysis for the Town of Jericho, which will help the Planning Commission understand and visualize the impacts of additional dwelling units and commercial floor area. CCRPC utilized CommunityViz's Common Impacts decision support tool to calculate such indicators as water use, vehicle trips per day, school children, and energy use. If you are interested in a similar analysis for your town contact Melanie Needle ([mneedle@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:mneedle@ccrpcvt.org))

### **ECOS Update**

The second phase of the ECOS project has culminated in an impressive amount of data and information about the County. Please visit <http://ecosproject.com/analysis> to learn about housing, land use, transportation, energy, economics, natural resources, education and public health. We have also kicked off the third phase of the ECOS project: indicators. Indicators for the ECOS project will provide a shared lens to track the progress of Chittenden County against our goals related to the natural systems, built environment, economy and social community. Evaluating our progress towards our goals will allow us to focus resources on those areas that most need additional attention to achieve a healthy, inclusive and prosperous community. Please visit <http://ecosproject.com/indicators> to comment on the Draft #1 Indicator Report from February 1 to March 16. For information and how to get more involved in the project contact Regina Mahony ([rmahony@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:rmahony@ccrpcvt.org)).

### **Final Reports Available for Regional Projects**

Reports for two projects finalized this fall are now available. The [I-89 Exit 16 Scoping Study](#) examined potential improvements to this Colchester interchange and came up with an innovative preferred alternative, the Double Crossover Diamond, to address the safety and congestion issues at this location. The [Colchester Ave Corridor Study](#) was also completed and presents the long-term vision for this key corridor into and out of Burlington.

### **Underhill-Jericho Active Living Workshop Report Available**

In Fall 2011 Underhill-Jericho was awarded a grant from AARP VT to conduct an Active Living Workshop, a community design initiative aimed at creating a more livable community for all ages. AARP VT has received the final report on the Active Living Workshop from Dan Burden and his team at the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute. As a warning, the files are quite large because of the photos – the third link to the low resolution report is the smallest file at 15 Mb. For more information contact Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur at [JWBrodeur@aarp.org](mailto:JWBrodeur@aarp.org).

[Underhill-Jericho Report Main Body](#)

[Underhill-Jericho Appendix Only](#)

[Complete Report – Low Resolution](#) (15 Mb)

### **Hazard Mitigation Grant Deadline for Vermont Communities Extended**

Vermont cities and towns have extra time to submit applications for federal hazard mitigation grants. The deadline is now February 17 (it was originally January 20). The federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funds to communities for the repairs or improvements that lessen the impacts of future disasters. Typical hazard mitigation projects would include: home buyouts, repair and mitigation of local roads and bridges, structural elevations or relocations, replacement of undersized culverts, remediation of stream bank erosion, and more. Project proposals need not be directly connected to flooding from the most recent disaster, or any other disaster. The project must simply help prevent future floods, or lessen the impacts of natural disasters.

Due to the size of the Irene disaster, over \$16 million dollars will be allocated to Vermont communities for mitigation projects. Funds allocated through HMGP are independent of FEMA Public Assistance grants so every city or town in Vermont is eligible for mitigation funds under this program. Federal funds pay for 75% of these projects, with local communities paying for 25% of the cost. Only municipalities can, and must apply in order to receive funding; a committee assembled by Vermont Emergency Management selects projects from the pool of applicants.

Communities may download an HMGP application from VEM's website at <http://vem.vermont.gov>. For more information, communities can contact Ray Doherty at Vermont Emergency Management at 800-347-0488 or [rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us)

If you are unable to submit an application for the February deadline, you may submit an application for consideration for HMGP in the March 2012 round in connection with DR 4001, DR 1995 and DR 4022. The application is due March 16, 2012. However, the only announced letter of intent date was the December 30, 2011 date. If you want to apply for either round and have not submitted a letter of intent (LOI), you are encouraged to do so immediately. The LOI should include a brief description of your proposal and the total estimated cost of your project. Please submit LOI's and completed applications

to: Ray Doherty, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Vermont Emergency Management, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671, by phone at 802-241-5258 or email [rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:rdoherty@dps.state.vt.us).

### **Vermont to Receive \$21.7 Million in Disaster Funding**

Vermont will be receiving \$21.7 Million in CDBG Disaster Funding to help rebuild and recover from Tropical Storm Irene. More details about the process, conditions and timeline for accessing these funds will be released by US HUD soon, but in the short term the VT Department of Economic Housing and Community Development will begin soliciting input on the needs and use of the CDBG Disaster Funding. A Public Hearing has been scheduled for 2:30-3:15 p.m., February 13 at Pavilion Auditorium, 109 State Street, Montpelier to solicit feedback from the public on the need and use of these funds. For more information read the [US HUD press release](#) or the [Vermont press release](#).

### **Funds Available to Cover Labor Costs for Public Lands/Fields**

The U. S. Department of Labor has awarded the Vermont Department of Labor with disaster relief funding. These funds are specifically for towns impacted by any of the three disasters which occurred in calendar year 2011. These funds can cover the cost of labor on projects improving public lands like athletic/recreational fields at schools. Please do not pass up this opportunity to: 1) repair your local community, and 2) provide an employment opportunity to a neighbor. If you think you have a project, please contact Judy Bourbeau with the Vermont Department of Labor at 802-828-5250.

### **VTrans News**

VTrans has announced that **Patti Coburn**, an engineer by training and formerly with Lamoureux & Dickinson, is the state's new **Safe Routes to School Coordinator** and will be working in the Local Transportation Facilities (LTF) section. You can reach Patti at 802-828-5799 or [patti.coburn@state.vt.us](mailto:patti.coburn@state.vt.us) or visit the Safe Routes to School website: [www.saferoutesvt.org](http://www.saferoutesvt.org)

VTrans will soon release the results of a study on the **economic and environmental benefits of bicycling and walking in Vermont**. Bike/ped advocates have long sought hard evidence regarding the dollars that these activities generate. The report's findings will be presented in a public meeting via Vermont Interactive Television. A video summary will be available in the spring. [Draft documents](#) are available through Local Motion.

The **VTrans Fact Book** is now available and contains contact information, up-to-date stats and figures, maps, charts/graphs and more. [Download your copy today!](#)

### **Governor Shumlin Releases Proposed Budget for 2013**

Governor Shumlin's proposed budget, which now goes to the legislature, includes the largest transportation program in Vermont history and adds \$45 million to paving and bridge projects, and increases town highway aid by \$1.5 million, the first such increase in six years. It also includes improvements for rail along the Western Corridor totaling \$10 million. Replacing and relocating bridge 219 in Florence (Town of Pittsford) will cost \$6.6 million will allow for faster speeds (good for future passenger trains) and also removes a barrier for fully loaded freight cars. When the bridge work is done, Vermont will have 286,000 lb capacity from Whitehall, NY to Rutland and Florence, as well as along the New England Central Railroad. Read the Governor's budget address here: <http://governor.vermont.gov/blog-fiscal-year-2013-budget-address>.

### **Every Day Counts: Innovative Project Deployment Workshops**

Vermont Local Roads is partnering with FHWA and VTrans to deliver a series of free bi-monthly webinars on supporting states innovative deployment initiatives. The webinars, held at VTrans in Montpelier, will be in-person learning sessions that will describe effective project development and delivery practices, tools and “market-ready” technologies that local transportation agencies can readily implement into their programs. The schedule is as follows:

- Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil (GRS)/Integrated Bridge System (IBS) Technology, February 16  
*Do you need to replace bridges, but don't have the funds to do it? Are you looking for bridge alternatives that perform well and can save you both time and money? Would you like to utilize your own construction equipment and forces to build simple, strong, and safe bridges? If the answer to any of these questions is “yes,” then the GRS-IBS may be right for you!*
- Flexibilities in Right of Way, April 19
- In Lieu Fees/Mitigation Banking, June 21
- Adaptive Signal Control, August 16

All events are free and will be held in the VTrans Conference Room, 5th floor, One National Life Dr., Montpelier (enter via the North Entrance with ID). To register visit <http://www.vermontlocalroads.org/> and read “Workshop News.” For questions contact Maureen at 802-654-2652/800-462-6555 (in VT), [mdakin@smcvt.edu](mailto:mdakin@smcvt.edu).

#### **Vermont Idle-Free Fleets Program Available to Communities**

Vermont Idle-Free Fleets, a program launched by the American Lung Association in Vermont in 2010, is working with town energy committees and/or local community groups to implement idle reduction measures in selected Vermont towns. They provide a complete training manual and an on-site training session for Town Energy Committees or groups, toolkits and a PowerPoint presentation to educate municipal and business fleets, as well as no-idling signs. The goal is for fleets to adopt idling reduction policies, with towns additionally having the option to adopt a no-idling resolution or include an idling reduction component in an Energy Conservation policy. For more info visit <http://www.idlefreevt.org/viff.index.html> or contact Amy Sayre at [idlefreefleetsvt2@lungne.org](mailto:idlefreefleetsvt2@lungne.org).

#### **Campus Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) Announces Reorganization**

CATMA recently announced a reorganization under which the Board has appointed Sandy Thibault as Associate Director and Katie Bailey-Martin as Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coordinator, with Robert Penniman continuing as Executive Director. In Sandy's new role, she will manage all day-to-day operations of a standard TMA, as well as supporting the Strategic Work Plan that the Board has initiated to position the non-profit for future sustainability and growth. Katie will assume responsibility for administering, reporting and outreach of all CATMA TDM initiatives. Bob Penniman will continue his work on specific projects for CATMA's members relative to master planning, land-use, stormwater and permitting. [Click here for more details.](#)

#### **Videos Explore the Social Determinants of Health**

How does your income, education and where you live determine your health? As part of the Champlain Initiative's FIRST PERSON video series, Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg Director of Planning and Zoning, details how land use planning can improve the health of our community. See the video at the [Changing Face of Chittenden County website](#). Want to learn more? Contact Barry Lampke, Director, Champlain Initiative, at [barry@unitedwaycc.org](mailto:barry@unitedwaycc.org).

#### **Federal Surface Transportation Bill Update**

The House Transportation Committee will roll out their long-term reauthorization and reform of transportation programs at a [press conference today, Tuesday, January 31, 3 p.m.](#) With the March 31 expiration of the 8<sup>th</sup> extension of SAFETEA-LU surface transportation legislation approaching, only two of the Senate oversight committees have approved their sections of the bill. On November 9, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), which has jurisdiction over the highway title, unanimously approved “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century,” or “MAP-21” (S. 1813), a two-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. Other Senate committees could take action on their sections the week of January 30.

On the House side, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) has delayed releasing the text of the House’s long-term surface transportation reauthorization measure until the legislation can be guaranteed floor time by the Republican Leadership. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Chairman Mica laid out a plan to link infrastructure investments with expanded oil and gas drilling. The legislation is anticipated to be called the “American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act” (will be H.R. 7) and is expected to include the text of a surface transportation authorization as well as several energy-production measures. There are also rumors surfacing that revenues for the bill could be tied to health care policy changes.

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood doesn’t expect a bill in the near future. “Given the politics, the number of days that remain, the differences between what the Senate and House are looking at — I think it’s very unlikely we will have a surface transportation bill during this year of Congress,” LaHood told a gathering of transportation professionals at the Transportation Research Board annual meeting. <http://transportationnation.org/2012/01/25/lahood-politics-means-no-surface-transportation-bill-this-year/>)

To view a NADO legislative fact sheet on surface transportation reauthorization, [click here](#).

#### **US DOT Announces Fourth Round of TIGER Grants**

Hot off the press – if I’m reading [today’s Federal Register](#) correctly, the US DOT is making \$500 million available for a fourth round of TIGER grants. Pre-applications must be submitted by February 20, and final applications must be submitted by March 19. Please contact Bryan if you would like CCRPC assistance in applying or to partner on a project ([bdavis@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:bdavis@ccrpcvt.org)).

#### **“The Very Hungry City” and Urban Energy Metabolism**

UVM Transportation Research Center (TRC) Director Austin Troy’s new book “The Very Hungry City” looks at the concept of urban energy metabolism, or the efficiency with which cities use energy to meet their basic functions-heating and powering buildings, transporting goods and people, and providing water. Dr. Troy contends that, while urban energy efficiency has traditionally been an environmental concern, it’s about to become an economic one as global energy prices rise. Some cities will be able to adapt quickly, but others will face significant hurdles-particularly cities that are car-dependent, sprawling, low density, dominated by inefficient buildings, and located in energy-intensive climate zones. On February 13 you can meet the author for a book discussion, book signing and reception at the UVM Davis Center Sugar Maple Ballroom at 4:00 p.m. Can’t make it? [Listen to Dr. Troy](#) talk about his book on VPR.

The next guest in the TRC speaker series will be James Howard Kunstler: The Geography of Nowhere. 7:30 pm, UVM Billings, CC Theater, March 21.

**Save the Date: March 31, Regional Walk/Bike Summit**

As a follow-up to the successful 2010 Summit, CCRPC and Local Motion are again teaming up to host an exciting and informative Walk/Bike Summit on March 31, culminating with a keynote by Jean-Francois Pronovost, Vice President of Development & Public Affairs for Velo Quebec. A diverse mix of workshops will be offered over two sessions and hosted by representatives at the local, state and national levels. A technical luncheon for planners, road managers and others will be held on Friday, March 30. More details coming soon!

**Save the Date(s): Town Officer's Education Conference in April 2012**

The dates are set for the 2012 Town Officer's Education Conference – more information will be available soon:

April 4, Hilton, Burlington

April 10, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee

April 18, Rutland/Killington Holiday Inn, Rutland

**Save the Date: April 25-27, National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference**

Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions are working closely with the National Association of Development Agency (NADO) to bring the 2012 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference to Burlington April 25-27, 2012. This is a great conference which brings together both rural regional planning organizations and small MPOs from across the country. If you have ideas for conference presentations, please click on this link and submit no later than January 20:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22DKYXSMARH> . If you have questions or are interested in sponsoring, please contact Michele Boomhower ([mboomhower@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:mboomhower@ccrpcvt.org)) or Peter Gregory ([pgregory@trorc.org](mailto:pgregory@trorc.org)). For more information visit [National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference](#).

**Save the Date: May 2, Vermont Walk and Roll to School Day**

The inaugural Vermont Walk and Roll to School Day will be May 2 and will complement International Walk to School Day, held every October. Vermont Walk and Roll to School Day can be used to get started as a Safe Routes to School [Resource Center Partner](#), or help schools move towards the next partnership level!

Vermont Walk and Roll to School Day can help initiate conversations with your students about how walking and biking can:

- Enhance your health by increasing the amount of physical activity
- Improve air quality by reducing automobile emissions in your school zone
- Make the streets safer by relieving traffic congestion

Please see the Resource Center's website for [tip sheets and other program resources](#).

**Save the Date: May 14-18, Way to Go! Commuter Challenge**

This annual event encourages the use of other modes to commute to work and offers incentives and prizes to foster friendly competition. Stay tuned for more details - check [www.waytogovt.org](http://www.waytogovt.org) for updates.