Welcome to the Inaugural Edition

On behalf of VTrans and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), welcome to the first issue of the CIRC Alternatives Task Force *Update*. The *Update* will provide up-to-date information for Task Force members and the public regarding the implementation of Task Force approved planning studies and implementation activities.

We are very pleased to report that the suite of five projects, voted by consensus of the Task Force, was approved by the Legislature in April 2012. These projects are now included in the State’s Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Program which will commence implementation on July 1, 2012. The projects represent an $11.5 million transportation program investment in Chittenden County.

Projects include:
- Exit 16 Improvements, Colchester
- VT2A/VT289 Interchange Improvements, Essex
- Crescent Connector Road, Essex Junction
- VT2A/James Brown Drive, Williston
- Regional Transportation Demand Management and Information Systems Upgrades

These projects will be featured in a future issue of the *Update*. This issue focuses on the status of the four approved planning studies. For those of you new to this process, please see the last page for a history of the Task Force and a list of Task Force members. Up-to-date information is also available at [www.circtaskforce.org](http://www.circtaskforce.org).

Please let us know how to make the *Update* more informative and useful to you. We appreciate your feedback!

Brian Searles
Vermont Secretary of Transportation

Michele Boomhower
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Director, CCRPC, mboomhower@ccmpo.org
660-4071 x15
Planning Study: Williston–Essex Network Transportation (WENTS)

The goal of this study is to develop a multi-modal transportation improvement plan for the primary corridors in the study area (see figure below) to address mobility, connectivity and safety issues. The Plan will include a comprehensive and coordinated list of highway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and land use recommendations that satisfy the overall vision and goals of the study corridors.

This study will occur in several phases:

**Phase 1: Evaluation of Two Major Network Strategies**
- I-89 connector to Mountain View Road (the former Circ A, Alt 13);
- Redmond Road Connector – this concept uses the Redmond Road alignment to connect to a new bridge crossing the Winooski River and connecting to VT 289 (similar to the former Circ Alt 15).

**Phases 2 through 5: A Corridor Management approach** will be used to conduct a comprehensive assessment of issues and needs for the primary corridors in the study area, and develop short, medium and long term transportation strategies and land use policies that will help achieve (over time) an agreed upon vision for the primary transportation network in the area. Study phases include:
- Phase 2 - Analysis of Existing and Future Conditions and Development of Network Vision/Goals;
- Phase 3 - Development and Evaluation of Strategies;
- Phase 4 - Development of Implementation Plan; and
- Phase 5 - Development of Draft and Final Network Plan.

This project is a joint effort between the CCRPC, the consultant team (RSG), and a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee includes representatives from Williston, Essex, Essex Junction, VTrans, Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), Local Motion, IBM, business community, and environmental groups (Conservation Law Foundation and Vermont Natural Resources Council).

During this quarter, the scope of work was finalized with Steering Committee input at the end of March. The Phase 1 draft report (evaluation of the two major network strategies regarding their environmental, transportation, and cost impacts using existing Circ EIS data) was prepared and sent to the Steering Committee for their review and comment prior to their April 20th meeting. Results from the Phase 1 evaluations were presented to the Williston and Essex Selectboards at their May 7th and May 21st meeting, respectively.

**WENTS Public Meeting**

Tuesday, June 19th, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
Williston Town Hall, 7900 Williston Road

This first public meeting will describe the goals and objectives of the study and summarize existing transportation and land use conditions. We welcome public input on issues and opportunities in the study area.
Planning Study: Vermont 127 Intersections—Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive and Blakely Road/Laker Lane Improvements, Colchester

This scoping study will analyze two VT127 Intersections: Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive and Blakely Road/Laker Lane. A scoping study of the VT127 corridor was completed in 2001. This corridor provides the only east-west connection in Colchester west of Interstate 89. This study will update previous work and make recommendations for safety and capacity improvements.

The study will be conducted by Lamoureux & Dickinson with oversight by CCRPC and the Town of Colchester (Police, Public Works, Colchester High School). A draft report will be presented to the Colchester Selectboard with the final report available on the CCRPC website.

The scope of work has been reviewed by the Town and CCRPC staff and a Notice to Proceed was issued on March 16, 2012. The consultant is reviewing the previous scoping study and collecting traffic data.

CCRPC Project Manager: Jason Charest, 660-4071 x32, jcharest@ccrpcvt.org
Consultant: Roger Dickinson/Jody Carriere, Lamoureux & Dickinson, jody@ldengineering.com

Study Dashboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Completion Date</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
<td>$22,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Study Completed</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CIRC Implementation Project Update - VT 289/VT 2A Local Concerns Meeting

Thursday, June 21st, 7:00 – 10:00 PM, Fire Station Conference Room, 190 Sand Hill Road, Essex

Come join us for the VT 289/VT 2A Local Concerns Meeting. We'd like to hear your comments and concerns regarding the project area and talk about roadway and signal improvements. The project area consists of the westbound and eastbound VT 289 intersections with VT 2A and the immediate surrounding approaches including Susie Wilson Bypass and the stretch of VT 2A connecting the two intersections.

Contact: Jason Charest, jcharest@ccrpcvt.org, 660-4071 x32.
Planning Study: Vermont 15 Multiuse Path

The goal of this study is to conduct a scoping study of a multiuse path connection adjacent to VT15 from West Street in Essex Junction to Exit 15 in Winooski. This project will build on and consolidate previous studies into one preferred alternative, including an alignment and proposed implementation plan. A Steering Committee, including representatives from Essex Junction, Essex, Colchester, Local Motion and St. Michael’s College will oversee this study. A Notice to Proceed was issued to Stantec on March 16, 2012 and the consultant team is evaluating existing conditions.

CCRPC Project Manager: Christine Forde, 660-4071 x13, cforde@ccrpcvt.org
Consultant Team: Jim Donovan, Broadreach Planning & Design, 425-5061, jdonovan@gmavt.net; Greg Goyette, Stantec Consulting, 864-0223, greg.goyette@stantec.com

Study Dashboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Completion Date</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Study Completed</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Planning Study: Pearl Street/Post Office Square Intersection Improvements and Post Office Square to Five Corners Streetscape and Bike Improvements

The goal of this study is to evaluate congestion and safety issues at the Pearl Street/Post Office Square intersection in Essex Junction and evaluate possible geometric improvements. The study will evaluate the section of VT15 from Post Office Square to Five Corners for streetscape and bike improvements. The Essex Junction Village Manager and the Essex Junction Development Director will provide direct oversight to this project, with input from the Village Trustees and other Village staff. A Notice to Proceed was issued to Stantec on March 6, 2012 and the consultant is evaluating existing conditions.

CCRPC Project Manager: Christine Forde, 660-4071 x13, cforde@ccrpcvt.org
Consultant: Greg Edwards, Stantec Consulting, 802-864-0223, gedwards@stantec.com

Questions about the Task Force?
For questions about the overall process, contact: Michele Boomhower, CCRPC, 660-4071 x15, mboomhower@ccmpo.org.

For public information or to be added to the mailing list, contact: Diane Meyerhoff, Third Sector Associates, 865-1794, diane@thirdsectorassociates.com.

www.circtaskforce.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Dashboard</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Completion Date</td>
<td>Fall 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Study Completed</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo Courtesy of Stantec
Since Governor Shumlin’s May 20, 2011 announcement that the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway - as originally conceived - would not be built, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) has coordinated a process to identify projects and planning activities to implement the purpose and need that the Circ highway was originally intended to address.

The CCRPC, in collaboration with VTrans, convened the **CIRC Alternatives Task Force**, consisting of twenty-three representatives to identify a list of immediate, mid-term, and long-term recommendations for planning and implementation projects to address mobility, congestion, transportation demand, safety, livability, and economic development in the region.

The Task Force met six times between July and December 2011 and recommended a package of four planning studies and five implementation projects. Planning studies, featured in this issue, include:

- Williston–Essex Network Transportation Study
- VT15 Multiuse Path, Essex Junction/Essex/Colchester
- Pearl Street/Post Office Square Intersection Improvements and Post Office Square to Five Corners Streetscape and Bike Improvements
- Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive and Blakely Road/Laker Lane Improvements, Colchester

The Task Force anticipates receiving the planning studies’ recommendations by the fall of 2012 in order to prioritize the next round of implementation projects for the FY2014 Transportation Capital Program. Check [www.circtaskforce.org](http://www.circtaskforce.org) for updates.

---

**History of the CIRC Alternatives Task Force**

Williston
- Terry Macaig, Selectboard Chair
- Rick McGuire, Town Manager
- Chris Roy, Primary RPC Representative
  - **Staff:** Ken Belliveau, Bruce Hoar

Essex
- Linda Myers, Selectboard Chair
- Pat Scheidel, Town Manager
- Jeff Carr, Primary RPC Representative
  - **Staff:** Dennis Lutz, Trevor Lashua

Essex Junction
- George Tyler, Village President
- Dave Crawford, Village Manager
- John Lajza, Primary RPC Representative
  - **Staff:** Robin Pierce

Colchester
- Richard Paquette, Selectboard Chair
- Al Voegele, Town Manager
- Marc Landry, Primary RPC Representative
  - **Staff:** Bryan Osborne

**Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)**
- Brian Searles, Secretary
  - **Staff:** Amy Bell, Ken Robie

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**
- **Technical Advisor:** Chris Jolly

**Other Primary Regional Transportation Partners**
- Meredith Birkett, CCTA Director of Planning & Marketing
- Chapin Spencer, Local Motion Executive Director
  - **Staff:** Jason Van Driesche, Local Motion

**Business Community**
- Tim Baechle, IBM
- Jeff Nick, Business Community Liaison
- Dawn Francis/Curt Carter, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce/Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC)

**Environmental Community**
- Paul Bruhn, Preservation Trust of Vermont
- Brian Shupe, Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC)
- Chris Kilian, Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)
  - **Staff:** Sandy Levine, Melissa Hoffer, CLF

**State Agencies**
- Secretary Deb Markowitz, VT Agency of Natural Resources
- Commissioner David Mears, VT Department of Environmental Conservation

---

Special thanks to Jason Charest, Eleni Churchill, and Christine Forde of the CCRPC; Greg Edwards of Stantec, Bob Chamberlin of RSG, and Jim Donovan of Broadreach Planning & Design for pictures and graphics.