

Update

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission www.ccrcvvt.org
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CIRC Alternatives Full Steam Ahead!

Welcome to the third edition of the CIRC Alternatives Task Force *Update* newsletter. The Task Force, staff at VTrans and CCRPC, and a cadre of consultants have been very busy with continued work on prospective planning and implementation projects that were approved for advancement by the Legislature and the Governor. This issue will update our readers on all of these activities.

The 2013 Legislature approved the Task Force's request for inclusion of over \$13 million in implementation projects in the Transportation Capital Program (see page 5); funding to commence preliminary engineering was included in the Program, as well as funding for immediate investments in Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and transit projects. The Task Force members would like to recognize all the Legislators who supported this effort.

And, we're not done. The Task Force has scheduled a series of meetings this fall to review progress and make project recommendations to the 2015 Legislature. The recommendations generated by the Task Force this fall will flow from the eleven planning studies currently underway (see pages 2, 3, 4).

We welcome your participation in these important meetings and all of our work. Detailed information about the studies and project is available at: www.circtaskforce.org.

As always, we welcome your comments and input.

Brian Searles

Vermont Secretary of Transportation

Michele Boomhower

Metropolitan Planning Organization Dir., CCRPC

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See Page 6 for Upcoming CIRC Alternatives Task Force Meetings

Planning Studies Underway

The CCRPC and VTrans staffs, municipal officials, and consultants have been hard at work. A series of planning studies are underway, including those focusing on Bicycle/Pedestrian access, Roadway and Intersection improvements, and a Park & Ride lot.

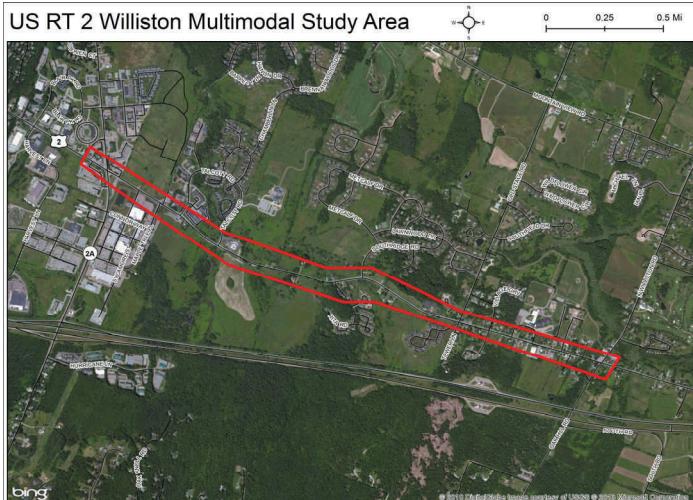
Bicycle/Pedestrian Scoping Studies

Bicycle/Pedestrian Scoping Studies

Multimodal Improvements US Route 2 (Taft Corners to Williston Village), Williston

This study will assess and recommend safe travel options for non-motorized travelers and transit users in the corridor. A Local Concerns Meeting was held on June 18th in conjunction with the Williston Planning Commission to hear from the public and present the existing conditions report. The next steps will develop conceptual alternatives; identify right-of-way issues and utility conflicts; scan for natural and cultural resource impacts; identify permitting requirements; analyze and present alternatives; and develop cost estimates and an implementation strategy. All work is scheduled to conclude later this year.

Peter Keating, pkeating@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x14



Courtesy of Stantec

CCRPC is developing scopes of work for additional bicycle/pedestrian studies in the CIRC Study area:

Multiuse Pathway, VT15 (Old Stage Road to Essex Way), Essex

This study will evaluate possible alignment and impacts of a missing-link path on the north side of VT15 between Old Stage Road and Essex Way. Cost estimates will be developed.

Christine Forde, cforde@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x13

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements VT2A (Blair Park to Industrial Avenue), Williston

This study will analyze continuous bike and pedestrian accommodations on VT2A by closing an existing gap between O'Brien Court and Industrial Avenue. The study will evaluate possible alignments and impacts of a path on either side of VT2A and develop cost estimates.

Christine Forde, cforde@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x13

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements on Mountain View Road (VT2A to Old Stage Road), Williston

This study will develop conceptual alignments for a separated multiuse path along Mountain View Road between VT2A and Old Stage Road. Possible impacts of such a path will be identified and preliminary cost estimates will be developed.

Christine Forde, cforde@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x13

Bike/Pedestrian Linkage Improvements in the Williston Growth Center, Williston

This study will develop conceptual layouts for missing links in the sidewalk system on Harvest Lane and VT2A in the Taft Corners area.

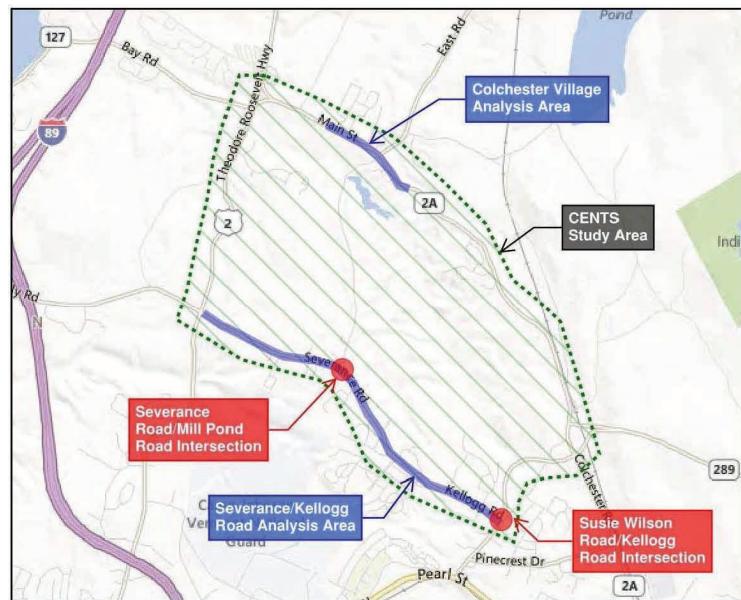
Christine Forde, cforde@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x13

Planning Studies Underway

Roadway & Intersection Improvements

Colchester-Essex Network Transportation Study (CENTS), Colchester & Essex <http://www.ccpcvt.org/transportation/scoping/cents/>

The Colchester-Essex Network Transportation Study (CENTS) will evaluate the impacts of the partial CIRC construction on Colchester and Essex. Specifically, the study is evaluating three areas: Colchester Village, the Severance Road corridor including the intersection of Severance Road/Mill Pond Road, and Susie Wilson Road. The study will evaluate the area using a network approach which considers the interrelationship between the roadways, and it will develop and evaluate alternatives to facilitate the movement of all users of the transportation system while maintaining the character of the individual roads.



CENTS Study Area

Courtesy of RSG

A Local Concerns meeting was held on June 27th to hear from members of the public regarding issues in the project area. A series of alternatives will be presented to the public and the Colchester and Essex Selectboards in the early fall.

Christine Forde, cforde@ccpcvt.org, 846-4490x13

Exit 12 Interchange & Grid Streets, Williston <http://www.ccpcvt.org/transportation/scoping/exit12/>

The major goals of the Exit 12 Scoping Project are: development of transportation alternatives for the Exit 12 interchange area and VT2A corridor (in the vicinity of the exit) that enhance safety for all users; address existing and projected traffic congestion; improve bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity; and advance economic growth in the area.

Two alternatives are currently being evaluated by the study team. They include a Double Crossover Diamond interchange (like the one being designed for the Exit 16 area in Colchester) and an expanded Conventional Diamond interchange which will provide additional lanes on VT2A. Both of these alternatives will require reconstruction of the Interstate bridges and are considered longer-term solutions for the area. A medium-term alternative is also being evaluated that could address safety issues at the Exit 12 area and improve bicycle/pedestrian travel through the interchange until a comprehensive (longer-term) alternative moves forward. All alternatives include the proposed new local roads connecting VT2A, between Exit 12 and Marshall Avenue, with the major retail centers east and west of VT2A.

A Local Concerns public meeting was held on June 4th and a second public meeting, to present the alternatives, is scheduled for October 1st. An Alternatives Presentation to the Williston Selectboard is scheduled for October 21st.

Eleni Churchill, echurchill@ccpcvt.org, 846-4490x11



Exit 12 Interchange

Courtesy of RSG

Planning Studies Underway

Roadway & Intersection Improvements

Intersection/Bridge Approach Improvements

VT117/North Williston Road, Essex

This study is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on existing intersection capacity and analysis of potential alternatives to improve its operation. Since VTrans considers this intersection as a High Crash Location, safety is a priority. The second part of the study will focus on evaluating and examining the flooding on North Williston Road. Analyses will be conducted to determine if there is a solution to reduce the frequency of roadway flooding without adverse impacts.

Survey work is almost complete and existing conditions data is being compiled. Work on preliminary alternatives is underway. The study team will meet in August and a public meeting will be held in early September.

Jason Charest, jcharest@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x32

Exit 17 Interchange, Colchester

This study focuses on the Exit 17 interchange area and includes the signalized intersection of US2 and US7 (Chimney Corners). The area experiences significant congestion during the AM and PM peak hours with regularly occurring backups onto Interstate 89 during the PM peak. There is a VTrans-designated High Crash Location in the study area. The study will identify conceptual improvements in the short term and focus on detailed alternatives for the long term. The existing conditions data and initial base mapping are currently being compiled. The study team has scheduled meetings in August and September; a Local Concerns public meeting will be held on September 10th at the Colchester Selectboard regular meeting.

Jason Charest, jcharest@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x32



Exit 17 Northbound Off-Ramp Traffic Backup

VT2A Scoping Study: Industrial Ave./Mountain View Road to River Cove Road, Williston

The purpose of this study is to evaluate transportation alternatives to address existing and future traffic congestion; enhance safety for all users; and improve bike and pedestrian travel along VT2A between Industrial Avenue/Mountain View Road and River Cove Road in Williston.

The study will evaluate the VT2A corridor from Industrial Avenue/Mountain View Road to River Cove Road and will specifically evaluate the intersection of VT2A with Industrial Avenue/Mountain View Road. This study will coordinate with a project currently in design for installation of a traffic signal at VT2A/James Brown Drive and construction of a two-way-left-turn lane between River Cove Road and Eastview Drive.

A Local Concerns Meeting was held on July 18th to hear from members of the public. A series of alternatives will be presented to the public and the Williston Planning Commission on October 1st and the Williston Selectboard on October 21st.

Christine Forde, cforde@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x13

Park & Ride Scoping Study

Park & Ride Improvements VT 15 Corridor, Jeffersonville to Essex

The Local Concerns Meetings have been completed and a set of draft recommendations will be available soon.

Peter Keating, pkeating@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x14

Courtesy of Jason Charest

Implementation Project Updates

Phase I Projects (Fiscal Year 2013)

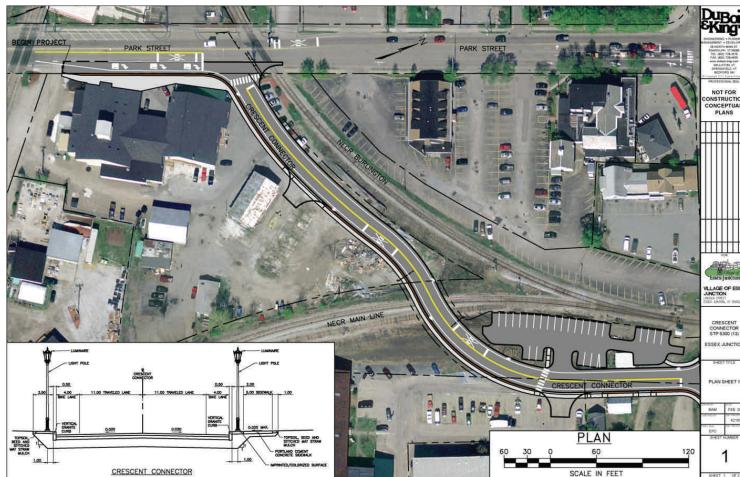
There are five projects underway in Phase I. VTrans and CCRPC provided the following updates:

Crescent Street Connector, Essex Junction

<http://www.essexjunction.org/government-offices/planning-zoning/item/118-the-crescent-connector-road-proposal>

VTrans continues preliminary planning and Environmental Assessment work. A public hearing on the Environmental Assessment will be held in early fall.

Crescent Street Connector: Proposed Project Design



Courtesy of DuBois & King

Routes 2A & 289 Intersection Project, Essex

Phase I construction is complete on this project, and the new Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS) is performing well, with commuters enjoying significant reductions in delay and less traffic backups. While scoping and conceptual level design has been completed for Phase II of this project, the Agency of Transportation is in the process of securing funding to commence with preliminary design. It is anticipated that the Phase II preliminary plan design will begin later this summer or early fall.

Route 2A & James Brown Drive Intersection Project, Williston

This project is currently in the preliminary design phase, with the goal of starting individual property owner visits late this fall or early in the winter. Construction should begin in spring of 2016.

US 7 & I-89 Exit 16 Double Crossover Diamond Project, Colchester

<http://www.ccpcvt.org/transportation/corridors/i89/exit16/>

This project is currently in the Right-Of-Way (ROW) phase, with ROW plans currently being developed. It is anticipated that appraisal and negotiations will begin in the late fall/early winter. While significant challenges have been overcome on this project, additional challenges remain. The design team continues to make important safety and capacity improvements. The project is expected to go to construction in 2015.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Local and regional transportation partners have formed Go! Chittenden County as a one-stop-shop for transportation information and encouragement. CarShare Vermont will purchase three new vehicles to expand their services in Winooski, downtown Burlington, and Price Chopper (Route 7 in South Burlington/Burlington). They also launched the Park It! Pledge on June 1st with nearly 80 households agreeing to park a car for six months in exchange for a wide variety of transportation incentives. CATMA continues to reach out to new employers, including its newest member, the City of Burlington. Local Motion is attracting new bike commuters through special workshops. The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) hosted the statewide Way to Go! Commuter Challenge in May with nearly 3,200 participants who saved an estimated 384,000 miles of driving alone resulting in 133 tons of carbon savings.

The logo features the word "go!" in a large, bold, black font inside a green circle. Below it, the words "CHITTENDEN COUNTY" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

CCTA has made significant progress this year with the installation of sixteen passenger shelters. To-date, six shelters have been completed, with three in Colchester and three in Williston. In FY14, they will continue work with installation of an additional four shelters in Colchester, three in Essex, and three in Williston. CCTA has also provided thousands of transit rides to employees at participating businesses.

Bryan Davis, bdavis@ccpcvt.org, 846-4490x17

Implementation Project Updates

Phase II Projects (Fiscal Year 2014)

The Phase II Projects are being advanced by the Agency of Transportation and the municipalities. Projects will move through the following phases: conceptual design, design, permitting, right-of-way, and construction. These projects include:

- Severance Corners Improvements, Colchester
- VT15/Sand Hill Road Intersection, Essex
- VT15 Improvements from Post Office Square to Five Corners, Essex Junction
- VT15 Multiuse Path in Winooski, Colchester, Essex, and Essex Junction
- US2/Trader Lane, Williston



Courtesy of Stantec

Vermont Route 15 in Essex Junction

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

[Go! Chittenden County](#) partners will continue reaching out to residents and businesses to share information about TDM and encourage new commuting habits. [VEIC](#) will host Chittenden County's first fall Way to Go! Commuter Challenge October 7-11 with a focus on the CIRC communities. [CATMA](#) is working with businesses to form an Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) Network. This group will convene this fall to share TDM success stories and strategies. [Local Motion](#) will produce a regional walk/bike map and continue to host on-site and one-on-one bike commuter workshops. [CarShare Vermont](#) will explore a Park It! Pledge program in the CIRC communities, specifically for neighborhoods located on transit routes. [CCTA](#) is planning a new Jeffersonville-Burlington commuter route to begin October 14th. A first round of public hearings was held in early July and a second round will be held in late August/early September. CCTA is identifying commuter parking locations along the route; they are in discussions with private property owners in Essex, Jericho, Cambridge, and Jeffersonville. More information on the upcoming route can be found at www.cctaride.org/jeffersonville. In addition, [CCTA](#) will invite at least two businesses in the CIRC communities to join their Transit Pass Pilot Project to provide free bus passes to employees. Visit www.gochittendencounty.org to find more information about commuting options.

Bryan Davis, bdavis@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x17

Upcoming Meetings of the CIRC Alternatives Task Force All meetings at Williston Town Hall

October 30, 2013 6:00-9:00 PM	Phase III CIRC Alternatives Planning Studies' Briefing #1
November 7, 2013 6:00-9:00 PM	Phase III CIRC Alternatives Planning Studies' Briefing #2
November 21, 2013 6:00-9:00 PM	Complete Project Prioritization for FY15 Capital Program and Vote on Final CIRC Alternatives Project Recommendations

History of the CIRC Alternatives Task Force

Since Governor Shumlin's 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 ten times between July 2011 and July 2013 and will hold three meetings in the fall of 2013 (see page 6 for details).

During the 2012 Legislative session, five projects were approved by the Legislature for implementation. During the 2013 session, the Legislature approved an additional six projects. Eleven planning projects are underway with preliminary results to be released this fall, for consideration by the Task Force and Legislature in 2014.

Questions about the Task Force?

For questions about the overall process, contact: Michele Boomhower, CCRPC, 846-4490x15, mboomhower@ccrpcvt.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

CIRC Alternatives Task Force Members

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: Trevor Lashua, Dennis Lutz

Essex Junction

George Tyler, Village President
Robin Pierce, Development Director
Daniel Kerin, Primary RPC Representative

Colchester

Nicole Scibek, Selectboard Chair
Dawn Francis, 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
Matt McMahon, 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, CLF; Kate McCarthy, VNRC

State Agencies

Secretary Deb Markowitz, VT Agency of Natural Resources
Commissioner David Mears, VT Department of Environmental Conservation