CIRC Alternatives Process Wraps Up

On behalf of VTrans and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), welcome to the fourth issue of the CIRC Alternatives Task Force Update.

Over the past two and a half years, the twenty-three member Task Force met thirteen times to tackle mobility, congestion, and safety issues in the CIRC communities of Williston, Essex, Essex Junction, and Colchester.

Accomplishments for the Task Force are many; eleven implementation projects moved to the Agency of Transportation’s Capital Program, representing more than $25 million in infrastructure investment in Chittenden County. The final set of projects, unanimously approved by the Task Force in November, represent a $78 million investment for 15 projects over a 20-year period. Phase III projects will be forwarded to the Legislature for their consideration this session beginning in January 2014.

Both of us would like to send a big thank you to the staffs at VTrans and CCRPC as well as the consultants who worked tirelessly to make the CIRC Alternatives process a successful one.

This edition of the Update provides information on the final set of projects and the status of previously-approved projects. Detailed information about the process and studies are available at the website: www.circtaskforce.org.

Brian Searles  
Vermont Secretary of Transportation

Michele Boomhower  
Metropolitan Planning Organization Dir., CCRPC  
mboomhower@ccrpcvt.org / 846-4490x15
On November 21, 2013, the CIRC Alternatives Task Force approved a package of Phase III Implementation Projects to be completed over the next 20 years. With the concurrence of the Governor, the package will be sent to the Legislature for their consideration in the next session beginning in January. The Task Force and Governor will ask the Legislature to include these projects in the upcoming FY15 Capital Program.

### Phase III Implementation Projects — Williston

- **Interstate 89 Exit 12 Interchange Improvements.** Four stages of construction including a new shared-use path, new lane to access the Interstate, new grid streets, diverging diamond interchange, and Vermont 2A Boulevard upgrade.

- **Industrial Avenue/Mountain View Road/Vermont 2A.** Intersection improvements and new Vermont 2A lane to James Brown Drive.

- **US2 Taft Corners to Williston Village Shared-Use Pathway.** New path on north side of US2, new pedestrian crossings, new bus stops, rehabilitate existing sidewalk.

- **Expand Mountain View Road and Redmond Road for a Shared Shoulder.**

- **Complete Connectivity of Williston Sidewalks/Paths on Harvest Lane and Vermont 2A.**

### Phase III Implementation Projects — Essex

- **Vermont 117/North Williston Road Intersection Improvements.**

- **Vermont 117/North Williston Road Hazard Mitigation Improvements.** Construction of a 6 foot box culvert, safety enhancements, and armoring.

- **Vermont 15 Shared-Use Path** from Old Stage Road to Essex Way.

- **Susie Wilson Road Corridor and Intersection Improvements — Vermont 15 to Kellogg Road.** Expanded intersection.
Phase III Project Recommendations (continued)

Phase III Implementation Projects - Colchester

- Mill Pond Road/Severance Road Intersection Improvements and Severance Road Multi-Use Path.
- Vermont 2A Village Main Street Improvements & Mill Pond Road/East Road/Vermont 2A Intersection Upgrade.
- Vermont 127 Blakely Road/Laker Lane Intersection Improvement. Widen Blakely Road to provide a westbound left turn land and an eastbound right turn lane.
- Vermont 127 Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive Intersection Improvement. New signal, intersection realignment, improve pedestrian crossing.

Phase III Implementation Projects – Regional CCTA Commuter Service

- Milton/Colchester to Burlington Commuter Service.
- Essex/Williston to Waterbury/Montpelier Commuter Service and accompanying Park & Rides.

CCTA Launches New Jeffersonville Commuter Route

CCTA’s new Jeffersonville Commuter was selected by the CIRC Alternatives Task Force in Phase II to improve transportation options. The new commuter route provides weekday service along the Route 15 corridor, serving Jeffersonville, Cambridge, Underhill, Jericho, and Essex Town as it heads into Winooski and Burlington. The route offers two morning and two evening round trips. On its first day of operation the route met its ridership target with 35 passengers aboard.

Phase II Projects (Fiscal Year 2014)

The Phase II Projects are being advanced by the Agency of Transportation and the municipalities. The following Phase II projects are either in or nearing preliminary engineering:

- Severance Corners Improvements, Colchester
- Vermont 15/Sand Hill Road Intersection, Essex
- Vermont 15 Improvements from Post Office Square to Five Corners, Essex Junction
- Vermont 15 Multiuse Path in Winooski, Colchester, Essex, and Essex Junction

One of the Phase III Implementation Projects — The Severance Road Corridor in Colchester.
Implementation Project Updates
Phase I Projects (Fiscal Year 2013)

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

**Crescent Street Connector, Essex Junction**
A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and is under review at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). When the EA is approved, it will be released for public comment and a public hearing. VTtrans estimates that right-of-way work will likely begin in the spring of 2014.

**Routes 2A & 289 Intersection Project, Essex**
Phase I construction is complete with the installation of Adaptive Traffic Control Systems (ATCS) to reduce traffic delay and queues. Phase II, the addition of turning lanes, now moves to preliminary engineering.

**Route 2A & James Brown Drive Intersection Project, Williston**
This project is in the preliminary design phase. Since significant aerial utility relocations are required, the utility companies are developing relocation plans. VTtrans hopes to start individual property owner visits early this winter. Construction is anticipated in the spring of 2016.

**US 7 & I-89 Exit 16 Diverging Diamond Interchange, Colchester**
This Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) project is currently in the right-of-way phase. It is anticipated that appraisals and negotiations will begin this winter. VTtrans continues to work on securing environmental permits. Construction is expected in 2015.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**
Local and regional transportation partners, under the Go! Chittenden County umbrella, have been very busy:

**CarShare Vermont** completed analyses in three CIRC communities to determine the viability and potential success of carsharing. They will also be offering a third Park It! Pledge to target commuters traveling in CIRC communities.

**Local Motion** hosted bike commuter workshops in CIRC communities to introduce and encourage new bicycle commuters. They continue to offer discounted bike racks to employers. They are designing a regional walk/bike map displaying Chittenden County’s growing network of shared-use paths, sidewalks, trails, and bike routes along with community landmarks.

**CATMA** has expanded their Transportation Management Association (TMA) services in CIRC communities, including the Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) Network, a forum for like-minded employers committed to improving transportation options and reducing traffic and parking congestion.

**CCTA** will expand their existing transit pass pilot project to at least one business in CIRC communities. This program provides employees with free unlimited bus travel for one year. CCTA is installing new solar transit shelters along Route 2, Route 2A, and Route 15 in the CIRC communities.

**Vermont Energy Investment Corporation** (VEIC) piloted a fall Way to Go! Commuter Challenge from October 14-18 with a focus on CIRC communities to encourage commuters to use alternative modes. Essex Junction was the winning CIRC community.

For more information, contact Bryan Davis, bdavis@ccrpcvt.org, 846-4490x17

802-685-RIDE | www.gochittendencounty.org
Press Conference
Draws a Crowd

On November 26th, Governor Peter Shumlin and the Task Force hosted a press conference at the Williston Town Hall to celebrate the conclusion of the CIRC Alternatives process. In addition to the Governor, speakers included Brian Searles (VTrans), Michele Boomhower (CCRPC), Jeff Nick (JL Davis Realty), Brian Shupe (VNRC), George Tyler (Village of Essex Junction), Linda Myers (Town of Essex), Dawn Francis (Town of Colchester), and Chris Roy (Town of Williston).

The press conference is available for viewing here.

Special thanks to Williston’s Ken Belliveau and the CCRPC’s Christine Forde for the photography.

Jeff Nick of JL Davis Realty offers his remarks. From left: Secretary Brian Searles, Rep. Patrick Brennan, Governor Shumlin, Jeff Nick.

Governor Peter Shumlin addresses those gathered for the press conference.
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 thirteen times between July 2011 and November 2013. The Task Force has now concluded its work.

The Legislature has approved eleven projects totaling over $25 million in investments. The final phase (Phase III) of implementation projects was unanimously approved by the Task Force and will be considered by the Legislature for inclusion in the FY 15 Capital Program. Phase III includes $78 million in investment for 15 projects over a 20-year period.

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
- **Pat Scheidel**, Village Manager
- **Daniel Kerin**, Primary RPC Representative
  - **Staff**: Robin Pierce

**Colchester**
- **Nadine 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
- **Jason Van Driesche**, Local Motion Education & Safety Manager

**Business Community**
- **Tim Baechle**, IBM
- **Jeff Nick**, Business Community Liaison
- **Curt Carter/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 Noelle MacKay**, VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD)

**Past Members**: Dave Crawford (Village of Essex Junction Manager), Chapin Spencer (Local Motion Executive Director), Richard Paquette (Colchester Selectboard Chair), Al Voegele (Colchester Town Manager), Joss Besse (ACCD).

CCRPC Staff Supporting the CIRC Alternatives Task Force: Michele Boomhower, Jason Charest, Eleni Churchill, Bryan Davis, Christine Forde, Peter Keating.