

## **FY2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **CITY of BURLINGTON**

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a political subdivision of the State created by the municipalities of Chittenden County in 1966 for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. Its vision is to be a pre-eminent, integrated regional organization that plans for healthy, vibrant communities, economic development, and efficient transportation of people and goods while improving the region's livability. The CCRPC serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible to all citizens of the region to ensure the implementation of the best regional and transportation plan for Chittenden County. The CCRPC also provides technical and planning assistance to its member municipalities and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

The CCRPC is governed by a 29-member board consisting of one representative from each of the County's 19 municipalities; transportation representatives from VTrans, Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Burlington International Airport (BIA), and a rail industry representative; and at-large members representing the interests of agriculture; environmental conservation; business; and housing/socio-economic. The legislative body of each Chittenden County municipality selects its own representative and alternate. The full Commission selects the at-large representatives.

The CCRPC celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016 and appreciates the continued opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect and improve the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County. In FY16, the CCRPC invested more than \$4.7 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages nearly \$4.3 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$200,000 in local match for specific projects—a **9:1 return on investment**.

City of Burlington representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY16 were:

- CCRPC representative and FY16 Board Chair – Andy Montroll
- CCRPC alternate – Colin Robinson
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Nicole Losch
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – David White
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee – Nicole Losch

Specific activities the CCRPC is engaged in with the City of Burlington, as well as some of CCRPC's regional activities, are discussed in the following sections.

## CITY OF BURLINGTON ACTIVITIES

In FY2016, the CCRPC provided assistance to Burlington on the following projects and initiatives:

- **North Avenue Pilot Project** – CCRPC staff provided technical assistance to the North Avenue Task Force and the Burlington Department of Public Works as they move toward implementation of short-term/pilot improvements in the corridor. Specifically, CCRPC staff assisted with data collection and analysis including travel times, vehicle speeds, bicycle/pedestrian and traffic counts, and with signal timing and phasing plans. The CCRPC partnered with the City to hire consultants to develop conceptual design plans for the pilot project improvements (winter/spring 2016) and to provide public outreach assistance (spring/summer/fall 2016). The CCRPC contributed significant staff time and \$21,000 in total consultant costs in FY16.
- **Burlington Downtown Improvement District - Downtown Parking Study** – The City, in partnership with the Burlington Business Association (BBA), is working on the third and final phase to prepare a comprehensive parking plan with strategies that are responsive to market demand and managed efficiently. Total consultant costs for this 3-year project were approximately \$394,000.
- **Railyard Enterprise Scoping (REP)/PEL Project** – The purpose of this project was to develop a network of multimodal streets connecting Pine St. and Battery St. to support economic development in the railyard enterprise area; improve livability of the surrounding neighborhoods; enhance multimodal travel; and improve connections to the railyard. The City Council at their December 21, 2015 meeting passed a resolution to advance three REP Alternatives recommended by the project's Steering Committee into an Environmental Permitting process. The REP Scoping/PEL report was finalized in June 2016. Total consultant costs for this 3-year project were approximately \$248,900.
- **planBTV South End** – The CCRPC supported the development of the draft planBTV South End through approximately \$160,000 in financial assistance and staff participation over the course of this project.
- **Burlington Residential Parking Study** – This project identified a number of parking management strategies to best utilize the limited parking and land resources in the City's residential areas. Total consultant costs for this 3-year project were approximately \$84,400.
- **Winooski Avenue Corridor and Area Wide Circulation Study** – The study has 2 phases. Phase 1, undertaken in FY16, is a technical assessment of the impacts of modifying one-way segments of Winooski Avenue or converting segments to two-way vehicular traffic. The goal of Phase 1 is to perform a technical review and not to advance any particular scenario. Phase 2, likely in FY17, will entail a formal corridor study with public outreach efforts. Phase 1 will produce a traffic model that can be used to address more specific improvement concepts as they are developed in Phase 2. The model will be used to evaluate the traffic impacts of 4 alternative circulation schemes. \$84,000 total consultant costs per each phase.
- **Colchester Avenue / Riverside Avenue / Barrett Street / Mill Street Intersection** – This project will complete a scoping study to improve the safety, efficiency and multi-modal access to and through the intersection, which is the #3 High Crash Location in Vermont. \$74,500 total consultant costs.

- **Winooski River Bike/Ped Bridge Feasibility Analysis** – The CCRPC is assessing the feasibility of a separate bridge for walking and biking on the east (upstream) side of the Main Street Bridge. \$20,000 total consultant costs.
- **Burlington TDM Action Plan** – The City created a comprehensive employee transportation demand management program that will reduce parking demand from City employees and make more parking available for commercial activity; reduce downtown traffic and congestion; reduce vehicle emissions and greenhouse gases; make better use of City funds for transportation options; and, reduce employee transportation costs. \$60,000 total consultant costs.
- **Economic and Technical Analysis of Key Employee Commute TDM Strategies** – as Phase II of the TDM Action Plan, the City examined the economic costs, technological issues, and other details and logistics associated with the design and implementation of a Universal Transit Pass, and a possible Parking-Cash Out/ Commute Allowance Program, both of which are recommended in the Action Plan. \$15,000 total consultant costs.
- **Burlington Walk/Bike Master Plan** – The City is completing its first comprehensive master plan for active transportation. \$20,000 was CCRPC's contribution towards the total consultant costs, in addition to staff assistance on the project technical committee.
- **Adaptive Signal Control Project** – Evaluating a state-of-the-art signal system for the corridors of Main Street/US 2/Dorset Street in Burlington and South Burlington to improve traffic flow. \$59,200 total consultant costs.
- **Regional Transportation Demand Management** pilot project (Go! Chittenden County) with local and regional transportation partners featuring Burlington-specific projects including:
  - Park It Pledge hosted by CarShare Vermont
  - Employee Transit Pass Pilot Project for three Burlington employers hosted by CCTA
  - Launch of Regional Multi-modal Transportation Hub downtown featuring CCTA transit center, CarShare VT pod, and electronic access bicycle lockers
  - Expansion of TDM services through the Chittenden Area TMA (CATMA)
  - Bike commuter workshops and walk/bike site assessments by Local Motion
- **Stormwater** – Provided ongoing staff support to the **Chittenden County Stream Team** (<http://www.ccstreamteam.org/>) and **Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program** (<http://www.smartwaterways.org>) to facilitate multi-municipal cooperation to comply with ANR stormwater permit requirements for public education and involvement.
- **Brownfields** – In May 2016 CCRPC awarded \$400,000 in assessment and cleanup planning funds to aid redevelopment with a focus in Burlington and Winooski.
- **Emergency Management – LEOP:** Offered assistance with the annual local emergency operations plan (LEOP) to ensure the municipality is prepared in the event of a disaster. **ERAF:** Staff assisted with information and details regarding new rules for Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF). CCRPC staff worked with City staff to prepare the first draft of the required update to the City's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and submit it to the Vermont Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for review.
- **Lake Champlain Byway** – As part of the Byway ([www.lakechamplainbyway.com](http://www.lakechamplainbyway.com)) of which the City is a member, staff continued to promote improvements to traveler information and to interpretation of the area's historic, recreational and scenic resources.

- **Community Health and Public Safety Dashboard** – CCRPC & UVM obtained grant funding to build a dashboard that characterizes behavioral health issues in the City by compiling data from a variety of social service agencies, the UVM Medical Center, and the police department. The Burlington Police Department Service Executives Committee guides this work.
- **GIS/Mapping** – GIS analysis was conducted to determine actual lot coverage for parcels within the RM (Residential – Medium Density) zoning district. Using 2013 color infrared imagery, CCRPC staff determined the approximate lot coverage for each parcel within the 9 RM zoning districts. In addition, CCRPC staff used the 2015 LiDAR (pilot project data) data to generate 95.5 ft contour line along the lakeshore.
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC provides extensive intersection, roadway (AADT), and Bicycle & Pedestrian counts every year in support of Burlington’s transportation projects and studies (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).
- **Climate & Energy Planning** – Provided technical assistance to the City’s Sustainability Coordinator for complying with the World Wildlife’s Fund’s Earth Hour City Challenge eligibility requirements. This involved updating and reporting the City’s greenhouse gas emissions and joining the Compact of Mayor’s (<http://www.compactofmayors.org/>).

### Burlington Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/transportation-improvement-program/>) is a prioritized, multi-year list of transportation projects in Chittenden County. To receive federal funds, each transportation project, program or operation must be authorized through the TIP. Burlington projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also identified in the FY2016 Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program for design or construction.

- **Champlain Elementary Pedestrian Crossing Improvements** - \$490,000 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian award for FY16 construction of 365 feet of sidewalk and improved crossings on Birchcliff Parkway and Locust Street
- **Champlain Parkway** - \$43 million project with construction scheduled to begin in FFY 2018
- **North Avenue Crosswalks** - 2015 VTrans Transportation Alternatives award of \$220,000 to construct five pedestrian crossings of North Avenue in FY16
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Action Plan** - \$75,000 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian award for refinement of facilities identified in 2011 Transportation Plan and 2013 planBTV (project underway)
- **Railyard Enterprise Project** - \$11.5 million for multimodal transportation infrastructure improvements between the Pine Street corridor and the Burlington Waterfront South area with preliminary engineering scheduled for FY17
- **Shelburne Street Roundabout** - \$2.9 million for roundabout to be constructed at Shelburne St/South Willard St/St. Paul St in FY19
- **Colchester Avenue Shared Use Path** - \$77,840 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian award in 2015 to design and construct a shared use path on Colchester Avenue from Mansfield Avenue to South Prospect Street
- **Howard Street/South Winooski Avenue Intersection Improvements** - \$40,540 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian award in 2015 to conduct an intersection scoping study

## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** – The CCRPC celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2016, and hosted an event as part of its annual meeting in June, during which over 80 representatives of municipal, regional, and state government gathered to celebrate – including guest speaker Governor Peter Shumlin. CCRPC staff also developed a timeline that highlights some significant milestones, events, and other happenings throughout Chittenden County and beyond over the last 50 years. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/news/ccrpc-timeline/>)
- **Legislative Forum** – Hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Legislative Breakfast in December as a forum for a short, focused conversation with local legislators and municipal representatives on key issues and high interest topics important to area municipalities for the 2015-2016 legislative session, including: smart growth, water quality, and municipal shared services. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/event/chittenden-county-municipal-legislative-breakfast/>)
- **ECOS Plan Annual Report** – The [2015 Annual Report](#) is a summary that highlights a number of regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions. The ECOS Plan is the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. The ECOS Scorecard is our online platform that hosts the ECOS Partners' shared measurement system that monitors how Chittenden County is doing with regard to achieving our shared ECOS goals. (<https://app.resultsscorecard.com/Scorecard/Embed/8502>) The ECOS Plan was updated to better address a few state requirements on May 18, 2016. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-regional-plan/>)
- **Supporting the STEM Industry Cluster and Young Professionals** – CCRPC examined these issues and produced a white paper in June 2016. This white paper explains the important role that the STEM cluster and young professionals play in the County's economy; examines the current conditions of the STEM cluster and young professionals in Chittenden County; explores the building blocks necessary for growing the STEM cluster economy; and offers suggestions for future work that can be undertaken by the CCRPC to help support the STEM economy. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/>)
- **Emergency Management** – CCRPC, with Local Emergency Planning Committee 1 (LEPC 1 <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>), served as a key conduit between the City and the State in sharing damage assessment information after disasters, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, hosted workshops on a wide array of emergency preparedness topics, and facilitated Incident Command System training.
- **All-Hazards Mitigation Plan** – CCRPC staff, in consultation with municipal staff, have been working to develop the 2016-2021 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan along with individual Hazard Mitigation Plans for each municipality. These plans outline key municipal actions to address and mitigate against common hazards such as severe rainstorms and flooding. In addition to providing individual assistance to each of the member municipalities, the CCRPC helped to facilitate the Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee to develop

comprehensive countywide mitigation strategies. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation-plan/>)

- **Transportation Demand Management** – The CCRPC, along with regional and state partners, continued hosting **Go! Chittenden County**, a one-stop-shop for information and advice about our region’s transportation resources ([www.gochittendencounty.org](http://www.gochittendencounty.org)). The CCRPC continues promoting the annual **Way to Go! Challenge** ([www.waytogovt.org](http://www.waytogovt.org)) to encourage sustainable transportation (non-single occupant vehicle travel) and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits. The CCRPC also launched the **Travel Smarter** platform and campaign, a trip planner that provides a side-by-side comparison of the time, costs, distance, and calories associated with driving, biking, walking, and taking the bus. ([www.TravelSmarterVT.org](http://www.TravelSmarterVT.org))
- The **Intelligent Transportation System Plan** was adopted in January 2016 and describes how to best use telecommunications and technology to boost the efficiency of the transportation system and provide timely information on travel options. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ITS-Plan-Update-Architecture-Final.pdf>)
- **Regional Active Transportation Plan** – The CCRPC is updating the Regional Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan to identify and make recommendations for a comprehensive, connected, accessible and safe regional network for walking and biking. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>)
- **Diversity & Equity** – The CCRPC continues to use the **2014 Public Participation Plan** (PPP) to guide our focus on diversity and equity in all projects. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>)
- **Regional Technical Assistance** – Includes transportation technical assistance, GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250 application reviews, grant administration, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>).
- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC held the Planning Commissioners’ Summit, Green Infrastructure trainings, and hosted a Regional Highway Safety Forum with VTrans. We continued hosting meetings and online webinars open to municipalities and regional partners covering topics such as: Equity Issues in Transportation Planning; Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts; Complete Streets policies; VOBICIT/VT Culverts (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>); and the entire 12-webinar series from the Associate of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals.
- **Byway** - Developed the Lake Champlain Byway Story map - <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>
- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to integrate volunteer drivers into human services transportation in order to increase access to transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by offering a lower-cost mode of transport. (<http://www.unitedwaynwvt.org/Neighbor-Rides>)
- **Opioid Alliance** – The CCRPC was asked to serve as the backbone for the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance and hired a Program Director. The Opioid Alliance is a unique commitment from state, local government, and non-profit leaders to put forth a comprehensive mutually reinforcing approach to reducing opioid abuse and the ancillary burdens they bring to our

community. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/chittenden-county-opioid-alliance>)

- **Building Homes Together** – The CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont are leading a coordinated campaign to strengthen Chittenden County communities by building 3,500 homes by 2021 for people of all incomes, including 700 affordable homes. This campaign began in spring 2016. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>)
- **Clean Water Advisory Committee** – The CCRPC formed the Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) to oversee CCRPC activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain TMDL Plan and its related plans and programs.

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For further information about the CCRPC please visit <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/> or contact CCRPC Executive Director, Charlie Baker, [cbaker@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:cbaker@ccrpcvt.org), 802-846-4490 x23.