

FY2017 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, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), 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 CCRPC selects the at-large representatives.

The CCRPC 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 FY17, the CCRPC invested more than \$6 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$5.6 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$187,000 in local match for specific projects—**a 13:1 return on investment.**

City of Burlington representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY17 were:

- CCRPC representative and Immediate Past Board Chair – Andy Montroll
- CCRPC alternate – Colin Robinson
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Nicole Losch
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – David White
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – Jenna Calvi
- MS4 Subcommittee – Jenna Calvi
- All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Committee – Seth Lasker, Robert Plante, Peter Brown
- 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 FY2017, 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 short-term/pilot improvements were implemented in summer 2016. The CCRPC and City staff continued working on quantitative assessments of data while the community/qualitative assessments were undertaken by a consulting firm specializing in surveys and public outreach. The CCRPC contributed significant staff time and \$40,500 in total consultant costs in FY17.
- **Burlington Downtown Improvement District - Downtown Parking Study** – The City, in partnership with the Burlington Business Association (BBA), completed the third and final phase to prepare a comprehensive parking plan with strategies that are responsive to market demand and supporting alternative transportation. Total consultant costs for this 3-year project were approximately \$394,000.
- **Railyard Enterprise Project (REP)** – The purpose of this project is 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 REP Scoping/PEL phase concluded with the City Council passing a resolution (December 21, 2015) to advance three REP Alternatives into an Environmental Permitting process. The REP Scoping/PEL report was finalized in June 2016. In FY17, the City and VTTrans decided to further evaluate, through Supplemental Scoping, the risks and opportunities of delivering the simplest of the REP alternatives (Alt 1B) with local and state funding only, thus avoiding a long and costly federal process. The City Council adopted a resolution directing the City to proceed with the REP Supplemental Scoping at their November 28, 2016 meeting. Total consultant costs for the REP Project to date are: Scoping/PEL Phase: \$248,900. Supplemental Scoping: \$112,000 in FY17.
- **Winooski Avenue Circulation and Corridor Study** – The study has 2 phases. Phase 1, completed in FY17, 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 was to conduct a technical review and not to advance any particular scenario. Phase 2, starting in FY18 will be a formal corridor study with a robust public outreach to develop multimodal transportation improvement strategies to address safety, capacity, and connectivity for all modes. Phase 1 produced a traffic model that will be used to evaluate specific improvement concepts as they are developed in Phase 2. Consultants cost for Phase 1: \$88,000 and anticipated consultant costs for Phase 2: \$90,000.
- **Colchester Avenue / Riverside Avenue / Barrett Street / Mill Street Intersection** – This project is nearly completed with the Advisory Committee placing a final decision regarding a preferred (long-term) alternative on hold until the results of the adjacent Winooski River Bridge Scoping are sufficiently complete. The preferred alternative is a consolidated signalized intersection but the Advisory Committee still needs to decide between two variations of this signalized alternative. A draft interim final report is currently being reviewed and will be released summer of 2017. \$89,000 total consultant costs in FY16 and FY17.

- **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 Winooski Main Street Bridge. \$20,000 total consultant costs.
- **Winooski River Bridge Scoping** – The bridge connecting the cities of Burlington and Winooski is nearing 90 years of age. This scoping study will develop and evaluate rehabilitation and reconstruction alternatives that provide adequate vehicle capacity while improving the walk/bike infrastructure. The project began in late FY17 and will carry over into FY18. \$150,000 total consultant costs in FY17 and FY18.
- **Bank Street and Church Street Intersection Scoping** – The Bank St. and Church St. intersection is the last project to be completed as part of the Church Street Marketplace’s 10-year capital plan. This effort developed conceptual plans for future construction. \$25,000 in total consultant costs.
- **Burlington Walk/Bike Master Plan** – The City completed its first comprehensive master plan for active transportation. The CCRPC contributed \$20,000 towards the total consultant costs, in addition to staff assistance on the project technical committee.
- **Adaptive Signal Control Project, Phase II** – This project evaluated a state-of-the-art signal system for the US 2 and Dorset Street corridors in Burlington and South Burlington to improve traffic flows. \$83,450 total consultant costs in FY16 and FY17.
- **Real Time Traffic Information** – The CCRPC is working with VTrans, Burlington and South Burlington to plan, design and implement advanced traffic monitoring systems (ATMS) for five corridors in the county (including US2 at the Exit 14 Area) to collect travel times and average vehicle speeds through anonymously tracking Bluetooth (BT) devices carried by motorists (cell phones) and vehicles. The project is funded through a \$981,760 Federal Highway Administration grant.
- **Regional Transportation Demand Management** pilot project (Go! Chittenden County) with local and regional transportation partners featuring Burlington-specific projects including:
 - Resident and business outreach by CarShare Vermont
 - Employee Transit Pass Pilot Project for three Burlington employers hosted by GMT
 - Launch of Regional Multi-modal Transportation Hub downtown featuring new GMT 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
- **Initial Plan Review and Consultation:** CCRPC reviewed the 2014 Burlington Municipal Development Plan in advance of its 2019 expiration. CCRPC completed a consultation with Planning and Zoning staff and provided clarity on new state requirements for municipal plans and discussed the City’s plan to overhaul the current Municipal Development Plan.
- **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. In April 2017, these two efforts were merged under a single identity, **Rethink Runoff** (<http://rethinkrunoff.org/>).
- **Brownfields** – A FY16 grant award from EPA has helped to fund redevelopment studies for the following properties in the City: 207 Flynn Avenue (City Market); 316 Flynn Avenue (apartments

+ commercial space); 339 Pine Street (potential new road); 400 Pine Street (artist studios + office); 453 Pine (potential office) and Burlington Waterfront (soil cleanup).

- **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 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) 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.
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC provides extensive intersection, roadway (AADT), and Bicycle & Pedestrian counts every year in support of Burlington's transportation projects and initiatives (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).
- **Climate & Energy Planning** – The CCRPC conducted a presentation to the Planning Commission on Act 174, the Energy Development Improvement Act of 2016. An energy data guide has been prepared for the City to support local planning and to assist with understanding the City's role in meeting the State of Vermont's energy goals. CCRPC Staff is working with City Planning and Zoning Staff and Burlington Electric Department Staff to align the ECOS Plan energy elements with the City's Integrated Resource Plan.

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 FY2017 Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program for design or construction.

- **Champlain Elementary Pedestrian Crossing Improvements** - \$490,000 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian award for FY19 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 2019
- **North Avenue Crosswalks** - 2015 VTrans Transportation Alternatives award of \$220,000 to construct five pedestrian crossings of North Avenue in FY19
- **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 FY21
- **Shelburne Street Roundabout** - \$3.5 million for roundabout to be constructed at Shelburne St/South Willard St/St. Paul St in FY19
- **Colchester Avenue Shared Use Path** - 2014 Sidewalk grant (100,000), 2015 Sidewalk grant (\$108,350), and 2015 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian award (\$77,840) to design and construct in 2018/2019 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 in 2017.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Legislative Forum** – Hosted the 2016 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 2017-2018 legislative session, including: housing, water quality, and municipal shared services. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>)
- **ECOS Plan and Annual Report** – Updates to the energy, transportation and economic development sections of the 2018 ECOS Plan update got started. The [2016 Annual Report](#) is a summary that highlights 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>)
- **Population, Housing, & Employment Forecasts** – To prepare for the 2018 update of the ECOS Plan, the CCRPC updated the county's population, housing, and employment projections. These projections to 2050 will serve as inputs to the Energy Plan and to the Travel Demand Model, which will have implications for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-regional-plan/>)
- **Regional Dispatch Implementation Study** – The CCRPC, in partnership with Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Hinesburg, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski, is developing a plan for a consolidated regional dispatch environment for law enforcement, fire and rescue resources. <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>
- **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, worked to develop the 2017 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan which was formally approved by FEMA in March 2017. CCRPC staff have also prepared and submitted 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). The CCRPC continues promoting the annual **Way to Go! Challenge** (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, which is now a statewide program of VTrans. (www.TravelSmarterVT.org)
- **Regional Active Transportation Plan** – The CCRPC approved 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/>)
- **Regional Energy Plan Project** – The CCRPC is developing a focused Regional Energy Plan to advance the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan’s climate and energy goals while also being consistent with municipal and regional land use plans. The CCRPC also developed Municipal Energy Data Guides for each municipality to support local planning and to assist municipalities with understanding their role in meeting their State’s energy goals. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-energy-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. We hosted a Public Participation/Title VI workshop in July 2016 for municipal and consultant staff to help everyone understand our role and responsibilities for public involvement. (<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 participated in and hosted the following trainings: Town Plans, Economic Development, Energy Building Codes, two on Energy Planning, and a DRB Summit. We continued hosting meetings and online webinars open to municipalities and regional partners covering topics such as: Advancing the Intersection of Health, Equity, and Transportation; Guide to Running a Bike Share; VOBICIT/VTCulverts (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>); and the entire 12-webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals.
- **Byway** – Four bicyclist “rest stops” (consisting of a large picnic table with a roof accompanied by an information kiosk) constructed along the Byway, two in the Islands and one each in Colchester (at Airport Park) and Shelburne (at Shelburne Vineyard). Developed the Lake Champlain Byway online resource sites map - <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>. Relaunched the

Byway's website, www.lakechamplainbyway.com and launched a cell phone audio tour available for listening by phone and on the web at www.lcbyway.oncell.com

- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to integrate volunteer drivers into human services transportation 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 and Data Manager. 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 continue to lead a coordinated campaign to strengthen Chittenden County communities by building 3,500 homes by 2021 for people of all incomes, including 700 affordable homes. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>)
- **Clean Water** – The CCRPC has assisted in development of the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan, and has begun assisting on the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan; and have participated in numerous committees and conversations to help address new permitting requirements and funding regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain TMDL Plan and its related plans and programs.

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