

FY2018 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), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), 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 FY18, the CCRPC invested more than \$5.7 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$5.3 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$132,000 in local match for specific projects—a **14:1 return on local investment**.

City of Burlington representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY18 were:

- CCRPC representative – Andy Montroll
- CCRPC alternate – Rob Fish
- 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 FY2018, the CCRPC provided assistance to Burlington on the following projects and initiatives:

- **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. In FY17, the City and VTrans decided to further evaluate, through Supplemental Scoping, the risks and opportunities of delivering the simplest of the REP alternatives (Alt 1B) using local and state funds only. In FY18 the project team further investigated the benefits and impacts of three variants of Alt 1B, developed railyard plans for reconfigured operations, evaluated necessary stormwater improvements in the project area, investigated possible mitigation strategies for historic and archaeological impacts, and created an evaluation matrix that includes estimated costs for the three Alt 1B alignments. For more information please go to: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/railyard-enterprise-project/>. Total REP Supplemental Scoping consultant costs: \$112,000.
- **Winooski Avenue Corridor Study** – Preliminary traffic assessment of the impacts of modifying one-way segments of Winooski Avenue or converting segments to two-way vehicular traffic was completed in FY17 and results of this effort will inform the corridor study that was initiated in FY18. The goal of the study is to develop an actionable plan that includes short and long term transportation improvement strategies to address multimodal safety, capacity, and connectivity throughout the corridor. In FY18, CCRPC staff worked collaboratively with the City to finalize the scope of work, hire a consultant, organize a project advisory committee, develop a public involvement plan and started to conduct stakeholder outreach. For more information please go to: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/corridors-circulation/winooski-avenue-corridor-study/>. Consultants costs in FY18: \$88,000 and anticipated total consultant costs (FY18 and FY19): \$168,000.
- **Shelburne Street Signal Assessment Project in Burlington (I-189 to Prospect Pkwy)** – The CCRPC partnered with the City to evaluate traffic operations for five signalized intersections on Shelburne Street (US7) in Burlington from the junction of I-189 to Prospect Pkwy. The goal of the project was to improve traffic signal operations through optimization and coordination to effectively address vehicular congestion and mobility issues for all users. The project was completed in June with the development of a signal timing plan for existing conditions and future traffic conditions. Consultant cost: \$15,000.
- **Winooski River Bridge Scoping** – Beginning in the spring of 2017 and extending through the fall of 2018, the CCRPC, along with the cities of Burlington and Winooski and a wide range of stakeholders, initiated a scoping study to evaluate rehabilitation and reconstruction alternatives that provide adequate vehicle capacity and improve walk/bike infrastructure on the Winooski River Bridge. In FY18, CCRPC staff worked with the consultant and advisory committee to evaluate bridge reconstruction scenarios and a traffic impact analysis, held the local concerns and alternatives presentation meetings, coordinated with state officials with

regards to the bridge alternatives, historic preservation and natural resource impacts, and developed an alternatives evaluation matrix. For more information go to:

<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/winooski-river-bridge-scoping-study/>. Total consultant cost (multiyear contract): \$180,644.

- **Colchester Avenue / Riverside Avenue / Barrett Street / Mill Street Intersection** – Continuing work that begun in FY17, this scoping study will provide preferred short and long-term alternatives to improve the safety, efficiency and multi-modal access to and through the intersection. For more information please go to: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/colchester-riverside-intersection-scoping-study/>. Total consultant cost: \$71,000
- **Intervale Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Feasibility** – The CCRPC, City of Burlington and a project consultant have partnered on a study to identify walk/bike improvements along Intervale Road. The study corridor has become increasingly busy with a mix of vehicular traffic, farm vehicles, large trucks and pedestrians/bicyclists. The study will analyze existing conditions, consider future developments and make recommendations on ways to enhance safety for all users of the roadway. In FY18, the Scope of Work and budget were finalized, a local concerns meeting was held, a series of draft project alternatives were developed, and an alternatives presentation was facilitated. Total consultant amount: \$60,000.
- **Burlington Amtrak: Overnight Storage Study** – The CCRPC, City of Burlington, and VTrans are collaborating on a study to identify an overnight storage and servicing location in Burlington for the future Amtrak passenger train, which is currently scheduled to begin service to Burlington in 2021 or 2022. Five sites in Burlington were evaluated by a consultant, with oversight provided by a technical steering committee. Two public meetings were held to present the five selected sites, evaluation criteria, results and ranking of the sites based on the evaluation. For more information please go to: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/burlington-amtrak-overnight-storage-study/>. Total consultant cost: \$59,248.
- **Transportation Demand Management Assistance** –
 - Continued to support the Burlington Walk Bike Council, Open Streets BTV and pop-up bike demo events
 - Supported our partners in resident and business outreach by CarShare Vermont and bike commuter workshops and technical assistance by Local Motion
 - Provided planning assistance for a Vermont Lake Monsters summer walk/bike event
- **Chittenden County Brownfields Program** – The CCRPC manages this program to help properties that are vacant or underutilized because of potential petroleum or hazardous substance contamination become productive again. Since the fall of 2016, using EPA grants funds, the program has provided \$144,215 to assess contamination at nine properties in Burlington: 316 Flynn Avenue (Redstone Apartments); 400 Pine Street/20 Howard Street (Unsworth Properties); 339 Pine Street (Railyard Enterprise Project); 56 and 58 North Avenue (Sarah Holbrook Center); Lake Street (Waterfront Park); 314 North Winooski (Champlain Transmission); 75 Briggs Street (Petra Cliffs); 207 Flynn Avenue (City Market); and 453 Pine Street (near Barge Canal). For more information, visit <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/brownfields/>.
- **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation** – CCRPC staff worked in early 2018 with municipal staff to prepare a 2017 Progress Report on the implementation of the actions recommended in the

Burlington's municipal All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Typically, these were roadway and stormwater projects to mitigate the impacts of future severe rainstorms.

- **Emergency Management – LEOP:** CCRPC staff offered assistance in Spring 2018 with the annual local emergency operations plan (LEOP) to ensure that Burlington is prepared in the event of a disaster.
- **Stormwater Planning** – The CCRPC provided support to Burlington through the management of the Rethink Runoff program (<http://rethinkrunoff.org/>) to facilitate multi-municipal cooperation to comply with ANR MS-4 stormwater permit requirements for public education and involvement.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** The CCRPC continued to provide assistance to all member municipalities to address policy, data, and reporting issues to meet the MRGP requirements. CCRPC staff completed the GIS database buildout of hydrologically connected outlets. The CCRPC and City partnered on the following projects:
 - Stone Environmental was hired to conduct a Stormwater Feasibility Study for the Railyard Enterprise Project area. Total consultant cost: \$25,000.
 - Watershed Consulting Associates was hired to develop conceptual plans for an MRGP-related stormwater/roadway improvement project. Total consultant cost: \$5,000.
- **Grants-in-Aid:** CCRPC staff coordinated with the City to assist in planning for a grants-in-aid project, although no project was ultimately implemented. Staff also provided assistance with planning for future grants-in-aid cycles.
- **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.
- **Burlington Parks Recreation and Waterfront (BPRW) Story Map** – The goal of this project was to make the status and work schedule of BPRW projects publicly accessible through online visuals such as maps, design sketches and photographs. CCRPC staff worked with City staff to design and implement an intuitive and accessible online ArcGIS Story Map to better inform the public about ongoing projects.
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC provides extensive intersection, roadway (Average Annual Daily Traffic), and Bicycle & Pedestrian counts every year in support of Burlington's transportation projects and initiatives (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).
- **Municipal Infrastructure Inventories** – Pavement and guardrail inventories were completed.
- **Technical Assistance** – CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the City including:
 - Reviewed the timeline for the development of the City's new Municipal Development Plan;
 - Participated in meetings to support the Burlington Land Use Policy Group;
 - Participated in Burlington's Inclusionary Zoning Working Group public hearing;
 - Worked with the City to submit updated street network changes for placement into the VTrans Town Highway Maps;
 - Set up traffic counters and video detection equipment as part of the proposed Old North End Greenway;
 - Compiled South End crash data to assist with an update to PlanBTV South End.

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 FY2019 Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program for design or construction.

- **Burlington Train Station Platform** - \$1.8 million to modify Burlington train station platform to accommodate AMTRAK service with construction planned for 2020.
- **Champlain Elementary Pedestrian Crossing Improvements** - \$394,860 VTrans Bicycle/Pedestrian Program award for 2019 construction of 365 feet of sidewalk and improved crossings on Birchcliff Parkway and Locust Street
- **Champlain Parkway** - \$29.5 million project with construction scheduled to begin in 2019
- **North Avenue Crosswalks** - 2015 VTrans Transportation Alternatives award of \$220,000 to construct five pedestrian crossings of North Avenue in 2019
- **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 2022
- **Shelburne Street Roundabout** - \$8.2 million for roundabout to be constructed at Shelburne St/South Willard St/St. Paul St in 2020/2021
- **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 2019 a shared use path on Colchester Avenue from Mansfield Avenue to South Prospect Street
- **Rail Crossing Safety Improvements - College Street** - \$1.4 million for rail crossing safety improvements at College Street
- **Stormwater Management Improvements on Main Street** - \$594,000 to complete stormwater improvements in FY20. Includes \$475,000 VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program award.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **ECOS Plan and Annual Report** – The ECOS Plan is the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County and was readopted in 2018 with major updates to the energy, transportation and economic development sections:
 - 2018 ECOS Plan: <http://www.ecosproject.com/2018-ecos-plan/>
 - **Summary:** http://www.ecosproject.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2018-ECOS-Plan-Summary_20180807_FINAL.pdf
 - The 2017 Annual Report highlights regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions: <http://www.ecosproject.com/annual-report/>
 - The ECOS Scorecard is our online data 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>

- **Legislative Forum** – The CCRPC hosted the 2017 Legislative Breakfast in December as a forum for a short and focused conversation with local legislators and municipal representatives on key issues and topics important to area municipalities for the 2018-2019 legislative session, including: housing, water quality, and municipal shared services. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>)
- **Building Homes Together** – The CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont continue to lead a coordinated campaign to strengthen Chittenden County communities and our economy by building 3,500 homes by 2021 for people of all incomes, including 700 affordable homes. CCRPC staff developed a series of housing indicators with the first-year data for a press conference that was held in September 2017. CCRPC also began to host a meeting of municipal Housing Committees to facilitate peer learning. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>)
- **Clean Water** – The CCRPC is committed to supporting water quality initiatives throughout our region to ensure that all residents have access to clean drinking water; to strengthen our region’s recreation and tourism industry; and to become more resilient to flood events. To assist our member municipalities and the state in working together to achieve these goals, the CCRPC has facilitated the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>), provided guidance for the Vermont Clean Water Fund, worked with state officials to revise the grant manual for the Ecosystem Restoration Program, assisted municipalities with Better Roads grants and stormwater master plans, and participated in water quality-focused advocacy and education programs such as the Chittenden County Stream Team (<http://rethinkrunoff.org/the-stream-team/>) and Lake Champlain International.
- **Public Health**– The CCRPC supports and serves the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance (CCOA, <http://www.ecosproject.com/chittenden-county-opioid-alliance>) together with numerous other regional stakeholders. The CCOA is made up of many dedicated stakeholders who come from different sectors of the community and have partnered together: local non-profit agencies, state and local government; UVM Medical Center; Health Department; business leaders and community members in Chittenden County. CCRPC also served as the lead agency for the Regional Prevention Partnership (<http://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drug-abuse/programs-services/prevention-programs>). Accomplishments included expansion of drug take back locations, promoting drug take-back days, fake ID enforcement, and community education about substance use prevention.
- **Regional Dispatch Implementation** – The CCRPC continues to work in partnership with Chittenden County municipalities to implement a plan for a consolidated regional dispatch environment for law enforcement, fire and rescue agencies. CCRPC staff facilitated discussions with municipal legislative bodies, participated in hearings with the Vermont Legislature’s Government Operations Committees and provided support to the Joint Survey Committee. Following strong support from voters in Burlington, Colchester, Milton, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski on Town Meeting Day 2018, the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority (CCPSA) was approved as a new union municipal district tasked with delivering

regional emergency dispatch services to improve public safety operations.

(<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>)

- **Emergency Management** – In collaboration with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 1, <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>), the CCRPC hosted and participated in a variety of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to enhance resilience to disasters in our region. CCRPC also served as a key coordinator between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, worked with municipalities to complete Local Emergency Operations Plans, and facilitated Incident Command System training.
- **Regional Energy Planning** – The CCRPC adopted a Regional Energy Plan to support the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan consistent with municipal and regional land use plans and policies. The CCRPC conducted significant outreach and incorporated feedback into the Plan from the following: municipal Energy Committee/Planning Commissions; municipal legislative bodies; members of the public; State agencies, including the Vermont Department of Public Service; and CCRPC’s Long Range Planning Committee, Energy Sub-committee, Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The final plan was adopted on June 20, 2018 as part of the ECOS Plan (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-energy-plan/>) and was granted an Affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance by the Department of Public Service on August 9, 2018. This means that the ECOS Plan’s policies will be given “substantial deference” during Public Utilities Commission proceedings. CCRPC has increased participation in PUC proceedings to ensure that local and regional policies are recognized.
- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC participated in and hosted the following trainings: Act 174 Training Assistance, Emergency Management Director/Public Information Officer Workshops, Act 250: Next 50 Years Conference, Economics of Housing Workshop, Regional Housing Convening. The CCRPC also continued to host the 12-month webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals for municipalities and regional partners.
- **Lake Champlain Byway** – Chittenden County includes eight Byway communities: Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex Junction, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne and Charlotte. The CCRPC supported the Lake Champlain Byway by encouraging the communities to adopt the 2017 Byway Corridor Management Plan and supporting improvements to Byway signage, cell phone audio stories, brochures and a new website (www.lakechamplainbyway.com).
- **Transportation Demand Management** – The CCRPC and VTrans transitioned the popular annual **Way to Go! Challenge** (www.waytogovt.org) to a school-focused K-12 program to encourage sustainable transportation (non-single occupant vehicle travel) and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits. With the recent expansion of CATMA’s (Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association) TDM services throughout the region, 2017 was the final year of promotion for **Go! Chittenden County**, a one-stop-shop for information and advice about our region’s transportation resources (www.gochittendencounty.org). The CCRPC’s **Travel Smarter** campaign and trip planner provides a side-by-side comparison of the time, costs, distance, and calories associated with driving, biking, walking, and taking the bus. This transitioned into VTrans’ TDM program (www.TravelSmarterVT.org).

- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, the CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to improve the integration of 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>)
- **Regional Active Transportation Plan** – The CCRPC began steps to implement the Regional Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan recommendations for a comprehensive, connected, accessible and safe regional network for walking and biking. CCRPC staff led the development and launch of the regional **Greenride Bikeshare** system (www.greenridebikeshare.com), provided walk/bike recommendations on local and state paving plans, assisted municipalities with bike/ped grant applications, developed model bike parking ordinances for municipalities, promoted TDM strategies, and conducted walk/bike counts on paths, bike lanes and roadways. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>)
- **Regional Transportation Model** – The regional transportation model was updated to better reflect current and future transportation demands due to forecasted demographic and employment changes in the county. The model is a tool used by the CCRPC to compare various land use and transportation scenarios and their effects on our transportation system at a regional level. Most recently, it was utilized in the 2018 update of our Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to assist in identifying and prioritizing transportation investments that will be most effective in meeting the MTP goals.
- **Chittenden County Transportation Survey** – The 2018 survey largely replicates the 2000, 2006 and 2012 versions to note any historical attitudinal shifts. The chief purpose of the survey is to objectively measure public opinion in Chittenden County regarding the performance of the region’s transportation system and to identify strategies to address existing and future deficiencies. Relative to performance, questions measure public opinion on how well the transportation system serves the public’s travel needs, affects livability, promotes economic development and opportunity, and affects the environment. The most recent survey was conducted this past April and May and the survey report is currently being drafted. Results will be released in October 2018.
- **Diversity & Equity** – The CCRPC continues to use the **2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP)** to guide our focus on diversity and equity in all projects. An update is planned in FY19 to ensure everyone understands our role and responsibilities for public participation. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>)
- **Regional Technical Assistance** – This includes but is not limited to, technical assistance for various transportation issues, GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250/Section 248 application reviews, grant administration, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>).
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)** – The CCRPC has been planning, designing and implementing advanced technologies on congested corridors in the county to improve safety, facilitate traffic flows and reduce delays. (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/intelligent-transportation-systems/>):
 - **Advanced Traffic Monitoring System (ATMS) using Bluetooth Technology** - The CCRPC, in

close coordination with VTrans and FHWA, planned, designed and implemented an Advanced Traffic Monitoring System for five (5) congested corridors in Chittenden County to gather real-time travel data using Bluetooth technology. The system will ultimately integrate with the VTrans ATMS and Traveler Information System (TIS) for 511 through the State Transportation Operations Center (TOC). The CCRPC has already implemented a pilot corridor (Williston Road/US 2) using six (6) Bluetooth sensors for real-time travel data collection, testing and validation purposes. This fall, 24 Bluetooth sensors will be installed along the remaining four (4) corridors. The entire system will be tested and validated and the real-time travel data collected will assist VTrans and municipalities to improve the efficiency, safety, and reliability of the regional transportation system.

- **Exit 14 Area Traffic Signal Assessment Study** – The CCRPC has been coordinating with VTrans and the municipalities of South Burlington and Burlington to identify strategies to reduce congestion and improve traffic flows in the vicinity of the I-89 Exit 14 interchange. The CCRPC has completed a system assessment study for traffic signals along Williston Road/Main Street between Staples Plaza and Midas Drive, and Dorset Street between Williston Road and Kennedy Drive and developed a strategic plan for signal and communications infrastructure improvements and upgrades. Exit 14 Earmark funds will be used in the near future to implement the highest priority recommendations in South Burlington.

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.