

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

-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. The CCRPC also serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible for transportation planning with our municipalities, state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in Chittenden County. The CCRPC is governed by a 29-member board consisting of one representative from each of the County's 19 municipalities, transportation representatives and, at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, and housing/socio-economic. CCRPC's 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. [Click here](#) to learn more about the CCRPC.

In FY23, the CCRPC invested over \$7 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages around \$6.5 million in Federal and State investment with \$255,408 in municipal dues and around \$250,000 in local match for specific projects—a 13:1 return on local investment.

Burlington representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY23 were:

- CCRPC Representative: Andy Montroll; Alternate: vacant
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Norm Baldwin
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC): Meagan Tuttle
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC): James Sherrard
- Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC): Michael LaChance - Fire Chief, Derek Libby – Deputy Fire Chief

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<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-communities/burlington/>

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

Burlington Activities

In FY2023, the CCRPC provided assistance to Burlington on the following projects and initiatives:

- **Battery Street Corridor Study-** The [Battery Street Corridor Study](#) will identify improvements to support all modes of transportation, adjacent parks, adjacent businesses, stormwater, and enhance the street as a gateway between the downtown and waterfront districts. This Corridor Study is about halfway through with draft alternatives being developed in early FY24. Total consultant budget: \$109,815
- **Right-of-Way Condition Inventory (Phase 3):** This project involves a multi-year effort to create a comprehensive condition inventory of the City's right-of-way, to determine the feasibility of implementing stormwater retrofits to treat and manage stormwater runoff from City streets. This inventory process will allow Burlington's Stormwater Program to coordinate, plan, and execute retrofits ahead of other City transportation and asset management projects. Phase 1 included an inventory of Wards 5 and 6, while Phase 2 (completed in FY22) included an inventory in Wards 2 and 3. Wards 1 and 8 are the areas covered under Phase 3. Work on Phase 3 will continue into the fall of 2023. Total consultant budget for all phases: \$122,000
- **DI Block Grant - Burlington/CHT/Pomerleau 3 acre project** - The CCRPC administered this public-private 3-acre gravel wetland grant to create a final design for a gravel wetland in an area south of the Shelburne Road Plaza and Champlain Housing Trust property. The proposed gravel wetland will provide phosphorus and sediment removal mechanisms as well as attenuate flows. In FY23, total consultant funds were \$40,925. Total consultant budget: The project will wrap up in the fall of 2023.
- **All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update-** CCRPC supported the readoption of The City of Burlington's All Hazards Mitigation Plan by FEMA in late May.
- **Burlington South End Multimodal Feasibility Study:** This study examined the feasibility of a transit center and potential housing at 68 Sears Lane in Burlington, investigated site layout options, developed conceptual construction cost estimates, investigated potential funding streams for the project, and supported stakeholder outreach. This project and [the final report](#) was finalized in December. Total consultant budget: \$30,000
- **Property Transportation Plan:** The Burlington Electric Department (BED) and the Burlington 2030 District (BTV 2030) are partnering to reduce vehicle miles travelled and transportation emissions in Burlington's commercial and affordable multiunit sectors via the development and implementation of customized Property Transportation Plans (PTP). Through extensive stakeholder engagement, including transportation survey administration and analysis, the PTPs provided customized transportation demand management-related recommendations and opportunities to reduce transportation emissions and VMT of building occupants, including owners, employees, or tenants. This was a two-phase project in FY22 and FY23. Total consultant budget for both phases: \$20,000.
- **Regional Energy Planning and Transportation Electrification Support-** CCRPC shared VEIC's Guide to EV Fleet Charging Management and assisted the City of Burlington to possibly apply for VT Diesel Emissions Reductions Financial Assistance Program to replace a dump truck. CCRPC also met with BED staff regarding the details of the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) and gathered data about municipal budgeting for EV chargers in each municipality and shared with City staff.
- **Burlington Amtrak Multimodal Connections Study:** This study evaluated opportunities for multimodal connections to the Burlington Amtrak station. It also addressed the gaps and barriers to accessing these connections to better serve Amtrak users and foster seamless connections to area amenities and services. [The final report](#) was completed in June.
- **Burlington Impact Fee Study – Revision & Expansion:** The CCRPC and the City are working with a consultant to update their transportation impact fees. In a related effort, the City is working with a separate consultant to update fees associated with fire, police, parks, library, and schools. CCRPC and City staff are coordinating with the two consultants as the work is closely related and builds off the same

base assumptions of household and employment growth. Draft impact fees will be reviewed and revised in early FY24 with the work anticipated to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Total consultant budget for this project: \$54,000

- **Chittenden County Brownfields Program:** In May 2023, CCRPC secured a competitive EPA grant of \$500,000 for Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Planning over the next four years to aid property owners, potential developers and municipalities in investigating environmental issues before potential property redevelopment. This year, using separate funds provided by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development the program has provided funding to assess perceived or real contamination issues in Burlington at 314 North Winooski Ave (formerly Champlain Transmission), 300 Flynn Ave (Howard Center), 782 South Winooski, 176 South Winooski Ave (VFW Post 782 building and 168 Archibald St. The CCRPC has also received \$50,000 from ACCD in May 2023 for site assessment and cleanup planning with the potential to receive additional funds if more sites are identified needing such assistance.
- **Byway Coordination:** Chittenden County includes eight of Lake Champlain Byway's 22 communities: Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex Junction, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne, and Charlotte. CCRPC staff maintained the [Byway website](#) including a helpful [Interactive Map](#). Additionally, CCRPC continued funding during the summer for the [Byway's audio stories App & Phone line](#).
- **Technical Assistance:** CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the Town, including:
 - Collaborating on the City's Safe Streets for All (SS4) grant application
 - Development of an action plan for prioritizing traffic signal upgrades and maintenance. The prioritization methodology used criteria such as proximity to schools, opportunity index, traffic volumes, and crash data in addition to condition of the assets.
 - Collaborating on the City's SMART grant application
- **Traffic Counts:** 15 Automatic Traffic Counts and 4 Turning Movement Counts were conducted in Burlington this year. Traffic counts conducted in support of Burlington's Transportation projects and studies can be [found here](#).
- **Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program:** [The Chittenden County E&D Transportation Program](#) supports community members through affordable transportation to medical appointments, access to fresh food at the grocery store, and social visits. In FY23, 2,369 trips were provided to Burlington residents as part of this program.

Burlington Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

[The TIP](#) 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 included in the Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program.

- **Calahan Sidepath:** 2022 Transportation Alternatives Grant (\$286,400) to construct 700 feet of path along the north side of Locust Street.
- **Champlain Parkway:** \$66 million project with construction beginning in 2022.
- **Church Street Side Streets – Cherry Street:** Burlington received \$14 million in Congressionally Directed Funding to make a generational investment in Cherry Street to increase pedestrian access to the Church Street Marketplace.
- **Class I Town Highway Paving:** \$16.7 million for paving US2, US7 and Alt US7. Paving to be completed in

2023.

- **Colchester Avenue/ Barrett Street/ Mill Street Intersection Improvements:** New regionally driven project added to the VTrans Capital Program in 2022. Project schedule to be determined.
- **Colchester Avenue/ Prospect Street Intersection Improvements:** New regionally driven project added to the VTrans Capital Program in 2022. Project schedule to be determined.
- **Intervale Road Rail Crossing Improvements:** \$525,000 to improve the rail crossing on Intervale Road in F24.
- **Intervale Road Shared Use Path** 2021 VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program award of \$1.162 million for a shared use path on Intervale Road from Riverside Avenue to the Intervale Center.
- **Lake Street Sidewalk and Stormwater Management:** 2021 Transportation Alternatives award of \$300,000 for a 150-foot long, 12-foot-wide shared use path on the north side of Lake Street.
- **Queen City Park Road Sidepath:** 2022 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program award for \$828,000 to construct a path along Queen City Park Road between Central Avenue and Austin Drive.
- **Railyard Enterprise Project:** \$15 million for multi-modal transportation infrastructure improvements between the Pine Street corridor and the Burlington Waterfront South. Funding schedule to be determined.
- **Reconnecting Downtown Burlington:** 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant (\$22,384,000) to fund final design and construction activities to rebuild Bank Street, Cherry Street, and sections of Pine Street and St Paul Street.
- **Schifillitti Park Shared Use Path:** \$285,727 Transportation Alternatives award for construction of a path between James Avenue and Gosse Court. Construction scheduled for 2024.
- **Shelburne Street Roundabout:** \$10 million for roundabout to be constructed at Shelburne St./South Willard St./St. Paul St. Construction to be completed in 2023.
- **Stormwater Management Improvements on Main Street:** \$475,000 Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program award for stormwater improvements in FY24.

FY2024 CCRPC Work Program		
Project Name	Brief Description	Total Budget
Shelburne St / Home Ave Intersection Scoping (Burlington)	This project will scope the alternative options and select a preferred alternative to improve safety and efficiency at this heavily traveled intersection, as this is identified as a VTrans high-crash location based on 2012-2016 crash records. This project could be completed within approximately one year.	\$60,000
planBTV: New North End	This plan will build off the work completed as part of the 2015 North Avenue Corridor Study and will provide direction on how to prioritize funding for identified capital investments as the neighborhood evolves to be denser, more walkable and transit accessible.	\$200,000
Universal Access to Burlington Parks	This project will assess all of Burlington’s parks to identify ADA-related deficiencies that create barriers for access to each park and to specific eligible destinations within each park. It will also review best practices, community partners, and recommend strategies that can bridge transportation barriers to parks for people with limited mobility.	\$50,000
VT 127 Shared Use Path Scoping & Feasibility Study	This project will complete scoping for new access points to and from the 127 path, assess the feasibility of widening the path, and assess the crash history of vehicles from SR 127 striking the fence that separates the roadway from the path.	\$150,000
Coordinated Short Term Bicycle and Pedestrian	This is a request for technical assistance to develop an Active Transportation Count Methodology for the City of Burlington.	CCRPC staff assistance

Counts Workplan		only
Property Transportation Plan	Previous UPWP funding assisted Burlington Electric Department (BED) and the Burlington 2030 District (BTV 2030) to develop customized Property Transportation Plans (PTP). Additional UPWP funding will bolster and hone the PTP template, survey distribution and analysis, completion of new PTPs, and engagement, outreach and follow-up with property owners and managers.	\$6,750
Cottage Grove, Stanbury Road, and Green Acres Drive Sidewalk Scoping	This project will work with a consultant to develop a scoping report to facilitate development of sidewalks within the New North End.	\$50,000
Traffic Modeling of Shelburne Street	This project will require technical assistance from CCRPC staff to update traffic data and traffic models for Shelburne St. The purpose is to obtain current traffic data and projections as Burlington prepares for a future corridor study, following completion of the Champlain Parkway project.	CCRPC staff assistance only
Northern Waterfront Connectivity Study	This project will engage the community and adjacent landowners to scope the alternatives, identify opportunities and constraints, and identify the preferred alternatives and cost estimates to fill gaps in the sidewalk and path network for improved connections to the northern waterfront.	\$30,000

Regional Activities

- **ECOS Plan Implementation and Update:** The [2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan](#) (Environment; Community; Opportunity; Sustainability) is the regional plan for Chittenden County and combines the Regional Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into one. [The ECOS Scorecard](#) monitors the accomplishments and progress indicators for all 17 of the ECOS goals. CCRPC began updating the ECOS plan for the next five years in FY 2023 for intended adoption in 2024.
- **Public Engagement and Racial Equity:** The CCRPC continued to build organizational capacity to address systemic racism and inequities in our communities through the following actions:
 - Hiring a full time Equity & Engagement Manager to lead organizational and project-specific equity and racial justice efforts.
 - Facilitating, providing, and/or taking advantage of educational opportunities for our staff, municipalities, and other local and regional partners.
 - Strengthening existing relationships and partnerships and forging new ones with community organizations, grassroots organizers, and individuals working directly with marginalized communities.
 - Supporting and facilitating an [Equity Advisory Committee](#) to guide CCRPC’s equity work.
 - Drafting an organizational Equity Statement and Equity Action Plan, building off of recommendations from the Creative Discourse Group’s [Organizational Equity Assessment](#).
 - Beginning to explore and design a community capacity building grant program using FHWA funds to increase trust, education, and participation from marginalized communities in CCRPC’s transportation decision-making.
- **Chittenden County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** With federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), CCRPC completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in concert with the Addison, Rutland and Central VT regions -- collectively called the [West Central Vermont CEDS](#). The CEDS identifies priority economic development strategies and projects and will be used by a variety of federal and state funding programs when making grant decisions. The West Central Vermont CEDS was approved by EDA in June 2023.

- **Housing:** The Building Homes Together campaign is a collaboration between CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust, and Evernorth that focuses on the production of much-needed housing in Chittenden County through outreach, education, and advocacy efforts. The Building Homes Together 2.0 campaign was launched in fall 2021 with the goal of building 5,000 homes by 2025 for people of all incomes, including at least 1,250 affordable homes. Review the latest housing data, infographics, and press releases [here](#). In 2023, the Legislature passed the [HOME Act](#) (S.100/Act 47) changing municipal zoning requirements in an effort to encourage more housing production.
- **Mapping Assistance:** The CCRPC has many [mapping applications](#) to assist municipalities with planning. Applications include dashboards, town plan mapping, zoning maps, thematic and analytical mapping of natural, cultural and transportation resources. CCRPC has also built an [ArcGIS Urban](#) model that supports land use scenario planning and impact assessment.
- **Regional Energy Planning:** The CCRPC continued initiatives to support the [Region's Enhanced Energy Plan](#), Statewide Comprehensive Energy Plan, and emerging climate goals. With guidance from CCRPC's Long-Range Planning Committee's Energy Sub-committee, the CCRPC drafted the ECOS Plan's enhanced energy plan sections to be consistent with the 2022 Department of Public Service's Energy Planning Standards. CCRPC shared guidance on how to address climate change in land use regulations with municipal planning offices and planning commissions, and via state-wide presentations with VT Fish & Wildlife. Lastly, with Drive Electric Vermont, the CCRPC engaged municipal planning offices regarding strategies on how to develop electric vehicle charger plans.
- **Regional Energy Implementation:** The CCRPC provided information regarding the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, the Inflation Reduction Act, and electric vehicle incentives. CCRPC provided technical support to municipalities regarding the state-wide [Municipal Energy Resilience Program](#) for municipal buildings.
- **Public Transportation Planning:** The CCRPC remains engaged with [Green Mountain Transit](#) (GMT) in a wide variety of public transit planning projects and initiatives to support the continued development of a transportation system that is efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable. Within the CCRPC's FY23 [UPWP](#), \$442,840 was allocated to GMT for transit planning in Chittenden County.
- **Regional Technical Assistance:** This includes, but is not limited to, municipal technical assistance for various transportation issues, GIS mapping, and bylaw revisions, Act 250/Section 248 application reviews, grant administration and grant application assistance for plans, federal grant assistance, projects and initiatives at the local level.
- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** CCRPC and VTrans managed the second year of [Park Your CARbon](#), formerly the Way to Go! Challenge. This outreach and education program encourages sustainable transportation by demonstrating the environmental and financial benefits of non-single occupant vehicle travel. The CCRPC participated in CATMA's inaugural [Transportation Summit](#) and their [Transportation Coordinator](#) (TC) Network program and events to learn from other TC Network members about employee TDM benefits and programs. TDM partners include: the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), CarShare VT, the University of Vermont, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Local Motion, Bird Bikeshare, Go! Vermont/VTrans, NetZero Vermont/Walk to Shop, and United Way.
- **Walk/Bike Planning:** The CCRPC completed the [2022 Regional Active Transportation Plan \(ATP\)](#), which serves as the active transportation element of the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The ATP includes a recommended regional network with prioritized project list, as well as programs and policies to support active transportation throughout the region. CCRPC staff collaborated with TDM partners and local municipalities to relaunch the regional bikeshare program. The CCRPC also promoted TDM strategies and provided bike/ped-related technical assistance to municipalities and businesses,

assisted municipalities with bike/ped grant and UPWP applications, managed bike/ped-related UPWP projects, and conducted bike/ped counts on paths, designated bike lanes, and other roadways.

- **Clean Water:** The CCRPC continued to host the [Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee](#) and provide guidance to the State on disposition of the Vermont Clean Water Fund. CCRPC staff also sit on the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee, and managed Design Implementation Block Grant projects on behalf of select towns to design stormwater treatment practices. The CCRPC supported education programs such as the [Rethink Runoff](#) on behalf of nine of our municipalities, assisted with watershed resiliency mapping, and participated in water quality-focused policy discussions. CCRPC appoints representatives to three different Basin Water Quality Councils which work with their Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP) to oversee the development and implementation of non-regulatory water quality improvement projects that reduce phosphorus loading into these streams and Lake Champlain. These three Councils are the [Basin 5 Water Quality Council](#) (BWQC) for the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages, the [Basin 7 Water Quality Council](#) for the Lamoille River watershed and the [Basin 8 Water Quality Council](#) for the Winooski watershed. Burlington is in Basins 5 and 8. Additionally, CCRPC is the designated [CWSP](#) for Basin 5.
- **Emergency Management:** CCRPC continued to staff the Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) which consists of two representatives from each municipality and others involved in emergency management in Chittenden County. The purpose of the REMC is to coordinate and support regional all-hazard emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve the region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters. CCRPC staff participate in a wide array of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to support our role in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) when called upon. The CCRPC served as the local liaison between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, collected information from each municipality on annual implementation of hazard mitigation activities, and worked with municipalities to complete Local Emergency Management Plans. Finally, CCRPC assisted IEM, a national consulting firm, with completion of the [2022 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan](#) and its municipal annexes except for Colchester which developed its own stand-alone Local Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** CCRPC staff continued to work with all Chittenden County municipalities on meeting their MRGP obligations. This includes evaluating segments through Road Erosion Inventories (REIs), tracking and documenting upgraded segments and outlets, and reporting to DEC (see [REI dashboard here](#), click on upper right for individual municipalities). Staff also assists municipalities with the State's Grants in Aid (GIA) program, which allocates funding to participating towns for stormwater improvements related to the MRGP. In FY23, 14 Chittenden County municipalities signed up to participate in the GIA program. An estimated 33 non-compliant segments will be upgraded using the allocated \$410,000.
- **Health Equity:** A grant from the Vermont Department of Health enabled CCRPC to work with all the RPCs in the state and Vermont Health Department staff to create the [Vermont Health Equity Planning Toolkit](#). CCRPC hosted a training on the healthy equity toolkit for the Planning Advisory Committee, shared health equity project information with the CCRPC's Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) and will work with the EAC as part of toolkit implementation. CCRPC staff also developed an [online Chittenden County Equity Mapping Tool](#) showing a collection of maps on race, disability, poverty status, and English ability.
- **Traffic Alert:** CCRPC compiled and sent out 32 traffic alerts about activities impacting traffic in Chittenden County over 8 months (no alerts January-March).
- **Chittenden County Park and Ride Plan Update:** This plan identifies opportunities for improvements to the existing facilities and evaluates the potential for new facilities that will benefit commuters and

residents throughout Chittenden County and the adjacent communities. The [final plan](#) was completed in October 2022.

- **VT Culverts:** [The VT Culverts website](#) can be used to view a town's bridges and culverts on a map, or in a chart based on condition or inventory date. CCRPC staff is one of two RPCs that manage the website. VT Culverts continues to gain traction in our region and throughout the state. At the end of June, 9 of our municipalities have actively used VT Culverts to inventory town-maintained bridges and culverts.
- **Chittenden County Communications Union District (CUD):** CCRPC assisted [the CUD](#) as they started to plan, contract, build, and manage infrastructure for high-speed internet access throughout Chittenden County. Mission Broadband was hired for consulting and project management services in June.
- **Northwest VT Transit Oriented Development (TOD):** CCRPC received a grant from the US Department of Transportation in the fall 2022 to develop comprehensive plans for transit-oriented development for up to 12 communities across a five-county region in Northwest Vermont. The grant funding will also support planning work to improve bus services and/or commuter rail to connect economically disadvantaged rural residents to employment opportunities and services. Work will begin in late 2023.
- **Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study:** The CCRPC, in collaboration with VTrans, municipalities, and other interested parties, completed the [I-89 2050 Study](#) in late 2022. The study developed an implementation plan that will guide short, medium, and long-term transportation improvements to the corridor over the next 30 years.

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