

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

FY 2020 Annual Report

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 for comprehensive and collaborative transportation planning involving municipalities, state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in Chittenden County. The CCRPC works to ensure implementation of the regional transportation plan and 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 FY20, the CCRPC invested just under \$4.5 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$4.1 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$146,000 in local match for specific projects—an 11:1 return on local investment.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

RPCs act as a cost-effective professional planning staff for many of Vermont's municipalities. Work in recent years has been focused on improving town plans and local permitting through education and enhanced consultations (on-site training), bylaw modernization, facilitating transition to Development Review Boards and implementing new requirements for economic development and flood resiliency planning. Current and clear plans and bylaws are essential in smooth state and local permitting. This work is supported through local and regional planning funds, municipal dues, and other grants. All technical assistance provided this year is shown on the At Work map; highlights include:

- **Town Plan Assistance:** Provided direct assistance to Huntington on finalizing their Town Plan, to Underhill on their draft Town Plan, and to Westford for data updates for a few chapters of their draft Town Plan. CCRPC also worked with staff from the Vermont Department of Health to prepare a community health chapter for inclusion in the updated Jericho Town Plan. See below for a list of energy related Town Plan assistance projects. Created Town Plan maps for Jericho, Westford and revised maps for Shelburne.

- **Town Plan Approvals:** Approved the Comprehensive Plans and confirmed the planning process for Essex Junction, Huntington and Charlotte.
- **Zoning:** Continued with assistance to South Burlington on zoning-related assistance including: drafting zoning amendments for natural resource protection and developed a related map viewer to illustrate the natural resources in the proposed amendments. CCRPC staff also continued work with the South Burlington Affordable Housing Committee and Planning Commission on Inclusionary Zoning which has since been adopted by the City Council. Assisted Bolton with natural resource bylaw amendments for the Forest and Conservation Districts. This included GIS analysis to help the Planning Commission understand the proposed zoning changes. CCRPC used current imagery and raster data to help identify parcels in Burlington that are not in conformance with setback regulations for certain zoning districts. CCRPC worked with Williston on revising the transportation impact fee chapter of its Unified Development Bylaw. CCRPC reviewed and provided feedback and recommendations on Richmond’s proposed zoning bylaw for a density bonus/optional inclusionary zoning.
- **In-house Planning Services:** CCRPC provided zoning administration assistance in Charlotte and helped train the town's new Zoning Administrator. Beginning in February of 2020, CCRPC staff has provided planning and zoning assistance to Milton. This included: Planning Director duties, assisting other Planning and Zoning staff while there was a Planning Director vacancy, assisting with hiring and training the new Planning Director. CCRPC staff also evaluated the zoning regulations, and provided the Selectboard and Planning Commission with a presentation on that evaluation. This work is continuing in FY21 to assist the Town with zoning amendments to address the issues identified in the evaluation.
- **Training:** The CCRPC held the Chittenden County Community Justice Center Summit (34 participants from 9 municipalities) to discuss potential options for an alternative structure in Chittenden County. CCRPC also held a Homes For All training in Jericho for their new Affordable Housing Committee (6 attendees from 1 municipality). CCRPC also continued to host the 12-month webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals for municipalities and regional partners.

REGIONAL PLANNING

RPCs coordinate planning at the regional level through the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive regional plan, and related studies. These plans guide local planning and the investment decisions of the public and private sectors.

- **ECOS Plan Implementation:** CCRPC continues to implement its [2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan](#) which combines the regional plan, comprehensive economic development strategy, and metropolitan transportation plan, as reflected here in this report. CCRPC implements the Plan through collective impact relationships and projects with the GBIC, Department of Health, United Way, UVM Medical Center, UVM, our member municipalities and many other partners. As an example, we’ve implemented Strategy #2 (Strive for 80% of new development in areas planned for growth, which amounts to 15% of our land area) through the zoning projects mentioned above, permit legislation, and planned transportation investments in those places resulting in 85% of residential growth in these areas (2018 5-year average). CCRPC used the ECOS Plan to evaluate applications and participate in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.

- **ECOS Plan Annual Report and Indicators:** The [2019 Annual Report](http://www.ecosproject.com/2019-ecos-annual-report) is a summary that highlights a number of regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/2019-ecos-annual-report>) The ECOS Scorecard hosts the ECOS Partners' shared measurement and indicator system that monitors how well Chittenden County is doing relative to achieving our shared ECOS goals. (<https://app.resultsscorecard.com/Scorecard/Embed/8502>)
- **Legislative Forum:** CCRPC hosted our annual Legislative Breakfast in December to discuss priority issues of Smart Growth, housing, Act 250, water quality funding, transportation investments, transportation climate initiative, population health, workforce, mental health and substance use disorders, and regional and municipal planning investments (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>).

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic growth is supported best when development efforts are partnered with solid planning functions. RPCs work with towns and in strong partnership with Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) to this end in several ways, including development of comprehensive strategies that will help to position Vermont for long-term economic gain.

- **Lake Champlain Byway:** Chittenden County includes eight of the Byway's 22 communities: Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex Junction, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne, and Charlotte. CCRPC staff maintained the Byway website (<https://lakechamplainbyway.com/>) including a helpful Interactive Map (<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>).
- Continued our strong partnership with GBIC/LCRCC working together to advance plans, policies, and projects that improve our economy such as the Brownfields program below.
- **Opportunity Zones:** CCRPC assisted in creating a prospectus for Burlington's Opportunity Zones.
- **Community Development Block Grant:** CCRPC continued assisting with grant administration on behalf of the Town of Bolton on the CDBG grant for hotel and water/wastewater improvements at Bolton Valley.
- **Economic Development Administration Grant:** CCRPC led a partnership with multiple partners including other RPCs, RDCs and ACCD, and began developing a grant application for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for four regions.
- CCRPC worked with the Westford on a RFQ and grant application for community wastewater in the Westford Village. CCRPC also participated as a resource team member as part of Vermont Council on Rural Development's Community Visit to Westford. CCRPC also assisted Hinesburg and Shelburne in investigating potential EDA grant opportunities.

BROWNFIELDS

Vermont RPCs have sought and have been awarded over 10 million dollars for this economic development initiative. Environmental site assessments allow properties to be sold, developed or re-developed in ways that benefit the local and state economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

- CCRPC obtained a \$400,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant in FY16; and a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant in FY18. Since the fall of 2016, using these two grants the program has provided \$586,488 to assess perceived or real contamination issues in various municipalities.

- Bolton: 4302 Bolton Valley Access Road (Bolton Valley Resort)
- 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); 453 Pine Street (near Barge Canal); 405 Pine Street (Burlington City Arts); 44 Lakeside Avenue (Blodgett Ovens / HULA); 241 N. Winooski Avenue (McClure Center).
- Colchester: 2031 Roosevelt Highway (Champlain Chiropractic); 110 Heineberg Road (New York Cleaners).
- Essex Junction: 3 Maple Street (Chittenden Crossing) and 1 Main Street (Road Res-Q).
- Milton: 7 River Street (Milton Grange) and 204-210 & 214-218 U.S. Route 7 (Town-VAOT “Hourglass” Road reconfiguration project).
- Shelburne: 5531 Spear Street (Kwiniaska/Fairway at Spear).
- South Burlington: 600 Spear Street (south of UVM Farm Barn)
- Westford: 1705 VT Route 128 (parcel adjacent to Town Office)
- Williston at the Jacob parcel (Stirrup Circle) and the Catamount Outdoor Family Center.
- Winooski: 4 & 12 Winooski Falls Way (Winooski Hotel); City Lot 7D on Winooski Falls Way (behind CCV); 42 Pine Street (Myers Pool); City Lot 8 on Winooski Falls Way (in front of Waterworks Restaurant), and 355 Main Street (Andy’s Used Cars)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Through contracts with VTrans, RPCs coordinate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI). This effort has provided a statewide framework for public and municipal involvement in planning for improvements to Vermont’s transportation system, with local communities represented through regional Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs). Each regional TAC prioritizes projects, identifies local and regional transportation needs, and provides the platform for public involvement in the planning and development of the region’s transportation system. RPCs serve as the point of delivery for the statewide transportation planning process to support local, regional, state and federal transportation network advancement.

The CCRPC serves as the only metropolitan planning organization (MPO) operating within Vermont. MPOs are federally mandated and funded transportation planning organizations governed by representatives from local municipalities and state transportation agencies /departments. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs is channeled through this planning process. Congress created MPOs in order to ensure that transportation projects and programs in urbanized areas (population greater than 50,000) are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (“3-C”) planning process that serve the needs of the municipalities in the area.

Objective #1: Enhance Cooperation and Coordination between VTrans, RPC Regions and Municipalities

TAC Activity: The TAC met 10 times in FY20. Attendance varied from 10 to 20 members, from 32% to 65% of total membership. Ten (10) non-municipal TAC members were actively engaged in transportation planning in the county.

TAC Outcomes: The TAC approved discussed, received presentations on and/or made recommendations on the following projects/tasks:

- Way to Go! Challenge
- VTrans Corridor Management Planning
- Burlington International Airport Draft Noise Compatibility Program
- Transportation and Climate Initiative
- VTrans On-Line Data Management System
- VT Culverts
- VTrans Public Transit Policy Plan
- Road Erosion Inventory data
- Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)
- Williston Park and Ride
- High Impact Economic Development Project List for potential funding from Northern Border Regional Commission
- Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study
- VTrans State Public Transit Projects
- The FY21 Transportation Improvement Program
- The FY21 Unified Planning Work Program
- VTrans Project Selection & Prioritization Process
- Winooski's East Allen Street Scoping Study
- Safety Performance Targets for the Metropolitan Planning Area
- US7 Signal Upgrades in Shelburne-South Burlington
- SFY2021 VTrans Transportation Capital Program
- SFY2022 Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidate Prioritization
- Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) Strategic Business Plan
- COVID-19 Impacts for this construction season
- Regional and State Funding Opportunities
- VTrans Automated Vehicle Policy Review
- ADA Transition Plans

Transportation Coordination Activities with Municipalities and VTrans Provided by CCRPC:

- Partnering with VTrans, municipalities and other stakeholders on the ongoing Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study.
- Collaborated with VTrans, provided funding, and promoted participation in the 2019/2020 Way to Go! School Challenge; and conducted TDM outreach to municipalities, businesses, and partners countywide through CATMA.
- VTrans Prioritization Methodology (VPSP2) effort: participation in the Core Group and TPI presentations and discussions.
- Assisted VTrans and Burlington with the Amtrak Storage and Servicing Evaluation.
- Continue to monitor the real time travel data from Bluetooth sensors in five major corridors in the county; investigating ways to integrate the data into the State's Tristate ATMS.
- Ongoing coordination with VTrans, FHWA and FTA on highway and transit performance measures and targets.
- Bike & Ped Program – worked with the Cities of Burlington, South Burlington and Winooski as well as UVM and CATMA to plan for Greenride Bikeshare fleet expansion and conversion to E-Bikes; participated in the State's Strategic Bike/Ped Plan; promoted TDM strategies to

municipalities and businesses; compiled Complete Streets data for Chittenden County municipalities; and, conducted bike/ped counts on paths, bike lanes and roadways.

- Facilitated municipal participation in numerous MRGP meetings and updates.
- Provided Annual Traffic Alert communications outreach program.

Objective #2: Better Connect Federal, Regional and Statewide Transportation Planning

Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): The 2018 MTP was adopted by the CCRPC Board June of 2018 (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-metropolitan-transportation-plan/>).

Municipal Transportation Plans: 18 municipalities have current municipal plans that include an updated transportation component. In FY20, the CCRPC assisted 5 municipalities with the transportation element of their municipal plan.

Act-250 and Section 248 Reviews: CCRPC staff reviewed all applications in Chittenden County but participated only in major applications and a small number of minor ones with potentially significant impacts. In FY20, the CCRPC provided transportation related comments for three (3) Act-250 applications. The CCRPC also commented on Section 248 applications but none had transportation issues that required staff review.

Coordination with Public Transit Providers: Staff participated in regional public transit planning activities including:

- The Elderly & Disabled program advisory committee
- GMT's ADA Advisory Committee
- United Way's Neighbor Rides (volunteer driver program) Advisory Committee
- Rural Transit Roundtable
- GMT Link Ridership Pilot Project
- Route 116 Bus Ridership Outreach Program
- Tilley Drive Transit
- Richmond Shuttle Coordination
- Charlotte Transit Coordination

RPC participation in VTrans committees: A list of committees that the CCRPC staff participated in is provided below:

- Public Transit Advisory Council
- Rail Advisory Council
- VTrans Project Prioritization (VPSP2) Core Group and workshop participation
- Freight Working Group
- Vermont Highway Safety Alliance
- Way to Go! Challenge
- Performance Management
- Freight working Group

Project Prioritization: The CCRPC prioritizes Capital Projects on the state's Transportation Program once a year. In addition, the CCRPC has a representative on the Core Team for the VPSP2 prioritization effort.

Objective #3: Provide Technical Assistance to Municipalities

During FY20, the CCRPC hosted regional transportation meetings; initiated, managed and was involved in major regional and local transportation plans, studies and initiatives; provided technical assistance and support to municipalities and partners on transportation issues. Please see below for more information on these activities.

Road Foreman Meetings: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CCRPC did not host their usual Spring Road Foreman Meeting. CCRPC staff shared events and funding opportunities throughout the year as appropriate.

Assistance with Transportation Grants: Staff assisted municipalities and provided letters of support for 12 grant applications including Better Roads, and Transportation Alternatives grants.

Budget Spent on Municipal Assistance: The CCRPC invests approximately 57% of MPO funding for municipal assistance.

CCRPC Data Collection in FY 20:

- Three (3) Pavement Inventories and one (1) Culvert/Bridge Inventory.
- 77 Data Collection Activities, including: ATR, Turning Movement, Bike/Ped, Park & Ride counts, HPMS and MIRE data, and complete streets inventory.

Participation in Transportation Planning and Project Development Activities: Below is the list of Planning Assistance, Project Definition (Scoping), water quality/transportation planning and Municipal Construction Projects (Local Project Management: LPM) that the CCRPC managed in FY 20:

- Railyard Enterprise Supplemental Scoping Project (Burlington)
- Essex Jct Village Center Parking Plan
- South Burlington City Center Parking & Movement Plan
- Williston Shared Use & Multi-Modal Parking Study
- South Burlington Transportation Impact Fee
- Williston Transportation Impact Fee
- Winooski Transportation Impact Fee
- Paving Analysis for Raceway Road and Packard Road in Jericho
- South Burlington Multi-site Recreation Path Scoping
- South Burlington Multi-site Pedestrian Crossing & Bike Access
- Burlington Lake Street Stormwater and Sidewalk Feasibility Study
- Bikeway Connectivity, Pedestrian Safety, and Stormwater Management in the Old North End (Burlington)
- Underhill River Road/Pleasant Valley Road Bicyclist Accommodation and Pavement Analysis
- Winooski East Allen Street Scoping
- Huntington Lower Village Supplemental Scoping
- Multiuse Path Connecting Williston to South Burlington Scoping
- Colchester Avenue Scoping in Burlington
- Essex Tanglewood Drive Shared-Use Path and Stormwater Scoping
- Richmond Road Intersection Scoping in Hinesburg
- Right-of-Way Condition Inventory in Burlington
- Essex Stormwater CCTV Inspection
- Essex Jct Stormwater CCTV Inspection
- Town of Williston Phosphorus Control Plan
- City of Winooski Phosphorus Control Plan

- Winooski Inspection and Inventory of Existing Stormwater System
- Jericho Bolger Hill Drainage Improvements
- Jericho Road Conceptual Plans in Richmond
- Exit 17 Park and Ride Supplemental Evaluation
- LPM services for Underhill sidewalk construction on VT 15
- LPM services for Hinesburg Village South VT 116 sidewalk design and construction
- LPM services for Shelburne for the Irish Hill Road sidewalk and pedestrian bridge project.

The CCRPC initiated and managed the following multimodal Corridor and Area-wide Studies:

- Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study
- Kimball Ave/Kennedy Dr/Old Farm Rd/Tilley Drive/VT 116 Transportation Needs Analysis (South Burlington)
- Winooski Avenue Corridor Study (Burlington)

The CCRPC was also involved in the following Transportation Demand Management (TDM) initiatives and studies:

- Annual Way to Go! Challenge to encourage non-single occupant vehicle travel and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits, with a focus on schools (www.WayToGoVT.org).
- Provided funding to CATMA, CarShare Vermont, and Local Motion for TDM projects and technical assistance.
- Since 2013, the CCRPC has been investing in United Way's Neighbor Rides program 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 option.

Road Erosion Inventories in Support of Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP): Completed road erosion inventories (REI) for all 19 municipalities in Chittenden County. Staff is now updating REI data based on information from municipalities and site visits.

Objective #4: Advance VTrans Strategic and Long-Range Transportation Plans

CCRPC Data Collection Activities Conducted Specifically for VTrans: CCRPC staff conducted the following activities in support of VTrans' Plans:

- 16 Park & Ride inventories at facilities in Richmond, Colchester, Huntington, Essex Landfill Rd., Essex Green, Westford Green, and Hinesburg
- 39 Traffic (ATR) counts
- 16 Turning Movement counts
- One (1) Culvert/Bridge inventory
- Two (2) Bike/Ped counts
- HPMS and MIRE data
- Requested complete streets info from all Chittenden County towns and received information from 12.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & DISASTER RESILIENCY

RPCs play key roles in the mitigation and preparedness phases of emergency management in partnership with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Homeland Security Unit, VTrans and

the Agency of Natural Resources. RPCs provide direct staff to the State Emergency Operations Center when needed, administrative support to the Local Emergency Planning Committees, and coordination among responders and planners throughout the State's four Public Safety Districts. RPCs also help update floodplain bylaws and FEMA-required hazard mitigation plans, coordinate updates to municipal emergency operations plans and assisted as needed in special circumstances like Tropical Storm Irene and other disasters.

- **COVID:** During the unprecedented time of global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCRPC staff worked extensively with municipalities, state health officials, and the public to relay important updates, resources, and general information about the pandemic. A COVID-19 Municipal Response webpage was developed and maintained (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/covid-19/>), and staff developed community guides for seven municipalities that were mailed to residents.
- **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation:** CCRPC collected information from each municipality on annual implementation of hazard mitigation activities recommended in the County and Municipal All-Hazard Mitigation Plans.
- **Local Emergency Management Plans:** 19 out of 19 (100%) municipalities in the CCRPC region currently have an updated local emergency management plan.
- **Local Emergency Planning Committee:** CCRPC, in collaboration with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 1, <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>), hosted and participated in a variety of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to enhance resilience to disasters in our region.
- **Local Liaison:** CCRPC served as a key coordinator between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events.
- **Hazardous Materials:** Helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents by working on listing and mapping "Tier II" hazardous materials information to make this information more easily accessible and usable by first responders.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICES

In addition to enhancing the RPC work, RPCs provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

- **Town-Specific Web Maps:** Updated/created interactive town-specific web maps for Bolton, Buel's Gore, Charlotte, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, South Burlington, Underhill, Westford, and Winooski.
- **Town Plan Maps:** Created for Jericho, and Westford. Revised maps for Shelburne.
- **GIS Data:** Developed or updated numerous GIS datasets (zoning, bridges, culverts, housing points, cemeteries, neighborhoods, scenic resources, state designations, groundwater source protection areas, trails, conserved land, utilities, etc.) for Bolton, Burlington, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Hinesburg, Jericho, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Underhill, Westford, and Winooski.
- **Colchester Map Service:** Continued to provide updates to their map service which links to the Town's VueWorks Asset Management system.
- **Winooski Map Service:** Providing an interactive digital map service for Winooski's NexGen Asset Management system.

- **Regional Conservation Area Project:** Developed a map viewer for the Champlain Valley Partnership (CVP) to inventory conserved areas in Hinesburg, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. George, and Williston.
- **Data available via Vermont Open Data Portal:** Uploaded housing points, regional future land use, municipal zoning and overlay data to the portal to allow public access to the GIS data.
- **VOBCIT:** CCRPC continues to work with partners to improve, enhance and support the VOBCIT website (<https://vtculverts.org>).

ENERGY CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

A renewed focus on clean, renewable, sustainable and affordable energy presents Vermont with great opportunity and significant challenges. RPCs integrate energy planning with land use, transportation and natural resources efforts, and work with municipalities to assist with project implementation. RPCs participate in Section 248 proceedings and support comprehensive planning at the local and regional level to inform the permitting process.

- **Regional Energy Plan:** The *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan* was granted an Affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance by the Department of Public Service on August 9, 2018. CCRPC has increased participation in PUC proceedings (applications for Certificates of Public Good and various investigations) to ensure that local and regional policies are recognized. CCRPC participated in 8 PUC proceedings in FY20.
- **Municipal Energy Plans:** CCRPC continued to provide specific technical assistance on data/mapping, plan narrative and policy language to Bolton, Charlotte, Hinesburg, Jericho, Williston, and Underhill to help them develop and/or finalize their local energy plans. The CCRPC board granted affirmative determinations of energy compliance to enhanced energy plans in Essex Junction, Huntington, Charlotte and Jericho. Nine municipalities have adopted enhanced energy plans and five municipalities have plans in development.
- **Energy Planning Implementation:** The CCRPC also participated in Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) stakeholder meetings, organized a regional [Button Up Vermont](#) event with 400 participants, participated in Drive Electric Vermont meetings, worked with VEIC on a resource guide to support EV charging at multi-unit properties (<https://studiesandreports.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CCRPC-MUD-EV-Charging-Survey-Report-Final-20200807.pdf>), reviewed Public Utility Commission proceedings, and provided municipal assistance to move forward with the energy planning recommendations established in Act 174. CCRPC staff also drafted a letter to send to Charlotte property owners to inform them about financial incentives for solar net metering and solar projects developed on preferred sites.

WATERSHED PLANNING & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

RPCs work with the Agency of Natural Resources to assist with completion of the EPA-required watershed tactical basin plans. RPCs also work with municipalities to implement river corridor assessments in local planning and regulations for better and safer growth management decisions.

- **Clean Water:** Water quality projects have become an integral part of our regional planning efforts. The CCRPC's water quality initiatives help to safeguard our clean drinking water, support our recreation and tourism industry, and make our municipalities more resilient to flood events.

The CCRPC has continued to assist our member municipalities to achieve these goals. The CCRPC continues to host the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>) and provide guidance for the Vermont Clean Water Fund. CCRPC staff also joined the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee, participated in Vermont Clean Water Network meetings, supported education programs such as the Rethink Runoff (<http://www.rethinkrunoff.org>), assisted with watershed resiliency mapping, participated in water quality-focused policy discussions, and submitted an application to become the Clean Water Service Provider for the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages Basin (Basin 5).

- **Block Grants:** Through funding provided by the DEC and administered by the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, the CCRPC managed Clean Water Block Grants to implement the following stormwater projects: in Underhill, construction of a large rain garden at the Town office; in Williston, design of road drainage improvements on Beebe Lane in the Lake Iroquois Recreation District; and, in Winooski, upgrades to a stormwater pond in the Pine Grove Terrace neighborhood. The CCRPC also secured a Design Implementation Block Grant for Winooski and Jericho.
- **Water Quality Outreach:** CCRPC is managing, with all RPCs as sub-grantees, a grant provided from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct a multi-pronged outreach effort focused on improving water quality in compliance with the Vermont Clean Water Act (VCWA). CCRPC continues work with municipal staff and boards to provide information about the requirements for municipalities triggered by the VCWA and also work with them on options such as stronger municipal protections against flood hazards and river corridor erosion, stormwater master planning, and other town plan or zoning changes to improve water quality. CCRPC completed assistance on development of an update to the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages Tactical Basin Plan.
- **Stormwater Master Plans:** Completed the Stormwater Master Plan for Milton.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** The CCRPC continues to work with a team of consultants to develop Road Erosion Inventory (REI) concept plans and REI datasets for member municipalities in order to address road erosion issues on municipal roads to meet MRGP requirements. For an interactive dashboard of the REI progress in our communities visit <https://map.ccrpcvt.org/reidashboard/>. CCRPC staff assisted municipalities with FY21 **Better Roads** grants to secure funding for erosion control and maintenance techniques that protect and enhance water quality around our region (for Bolton, Charlotte, Jericho (2), Richmond, Shelburne, and Underhill; and support letters for Essex, Huntington and Milton). The CCRPC also provided funding to municipalities through the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for inspection and inventory of their stormwater system, development of Phosphorus Control Plans (PCPs) for MS4 communities and conceptual plans for transportation-related water quality projects on local roads.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Racial Equity & Public Engagement:** Addressing inequity in our region is one of the eight key strategies in the Chittenden County ECOS Plan. CCRPC staff have started to plan for the update of the **2014 Public Participation Plan** (PPP: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>) with a renewed focus on analyzing inequities in all sectors of

our work to ensure that we actively eliminate barriers and foster an inclusive and meaningful public engagement for all planning and policy work we do – this meaningful engagement is the foundation that leads to actions that meet the needs of our diverse community. This past year, the CCRPC continued to participate in Refugee and Immigrant Service Provider Network meetings, completed the 2019 Title VI Report for VTrans/FHWA, and worked towards the completion of the FTA Title VI Program. The CCRPC has made a public commitment to address issues related to racial and economic disparities through the following actions:

- Facilitating, providing, and/or taking advantage of educational opportunities for our staff, partner municipalities, and other local and regional partners that address inequities and advance anti-racism efforts.
 - Examining our organization's policies, practices, culture, and services through the lens of anti-racism and white privilege to ensure they reflect our commitment to racial justice.
 - Furthering our understanding of the significant historical role land use policies and transportation investments have had in systemic racism and inequity, while making sure that future zoning and transportation investments in Chittenden County encourage equity and provide increased opportunities for Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), and low income residents. More specifically, we will update our Equity Impact Worksheet that is part of our Public Participation Plan based on best practices around the country and will have this reviewed locally by a diverse audience.
 - Encouraging municipal appointments on our Board and Committees that reflect the diversity of our community.
 - Strengthening existing relationships and partnerships and forging new ones with Vermont organizations working to advance anti-racism efforts.
 - Committing to advance Strategy 8 of the Chittenden County ECOS Plan (page 48), which includes specific tasks related to tracking and analyzing inequities in all sectors of our work, prioritizing positive programs and investments to low opportunity places, and more.
- **Building Homes Together:** Following the first three years of the Building Homes Together campaign, more progress on housing production in Chittenden County was achieved in 2018 – please note that 2019 data is not available at this time. The campaign was initiated by the CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust, and Housing Vermont in 2016. There were 620 homes developed and ready for occupancy in 2018. Over the first three years of the campaign, an average of 758 homes were built each year ahead of the pace needed to meet the campaign’s goal of 3,500 homes over five years. With over 2,200 homes built in the county in the last three years, only 280, or 13%, became permanently affordable. That’s shy of the campaign’s goal of 20%. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>).
 - **Public Health:** The CCRPC served on the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance (CCOA, <http://www.ccoavt.org>) together with other dedicated stakeholders including local non-profit agencies, state and local government, United Way of Northwest Vermont, UVM Medical Center, Vermont Department of Health, business leaders, and community members in Chittenden County. In FY20, we helped the CCOA transition to the Chittenden County Public Health Alliance to broaden the focus on social determinants of health, with racial justice and mental health the current focus areas. The CCRPC also served as the lead agency for the Chittenden Prevention Network’s Regional Prevention Partnership grant (<http://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drug-abuse/programs-services/prevention-programs>). Accomplishments include a sharps disposal kiosk at the Williston Fire Department, expansion of Rx drug take-back locations,

promoting Rx drug takeback events, fake ID enforcement to discourage underage drinking, and community education about substance use prevention for youth.

ADMINISTRATION & FUNDING

The CCRPC receives most of its funding through performance-based grants and contracts with the state. Town assessments constitute a small but very important percentage of our funding. Individual municipalities also contribute match dollars for some federally funded transportation planning projects within their own borders. For the 2020 fiscal year, the CCRPC's total revenue of nearly \$4.5 million dollars was derived from about 72% federally funded grants, 19% state funding, and 9% from municipalities. Just under \$2.2 million, or nearly 49% of the total funding, was passed through to consultants or sub-grantees.

All of the CCRPC's revenue sources are tied to federal, state or municipal agreements with scopes of work, guidelines and/or performance measures. CCRPC works with our members and VTrans to decide the best way to invest our MPO funding annually in developing our unified planning work program. Municipal dues, and the funding received through the CCRPC's performance agreement with ACCD, are also necessary to provide matching funds required by grantors. The grants we receive enable us to work with our municipalities on areas such as transportation, emergency planning, community development, brownfields redevelopment, energy, public health, and natural resources. Revenue from federal and state grantors typically requires non-federal matching funds. Required match ranges from 10 percent (transportation planning) to 50 percent (Emergency Management Planning Grant).

The CCRPC conducts a single audit on an annual basis. The federal single audit field work was conducted in September 2020, with the full report to be completed by December 2020.

'AT WORK' MAP

The map depicting the range of services provided by the CCRPC to member municipalities is included on the next page.