



FY2016 ANNUAL REPORT TOWN of COLCHESTER

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

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

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

Town of Colchester representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY16 were:

- CCRPC representative – Marc Landry
- CCRPC alternate – Tom Mulcahy
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Bryan Osborne
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Sarah Hadd

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

TOWN of COLCHESTER ACTIVITIES

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

- **Colchester Build Out Analysis** – Finalized the Colchester Bayside Build-out Analysis project that identified various transportation and land use alternatives for the West Lakeshore Drive Corridor to accommodate potential additional development.
- **Mapping** – Updated Community Rating System maps, linked new parcel data with CAMA data in VueWorks, completed two Collector App maps for Colchester Public Works to use in tracking street sweeping and work conducted on catch basins and outfalls.
- **Crosswalk Inventory** – Finalized the Colchester Crosswalk Assessment in accordance with MUTCD standards.
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC conducted three roadway (AADT) counts in support of Colchester's transportation projects and studies (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).

Colchester Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

- **Blakely Road/Laker Lane Intersection Improvements** – \$360,000 intersection improvement project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase III. Construction schedule is to be determined.
- **Exit 16 Improvements** – \$9.8 million intersection improvement project. Project is scheduled to begin in 2018.
- **Exit 16 Park and Ride** – \$1.3 million with construction scheduled for FY17.
- **Exit 17 Improvements** – \$17.6 million for the reconstruction of BR18A carrying US2 over I-89 and interchange upgrades. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **Fort Ethan Allen Sidewalk Improvements** – \$462,000 project to use unexpended funds from completed Campus Connector project. Construction scheduled for 2017.
- **Mountain View Drive Sidewalk** – \$232,049 project funded with 2015 CCRPC sidewalk grant of \$75,000 and 2016 CCRPC sidewalk grant of \$82,639 for pedestrian infrastructure on Mountain View Drive. Construction scheduled for 2017.
- **Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive Intersection Improvements** – \$1.7 million intersection improvement project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase III. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **Severance Corners Intersection Project** – \$6 million project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase II. Construction scheduled for 2020.
- **Severance Road Path and Intersection Improvements** – \$2.4 million path and intersection improvement project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase III. Construction schedule to be determined.

- **US 2/Clay Point Road (TH58) Improvements** – \$1,078,542 left turn lane project. Project to be completed in 2016.
- **VT 2A Improvements** – \$3.9 million for improvements to VT2A through Colchester Village and to the VT2A/Mill Pond Road intersection as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase III. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **VT 2A/US 7/Creek Road/Bay Road Intersection** – \$4.58 million for improvements to VT 2A/US 7 Intersection to begin construction in FY17
- **West Lakeshore Drive Path** – \$1.77 million multiuse path project funded with Transportation Alternatives award, CCRPC sidewalk award, and Town funds.
- **VT15 Multiuse Path** – \$1.5 million for path from Lime Kiln Road to Susie Wilson Road as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase II implementation project. Construction schedule to begin in 2018.
- **VT15 Traffic Signal Upgrades** – \$235,000 to upgrade four signals on VT15 – St. Michaels College, West St. Extension, VT289 Ramps. Project to be completed in 2016.
- **I-89 Bridge Rehabilitation** – \$7 million for necessary rehabilitation of bridges 76 N&S and 77 N&S. Project schedule to be coordinated with Colchester Exit 16 Project (HP102). Construction scheduled for 2018.
- **I-89 Bridge Rehabilitation** – \$2 million for replacement of culvert 75-1N north of Blakely Road. Project to be completed in 2016.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **50th anniversary** – The CCRPC celebrated its 50th anniversary throughout 2016, and hosted an event as part of its annual meeting in June, during which over 80 representatives of municipal, regional, and state government gathered to celebrate – including guest speaker Governor Peter Shumlin. CCRPC staff also developed a timeline that highlights some significant milestones, events, and other happenings throughout Chittenden County and beyond over the last 50 years. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/news/ccrpc-timeline/>)
- **Legislative Forum** – Hosted the 2nd annual Legislative Breakfast in December as a forum for a short, focused conversation with local legislators and municipal representatives on key issues and high interest topics important to area municipalities for the 2015-2016 legislative session, including: smart growth, water quality, and municipal shared services. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/event/chittenden-county-municipal-legislative-breakfast/>)
- **ECOS Plan Annual Report** – The [2015 Annual Report](#) is a summary that highlights a number of regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions. The ECOS Plan is the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. The ECOS Scorecard is our online platform that hosts the ECOS Partners' shared measurement system that monitors how Chittenden County is doing with regard to achieving our shared ECOS goals. (<https://app.resultsscorecard.com/Scorecard/Embed/8502>) The ECOS Plan was updated to better address a few state requirements on May 18, 2016. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-regional-plan/>)
- **Supporting the STEM Industry Cluster and Young Professionals** – CCRPC examined these issues

and produced a white paper in June 2016. This white paper explains the important role that the STEM cluster and young professionals play in the County's economy; examines the current conditions of the STEM cluster and young professionals in Chittenden County; explores the building blocks necessary for growing the STEM cluster economy; and offers suggestions for future work that can be undertaken by the CCRPC to help support the STEM economy.

(<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/>)

- **Building Homes Together** – The CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont are leading a coordinated campaign to strengthen Chittenden County communities by building 3,500 homes by 2021 for people of all incomes, including 700 affordable homes. This campaign began in spring 2016. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>)
- **Emergency Management** – CCRPC, with Local Emergency Planning Committee 1 (LEPC 1 <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>), served as a key conduit between the City and the State in sharing damage assessment information after disasters, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, hosted workshops on a wide array of emergency preparedness topics, and facilitated Incident Command System training.
- **All-Hazards Mitigation Plan** – CCRPC staff, in consultation with municipal staff, have been working to develop the 2016-2021 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan along with individual Hazard Mitigation Plans for each municipality. These plans outline key municipal actions to address and mitigate against common hazards such as severe rainstorms and flooding. In addition to providing individual assistance to each of the member municipalities, the CCRPC helped to facilitate the Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee to develop comprehensive countywide mitigation strategies. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation-plan/>)
- **Transportation Demand Management** – The CCRPC, along with regional and state partners, continued hosting **Go! Chittenden County**, a one-stop-shop for information and advice about our region's transportation resources (www.gochittendencounty.org). The CCRPC continues promoting the annual **Way to Go! Challenge** (www.waytogovt.org) to encourage sustainable transportation (non-single occupant vehicle travel) and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits. The CCRPC also launched the **Travel Smarter** platform and campaign, a trip planner that provides a side-by-side comparison of the time, costs, distance, and calories associated with driving, biking, walking, and taking the bus. (www.TravelSmarterVT.org)
- The **Intelligent Transportation System Plan** describes how to best use telecommunications and computing technology to boost the efficiency of the transportation system for passenger cars, trucks, busses, emergency and maintenance vehicles, and provide timely information on travel options.
- **Regional Active Transportation Plan** – The CCRPC is updating the 2008 Regional Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan to identify and make recommendations for a comprehensive, connected, accessible and safe regional network for walking and biking. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>)
- **Diversity & Equity** – The CCRPC continues to use the **2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP)** to

guide our focus on diversity and equity in all projects. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>)

- **Regional Technical Assistance** – Includes GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250 application reviews, grant administration, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>). We also provide Transportation Technical Assistance, Scoping and Corridor Study programs to help individual communities address their transportation needs.
- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC held the Development Review Board Summit, Planning Commissioners’ Summit, Green Infrastructure trainings, and hosted a Regional Highway Safety Forum with VTrans. We continued hosting meetings and online webinars open to municipalities and regional partners covering topics such as: Equity Issues in Transportation Planning; Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts; Complete Streets policies; VOBCIT/VTCulverts (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>); and the entire 12-webinar series from the Associate of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals.
- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to integrate volunteer drivers into human services transportation in order to increase access to transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by offering a lower-cost mode of transport. (<http://www.unitedwaynwvt.org/Neighbor-Rides>)
- **Clean Water Advisory Committee** – The CCRPC formed the Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) to oversee CCRPC activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain TMDL Plan and its related plans and programs.
- **Opioid Alliance** – The CCRPC engaged as the backbone for the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance and hired a Program Director. The Opioid Alliance is a unique commitment from key state, local government, and non-profit leaders to put forth a comprehensive mutually reinforcing approach to reducing opioid abuse and the ancillary burdens they bring to our community. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/chittenden-county-opioid-alliance>)
- **Byway** - Developed the Lake Champlain Byway Story map - <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>

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.