

## **FY2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Colchester**

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a political subdivision of the State created by the municipalities of Chittenden County in 1966 for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. Its vision is to be a pre-eminent, integrated regional organization that plans for healthy, vibrant communities, economic development, and efficient transportation of people and goods while improving the region's livability. The CCRPC serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible to all citizens of the region to ensure the implementation of the best regional and transportation plan for Chittenden County. The CCRPC also provides technical and planning assistance to its member municipalities and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

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

The CCRPC appreciates the continued opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect and improve the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County. In FY17, the CCRPC invested about \$5.1 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, public health, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$4.5 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$187,000 in local match for specific projects—**an 11:1 return on investment**. Colchester's dues were \$25,083 in FY17 and \$25,092 in FY18.

Colchester representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY17 were:

- CCRPC representative – Marc Landry
- CCRPC alternate – Tom Mulcahy
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Bryan Osborne
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Sarah Hadd
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – Warner Rackley
- MS4 Subcommittee – Warner Rackley
- All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Committee – Sarah Hadd

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

## COLCHESTER ACTIVITIES

In FY2017, the CCRPC provided assistance to Colchester on the following projects and initiatives:

- **Initial Plan Review and Consultation** – CCRPC staff reviewed the Colchester Town Plan in advance of its expiration, completed a consultation with the Colchester Planning Commission and Colchester planning and zoning staff, and provided clarity on new state requirements for municipal plans.
- **Malletts Bay Stormwater and Transportation Scoping** – The purpose of this project is to develop a comprehensive stormwater management system for Malletts Bay and its upland watersheds, along with scoping studies for pedestrian/bike improvements on West Lakeshore Drive between Prim Road and Blakely Road and improvements at the signalized intersection of East/West Lakeshore Drive and Blakely Road. The study builds upon Colchester’s [Malletts Bay Initiative](#) to implement the community’s vision for Malletts Bay by focusing on green stormwater initiatives and transportation system improvements. The final scoping report is scheduled to be completed by November 2017. The total FY17-FY18 PL (MPO) funding for this project is \$100,000. In FY17, consultant costs for this project were approximately \$67,338.
- **Stormwater Planning** – Provided ongoing staff support to the **Chittenden County Stream Team** (<http://www.ccstreamteam.org/>) and **Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program** (<http://www.smartwaterways.org>) to facilitate multi-municipal cooperation to comply with ANR stormwater permit requirements for public education and involvement. In April 2017, these two efforts were merged under a single identity, **Rethink Runoff** (<http://rethinkrunoff.org/>).
- **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation** – CCRPC staff worked with municipal staff to prepare the required update to Colchester’s All-Hazards Mitigation Plan and submit it to the Vermont Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for review and final approval by FEMA.
- **Emergency Management – LEOP:** Staff offered assistance with the annual local emergency operations plan (LEOP) to ensure the municipality is prepared in the event of a disaster.
- **Real-Time Traffic Information** – The CCRPC is working with VTrans and a consultant to plan, design and implement an advanced traffic monitoring system (ATMS) for five corridors in the county (including US7 from Exit 16 area through the Severance Corners intersection) to collect travel times and average vehicle speeds through anonymously tracking Bluetooth (BT) devices carried by motorists (cell phones) and vehicles. This project is funded through a \$981,760 Federal Highway Administration grant.
- **Geographic Information Systems** – GIS staff updated the Colchester Town Plan map that depicts the sewer service area, created a map displaying stormwater data in the Fort Ethan Allen Area, added the latest zoning information to the Colchester Map Service, made updates to the Town’s road crew collector app, and conducted a growth analysis for the proposed Fire District No.2 sewer service area expansion.
- **VTrans Better Roads Program & Municipal Roads General Permit** – In the spring of 2017, the CCRPC applied for Category A funds through VTrans’ Better Roads Program to conduct municipal road erosion inventories for Colchester, in preparation of the state’s Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). CCRPC interns and staff conducted the inventories in the summer of

2017 and prioritized the erosion sites based on established criteria and in close consultation with the town.

- **Technical Assistance** – CCRPC staff provided technical assistance to the town, including:
  - conducted six roadway (AADT) counts in support of Colchester’s transportation projects and studies (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>);
  - conducted a pavement condition assessment and a guardrail inventory;
  - conducted an analysis for Colchester Public Works to identify the number of miles of private paved and gravel roads that are plowed.

### 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 transportation funds, each transportation project, program or operation must be authorized through the TIP. Colchester projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also identified in the FY2018 Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program for design or construction.

- **Blakely Road/Laker Lane Intersection Improvements** – \$480,000 intersection improvement project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase III. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY2018.
- **Exit 16 Improvements** – \$10 million intersection improvement project. Project is scheduled to begin in FY2019.
- **Exit 16 Park and Ride** – \$1.85 million project with construction scheduled for FY2018.
- **Exit 17 Improvements** – \$17.6 million for the reconstruction of BR18A carrying US2 over I-89 and interchange upgrades. Construction scheduled has not yet been determined.
- **Fort Ethan Allen Sidewalk Improvements** – \$652,999 project to use unexpended funds from completed Campus Connector project. The project will be completed in 2017.
- **Mountain View Drive Sidewalk** – \$465,981 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. Project will be completed in 2017.
- **Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive Intersection Improvements** – \$2.19 million intersection improvement project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase III. Construction scheduled to begin in FY2019.
- **Severance Corners Intersection Project** – \$4.45 million project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase II. Construction scheduled to begin in FY2021.
- **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.
- **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** – \$7.75 million for improvements to VT 2A/US

7 Intersection to be completed in 2018.

- **West Lakeshore Drive Path** – \$2.2 million multiuse path project funded with two Transportation Alternatives awards, two CCRPC sidewalk awards, a Bike/Pedestrian award and Town funds. Construction scheduled to begin in FY2018.
- **VT15 Multiuse Path** – \$1.68 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 FY2019.
- **I-89 Bridge Rehabilitation** – \$10.2 million for necessary rehabilitation of bridges 76 (Bay Road) and 77 (Mallets Creek). Project schedule to be coordinated with Colchester Exit 16 Project (HP102). Construction scheduled for FY2020.
- **I-89 Paving, Colchester to Swanton** – \$8.8 million to pave I-89 between Exit 16 to Exit 20. The project will be completed in 2017.

## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Legislative Forum** – Hosted the 2016 Legislative Breakfast in December as a forum for a short, focused conversation with local legislators and municipal representatives on key issues and high interest topics important to area municipalities for the 2017-2018 legislative session, including: housing, water quality, and municipal shared services. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>)
- **ECOS Plan and Annual Report** – Updates to the energy, transportation and economic development sections of the 2018 ECOS Plan update got started. The [2016 Annual Report](#) is a summary that highlights regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions. The ECOS Plan is the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. The ECOS Scorecard is our online platform that hosts the ECOS Partners' shared measurement system that monitors how Chittenden County is doing with regard to achieving our shared ECOS goals. (<https://app.resultsscorecard.com/Scorecard/Embed/8502>)
- **Population, Housing, & Employment Forecasts** – To prepare for the 2018 update of the ECOS Plan, the CCRPC updated the county's population, housing, and employment projections. These projections to 2050 will serve as inputs to the Energy Plan and to the Travel Demand Model, which will be used in updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-regional-plan/>)
- **Regional Dispatch Implementation Study** – The CCRPC is supporting Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski, in developing a plan for a consolidated regional dispatch environment for law enforcement, fire and rescue resources. <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>
- **Emergency Management** – CCRPC, with Local Emergency Planning Committee 1 (LEPC 1 <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>), served as a key conduit between the City and the State in sharing damage assessment information after disasters, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, hosted workshops on a wide array of emergency preparedness topics, and facilitated Incident Command System training.

- **All-Hazards Mitigation Plan** – CCRPC staff, in consultation with municipal staff, prepared the 2017 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan which was formally approved by FEMA in March 2017. CCRPC staff also prepared individual Hazard Mitigation Plans for each municipality as mentioned above. The Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee, with CCRPC staff support, developed 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](http://www.gochittendencounty.org)). The CCRPC continues promoting the annual **Way to Go! Challenge** ([www.waytogovt.org](http://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** ([www.TravelSmarterVT.org](http://www.TravelSmarterVT.org)) platform and campaign, a trip planner that provides a side-by-side comparison of the time, costs, distance, and calories associated with driving, biking, walking, and taking the bus, which is now a statewide program of VTrans.
- **Regional Active Transportation Plan** – The CCRPC approved the Regional Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan to identify and make recommendations for a comprehensive, connected, accessible and safe regional network for walking and biking. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>)
- **Functional Classification Updates** – The CCRPC conducted a comprehensive review of the Chittenden County functional classification system to ensure that all roadways in the county are properly classified according to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines. Feedback was solicited from each Chittenden County municipality and updates were made based on the input received. On March 22, the CCRPC Board took action to request that the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) petition FHWA to reclassify 64 roadways in Chittenden County. All functional classification changes were approved by FHWA in September. The roadway classification changes have been added to an interactive online map. (<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/functionalclass/>).
- **Regional Energy Plan Project** – The CCRPC is developing a focused Regional Energy Plan to advance the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan’s climate and energy goals while also being consistent with municipal and regional land use plans. The CCRPC also developed Municipal Energy Data Guides for each municipality to support local planning and to assist municipalities with understanding their role in meeting their State’s energy goals. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-energy-plan/>)
- **Diversity & Equity** – The CCRPC continues to use the **2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP)** to guide our focus on diversity and equity in all projects. We hosted a Public Participation/Title VI workshop in July 2016 for municipal and consultant staff to help everyone understand our role and responsibilities for public involvement. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>)
- **Regional Technical Assistance** – Includes transportation technical assistance, GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250 application reviews, grant administration, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>).

- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC participated in and hosted the following trainings: Town Plans, Economic Development, Energy Building Codes, two on Energy Planning, and a DRB Summit. We continued hosting meetings and online webinars open to municipalities and regional partners covering topics such as: Advancing the Intersection of Health, Equity, and Transportation; Guide to Running a Bike Share; VOBCIT/VTCulverts; and the entire 12-webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals.
- **Lake Champlain Byway** – Four bicyclist “rest stops” (consisting of a large picnic table with a roof accompanied by an information kiosk) constructed along the Byway, two in the Islands and one each in Colchester (at Airport Park) and Shelburne (at Shelburne Vineyard). Developed the Lake Champlain Byway online resource sites map - <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>. Relunched the Byway’s website, [www.lakechamplainbyway.com](http://www.lakechamplainbyway.com) and launched a cell phone audio tour available for listening by phone and on the web at [www.lcbyway.oncell.com](http://www.lcbyway.oncell.com)
- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to integrate volunteer drivers into human services transportation to increase access to transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by offering a lower-cost mode of transport. (<http://www.unitedwaynwvt.org/Neighbor-Rides>)
- **Opioid Alliance** – The CCRPC was asked to serve as the backbone for the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance and hired a Program Director and Data Manager. The Opioid Alliance is a unique commitment from state, local government, and non-profit leaders to put forth a comprehensive mutually reinforcing approach to reducing opioid abuse and the ancillary burdens they bring to our community. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/chittenden-county-opioid-alliance>)
- **Building Homes Together** – The CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust, and Housing Vermont continue to lead a coordinated campaign to strengthen Chittenden County communities by building 3,500 homes by 2021 for people of all incomes, including 700 affordable homes. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>)
- **Clean Water** – The CCRPC has assisted in development of the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan, and has begun assisting on the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan; and have participated in numerous committees and conversations to help address new permitting requirements and funding regarding the Vermont Lake Champlain TMDL Plan and implementation grants and programs.

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For further information about the CCRPC please visit <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/> or contact CCRPC Executive Director, Charlie Baker, [cbaker@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:cbaker@ccrpcvt.org), 802-846-4490 ext \*23.