

FY2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Essex Junction

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 FY19, the CCRPC invested more than \$5.7 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$5.2 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$227,000 in local match for specific projects—an 11:1 return on local investment.

Essex Junction representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY19 were:

- CCRPC representative – Daniel Kerin
- CCRPC alternate – Andrew Brown
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Robin Pierce
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Robin Pierce
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – Chelsea Mandigo
- MS4 Subcommittee – Chelsea Mandigo

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

ESSEX JUNCTION ACTIVITIES

In FY2019, the CCRPC provided assistance to Essex Junction on the following projects and initiatives:

- **Municipal Plan Development Assistance** – CCRPC staff worked with Essex Junction on the development of the Village Comprehensive Plan. In coordination with the Planning Commission, the CCRPC made updates related to Design 5 Corners, energy, housing, river corridors, mapping, tactical basin planning and data. This included development of the Essex Community Enhanced Energy Plan according to the state’s Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans. CCRPC provided and maintained a public participation webpage for this project using CiviComment. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the draft Essex Junction Comprehensive Plan to the Village Trustees at their June 2019 meeting. The Plan was subsequently adopted in August 2019.
- **Design 5 Corners Implementation Plan** – Design 5 Corners is a community design process completed by Terra Firma Urban Design in 2015. It followed the community values developed during the Heart & Soul Essex engagement process and garnered ideas from public engagement to create a conceptual design and vision for the future of the Village. Following these initiatives, the CCRPC worked with Essex Junction staff and DuBois and King to develop an implementation plan for incorporation within the Village Transportation Plan. The final report for this project was completed in February 2019: https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/D5C-Implementation-Plan_Final-Report.pdf. Total consultant costs in FY18 and FY19: \$38,790.
- **Essex Junction Village Center Parking Plan** – As mixed-use development projects continue to come to the center of Essex Junction, in conjunction with proposed roadway system changes intended to relieve traffic congestion at the Five Corners intersection, parking demand and supply will change. This study was conducted to establish existing, baseline parking conditions; project future changes in supply and demand; and make recommendations to ensure an appropriate balance between supply and demand as planned development projects are completed. The CCRPC worked in coordination with Essex Junction and Stantec throughout the year to conduct this study. The final report will be completed in FY2020. Total consultant costs in FY19: \$28,460. Contract balance for FY20: \$21,540.
- **VT 15 Sidewalk/Path Scoping Study – Athens Drive to VT 289** – Beginning in FY18, the CCRPC started to work with the Town of Essex, the Village of Essex Junction and Stantec to develop a scoping study evaluating sidewalk/path improvements for VT Route 15 between Athens Drive and VT Route 289. The goal of the scoping project was to identify options for an important missing link between the Town and Village pedestrian and bicycle network. This scoping process involved identifying existing roadway and traffic conditions and then developing a purpose and need for the project. Alternative improvement strategies were then identified and evaluated, which lead to the selection of a preferred alternative. The final report was completed in July 2018: https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/AthenstoVT289Final-Scoping-Report_20180731.pdf. Total consultant costs in FY18 and FY19: \$60,665.

- **Densmore Drive Culverts Scoping Study** – Essex Junction, VT. – The CCRPC selected Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA) for initial scoping, assessment, alternatives analysis, and 30% design development for the replacement of two (2) culverts on Densmore Drive in Essex Junction, VT. Total consultant costs in FY19: \$15,560.
- **Chittenden County Brownfields Program** – The CCRPC manages this program to help properties that are vacant or underutilized because of potential petroleum or hazardous substance contamination become productive again. Since the fall of 2016, using EPA grant funds, the program has provided \$29,319 to assess potential contamination at 3 Maple Street and 1 Main Street (Road Res-Q). For more information, visit <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/brownfields/>.
- **Emergency Management – LEMP:** CCRPC staff offered assistance with preparation of the annual Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP), formerly known as the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), to ensure that Essex Junction is prepared in the event of a disaster.
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC conducted ten roadway AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) counts in support of Essex Junction’s transportation projects and studies (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).
- **Technical Assistance** – CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the Village, including:
 - Provided assistance with Essex Junction's Housing Needs Assessment;
 - Created an online map viewer to display sidewalk and paver data compiled by the CCRPC;
 - CCRPC staff revised Census statistical boundaries that will be used to tabulate data for the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, and the economic census.

Essex Junction 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. Essex Junction projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also identified in the FY2019 Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program for design or construction.

- **Mansfield/Brickyard Gravel Wetlands** – \$142,456 Transportation Alternatives award in 2016 to construct a gravel wetland for runoff from Creek Condominiums and portions of a Village Road. Construction scheduled for 2020.
- **Crescent Connector Road** – \$9.6 million for the construction of a new road between VT2A and VT 117. This is a CIRC Alternative Phase I project. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2019.
- **Purchase of Vacuum Flusher/Pipeline Truck** – \$283,000 2018 Transportation Alternative award. Purchase to be completed in 2020.

FY2020 CCRPC Work Program

Project Name	Brief Description	Total Budget
Essex Junction Stormwater CCTV Inspection	Conduct a camera inspection of stormwater pipes to generate a condition assessment report and infrastructure replacement plan.	\$45,000 (includes a local match of \$9,000)

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ECOS Plan Implementation:** CCRPC continues to implement it's [2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan](#) which combines the regional plan, comprehensive economic development strategy, and metropolitan transportation plan, as reflected here in this report. The [2018 ECOS Annual Report](#) is a summary that highlights a number of regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/annual-report/2018-annual-report>) In addition, 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** – The CCRPC hosted the 2018 Legislative Breakfast in December as a forum for a short and focused conversation with local legislators and municipal representatives on key issues and topics important to area municipalities for the 2019-2020 legislative session, including: housing, water quality, employment and Act 250. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>)
- Building Homes Together** – 2018 was the third year of the Building Homes Together campaign. The campaign was initiated by the CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont in 2016. The campaign's goal is to increase the production of housing in Chittenden County, setting a target of 3,500 new homes created over the next five years, with 700 of them permanently affordable. Three years into the five-year campaign, 2,273 homes have been built and the region is on track to reach 3,500 new homes by 2021. However, we continue to fall short on the affordable housing goal. (<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>)
- Public Health** – The CCRPC supports and serves 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. CCRPC also served as the lead agency for the Regional Prevention Partnership (<http://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drug-abuse/programs-services/prevention-programs>). Accomplishments include expansion of drug take-back locations, promoting drug take-back days, fake ID enforcement, and community education about substance use prevention.

- **Emergency Management** – In addition to facilitating Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings (LEPC 1, <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>), the CCRPC participated in a variety of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to enhance resilience to disasters in our region. The CCRPC also 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.
- **Regional Energy Planning** – Following the adoption of the Regional Energy Plan in June 2018 as part of the ECOS Plan (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-energy-plan/>), the CCRPC continued to conduct outreach with municipal Energy Committees/Planning Commissions, municipal legislative bodies and State agencies to assist with the development of local energy plans and support the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan. CCRPC has provided 5 municipalities with a positive determination of energy compliance in FY18. The CCRPC participated in Drive Electric Vermont meetings, commented on Public Utility Commission proceedings, and provided support to municipalities with the Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) grant program.
- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC participated in and hosted the following trainings: Act 174 Training Assistance, Local Emergency Management Plan training, Chittenden County Road Foreman workshop, Bluetooth Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) workshop and Regional Housing Convenings. The CCRPC also continued to host the 12-month webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals for municipalities and regional partners.
- **Lake Champlain Byway** – Chittenden County includes eight of the Byway’s 22 communities: Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex Junction, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne and Charlotte. CCRPC staff maintained the Byway website (www.lakechamplainbyway.com) including this helpful [Interactive Map](http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/) (<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>) and [mobile Story App](https://lcbyway.oncell.com/en/index.html) (<https://lcbyway.oncell.com/en/index.html>)
- **Clean Water** – The CCRPC maintains its commitment to clean water initiatives throughout our region so that all residents have access to clean drinking water; to strengthen our region’s recreation and tourism industry; and to become more resilient to significant storm events. The CCRPC continued to host the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>), provided guidance for the Vermont Clean Water Fund, assisted municipalities with stormwater master plans, supported education programs such as the Rethink Runoff Stream Team (<http://rethinkrunoff.org/the-stream-team/>), and participated in water quality-focused policy discussions around adequate funding and clean water service providers in 2019.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance** – The CCRPC assisted member municipalities by conducting Road Erosion Inventories (REIs) and developing conceptual plans to address road erosion issues to meet MRGP requirements. For an interactive dashboard of the REI progress visit <https://map.ccrpcvt.org/reidashboard/>.

CCRPC staff assisted municipalities with **Better Roads** grants and **Grants-in-Aid** projects to address road erosion issues. The CCRPC also provided funding to municipalities for scoping/conceptual plan development for non-MRGP related stormwater issues on local roads.

- **Transportation Demand Management** – In partnership with VTrans, CCRPC staff continued the **Way to Go! Challenge** (www.waytogovt.org) as a school-focused K-12 program to encourage sustainable transportation and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits of non-single occupant vehicle travel. The CCRPC also continued to collaborate with regional TDM partners to evaluate strategies and policies to encourage sustainable modes of transportation such as walking, biking, ride-sharing, vanpooling, transit, bike-sharing and car-sharing. TDM partners include: the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), CarShare VT, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Local Motion, Greenride Bikeshare, Go! Vermont/VTrans, and United Way.
- **Elderly and Disabled (E&D) Transit Service Review** – The CCRPC, Green Mountain Transit (GMT) and United Way have been working together to evaluate Chittenden County’s E&D Transportation Program. The goal of this initiative is to expand the understanding of the E&D program among stakeholders and identify opportunities for improvement. Recommendations will be completed in the fall of 2019.
- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, the CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to improve the integration of volunteer drivers into SSTA’s services and increase access to transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by offering a lower-cost mode of transportation. (<http://www.unitedwaynwvt.org/Neighbor-Rides>)
- **Active Transportation Planning** – The CCRPC completed an analysis of Greenride Bikeshare’s (www.greenridebikeshare.com) first year data and made recommendations for system expansion, and worked with TDM partners and local municipalities to plan Greenride’s expansion and fleet conversion to electric assist bicycles (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/regional-mobility-analysis-and-recommendations/>). The CCRPC provided walk/bike recommendations on local and state paving plans; assisted municipalities with state bike/ped grant applications; developed model bike parking ordinances for municipalities; planned and hosted (with VTrans) two walk/bike events as the Vermont Chapter of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals; promoted TDM strategies to municipalities and businesses; compiled Complete Streets data for Chittenden County municipalities; and, with Local Motion, conducted bike/ped counts on paths, bike lanes and roadways. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>)
- **Chittenden County Transportation Survey** – Since 2000, the CCRPC has regularly assessed the public’s attitudes on transportation related issues. Previous public surveys were undertaken in 2000, 2006 and 2012. In 2018, the CCRPC worked with a consultant to replicate the previous survey versions to note any historical attitudinal shifts. The purpose of the survey is to objectively measure public opinion regarding performance of the region’s transportation system and identify strategies to address existing and future deficiencies. (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-Transportation-Survey-Report.pdf>).

- **Diversity & Equity** – The CCRPC continues to use the **2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP)** to guide our focus on diversity and equity in all projects. A PPP update is planned in FY21 to ensure everyone understands our role and responsibilities to engage the public and encourage participation, with a special emphasis toward reaching traditionally underserved and underrepresented populations in the county, including people/households with limited English proficiency, people of color, people with disabilities, low-income households, new Americans, seniors, and youth. In FY19, the CCRPC participated in the Refugee and Immigrant Service Provider Network, developed Equity Impact Worksheets for transportation projects, participated in public engagement webinars, completed our Title VI Report for VTrans/FHWA, and participated in an implicit bias training. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>)
- **Regional Technical Assistance** – This includes, but is not limited to, municipal technical assistance for various transportation issues, GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250/Section 248 application reviews, grant administration and grant application assistance, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>).
- **Advanced Traffic Monitoring System (ATMS) using Bluetooth Technology** – The CCRPC and VTrans deployed corridor-level Bluetooth (BT) devices along the following five corridors in Chittenden County: US 2 at Exit 14; VT 289, Susie Wilson Road and VT 15; VT 2A and US 2 north of Exit 12; I-89 Exit 17 area; and I-89 Exit 16 area. This system provides the ability to monitor vehicle travel times and average travel speeds on these corridors to help address congestion issues and improve incident response (crashes, signal failures, etc.), thereby enhancing safety and mobility, and reducing congestion. Ultimately, this data will be utilized by the VTrans Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) and Traveler Information System (TIS) for 511.
- **Chittenden County I-89 Study** – The goal of this multi-year study (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/chittenden-county-i-89-2050-study>) is to assess capacity, safety, resiliency and other issues of the I-89 corridor and its existing interchanges within Chittenden County; and to develop a comprehensive, multimodal plan for interstate and interchange investments that accommodates anticipated growth through 2050 and best aligns with the Vision that will be articulated by a broad and diverse group of stakeholders and the public.
- **Regional Dispatch Implementation Study** – The CCRPC continues to support the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority (CCPSA) formed by the following municipalities in 2018 (Burlington, Colchester, Milton, South Burlington, Williston, Winooski) to implement a plan for a consolidated regional dispatch center for police, fire and rescue agencies. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>).

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 ext *23.