



## FY2016 ANNUAL REPORT TOWN of ESSEX

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, 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 Essex representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY16 were:

- CCRPC representative – Jeff Carr
- CCRPC alternate – Irene Wrenner
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Dennis Lutz
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Dana Hanley

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

## TOWN of ESSEX ACTIVITIES

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

- **Allen Martin Drive/VT Route 15 Intersection Scoping Study** – The Allen Martin Drive/VT Route 15 intersection serves as the primary access point to the Saxon Hill Industrial Park. This project will complete a scoping study to address traffic congestion concerns and left turn conflicts at this intersection. In FY2016, CCRPC staff and RSG finalized the scope of work, completed an existing conditions analysis and organized a local concerns meeting. \$14,200 total consultant costs.
- **GIS/Mapping** – Updated the Scenic Resource Overlay District map and the Scenic Resource Assessment Summary map.
- **Municipal Plan Assistance** – Completed a review of the draft 2016 Essex Town Plan and provided requested data.
- **Electric Vehicle Planning** – Provided the town with information on electric vehicle station equipment model bylaw language and assisted with electric vehicle charging inquiries.
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC conducted four roadway (AADT) counts and two turning movement counts in support of Essex’s transportation projects and studies (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).

## Essex 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.

- **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.
- **Alder Brook Culvert (BR2) on VT 117** – \$1.57 million for replacement of a failed buried structure on VT117 carrying Alder Brook. Construction scheduled for 2019.
- **Pinecrest Drive Sidewalk** – \$357,770 project funded with a \$286,216 Transportation Alternatives grant in 2015 for sidewalk from VT2A to Suffolk Lane. Construction scheduled for 2018.
- **Susie Wilson Road Corridor and Intersection Improvements** – \$8.5 million CIRC Alternatives Phase III project that includes improvements to VT15/Susie Wilson Rd and Susie Wilson/Kellogg Rd. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **Sydney Drive Detention Pond** – \$304,942 project to retrofit a detention pond in a wooded area adjacent to Sydney Drive. Funded with a 2016 TA award of \$234,954. Construction scheduled for 2017.
- **Towers Road Sidewalk** – \$234,000 project for 1,000 feet of new sidewalk funded with a 2014

VTrans Bike/Ped Award for \$175,133. Construction scheduled for 2017.

- **VT 117 Paving** – \$5.2 million for paving 1.2 miles east of 5 Corners to Jericho Town Line. Construction scheduled for 2018.
- **VT 117/North Williston Road Hazard Mitigation Improvements** – \$400,000 CIRC Alternatives Phase III project to install a box culvert, safety enhancements and armoring. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **VT 117/North Williston Road Intersection Improvements** – \$3.2 million CIRC Alt Phase III project. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **VT 15 Sidewalk Old Stage Road to Essex Way** – \$160,000 CIRC Alternatives Phase III project – funding schedule to be determined.
- **VT 15/Sand Hill Road Intersection Improvements** – \$1.3 million CIRC Alt Phase II Project for installation of a signal. Construction scheduled for 2019. ()
- **VT2A/VT289 Intersection** – \$1.7 million CIRC Alt Phase II project for geometric improvements. Construction scheduled for 2017.

## REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** – The CCRPC celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>)

- **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](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** 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](http://www.TravelSmarterVT.org))
- The **Intelligent Transportation System Plan** was adopted in January 2016 and describes how to best use telecommunications and technology to boost the efficiency of the transportation system and provide timely information on travel options. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ITS-Plan-Update-Architecture-Final.pdf>)
- **Regional Active Transportation Plan** – The CCRPC is updating 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/>)
- **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 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 held the 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.
- **Byway** - Developed the Lake Champlain Byway Story map - <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>
- **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>)
- **Opioid Alliance** – The CCRPC was asked to serve as the backbone for the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance and hired a Program Director. 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 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>)
- **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.

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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 x23.