



CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC

Communities Planning Together

CCRPC Monthly Report February 2015 Highlights

Below is a summary of project highlights from last month. There are other activities that we are taking part in that are not included in this summary. Please contact Charlie Baker (cbaker@ccrpcvt.org) for more information.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) - The ITS Plan consultant is developing a needs and gap assessment, identifying projects (with input from municipalities and Sai), and working on the draft architecture.

Stormwater Planning - Dan conferred with ANR on schedule of "Northern Lake Champlain Direct" tactical basin plan. Dan provided information to VT legislative staff on potential costs of RPC involvement in basin planning. Dan prepared for participation in April 1 "Stormy" award and panel discussion.

Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation and Safety - Lee facilitated a presentation/discussion at the February LEPC meeting with Kelly Colling, Operations Manager at BTV Airport, on emergency preparedness and response strategies at BTV. Dan and Lee attended the FEMA/DEMHS P.A. applicant briefing in Hinesburg on 2/10 in connection with the DR-4207 declaration. Dan and Lee followed up with potential applicant towns and with DEMHS staff. Lee participated in a number of Incident Command System trainings, , and a workshop in Berlin on emergency management training needs. Dan conferred with Burlington, Huntington, and ANR on ERAF compliance and new draft River Corridor regulations. Sai reviewed and analyzed crash data from VTrans to identify potential locations for safety improvements under the HRRR program 2015.

Title VI and Public Participation Plan - Emma reviewed and provided recommendations for the Chamberlin Neighborhood Project Team through the lens of the PPP for incorporation into their 3/4 kick-off meeting. Emma reviewed CCTA's Title VI Plan and began compiling ideas for planning/outreach to area organizations and a training session for consultants.

ECOS Annual Report - Regina, Emma, Charlie, and Melanie prepared and finalized the ECOS Annual Report Executive Summary, highlighting the significant trends, accomplishments, and action items from the data. Emma implemented the outreach plan for the 2014 ECOS Annual Report & Scorecard. The story was featured in: VTDigger (2x), CEDO Neighborhood Buzz (3x), Vermont Business Magazine online newsletter (1x).

Community Outreach & Partnerships - Emma assisted with communications and outreach for the following: 2/11 Pearl Street Corridor Study meeting, 2/11 Winooski Form-Based Code meeting and survey; FY14 604B press release creation/distribution; assisted Winooski Public Works with media outreach on 2/18 to inform the public of problems with water service due to extreme temperatures. Peter submitted an award nomination for Michele Boomhower to the Patriot Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation acknowledging her many efforts to promote TDM programs and projects during her tenure at CCRPC. Emma completed the following project website updates/revisions in February: Railyard Enterprise Project; Milton US-7 Corridor Study; Pearl Street Corridor Study; LEPC webpage overhaul; CCST/RSEP webpage; employment opportunities

page. Emma prepared the February newsletter, which launched on 2/18. The opening rate was 31%. (For perspective, industry open rate averages are: govt. agency - 24%; non-profit - 23%; transportation - 20%.) Click-through rate was 21%. (Industry averages: govt. agency - 13%; non-profit - 12%; transportation - 13%.) Regina provided an ECOS presentation to a UVM class on 2/23. Charlie participated in numerous efforts with our partners including: VAPDA on 2/5, LCRCC/GBIC Public Policy Committee on 2/4, VPA to discuss the 10 year planning cycle bill on 2/9, Housing VT Board meeting on 2/11, Municipal Managers' lunch on 2/17, GBIC Board meeting on 2/18, and VAPDA display in at State House on 2/18.

Energy, Climate and Air Quality Planning - Melanie worked with VNRC/VECAN to develop a solar workshop for energy committee members. Melanie met with K. Blume to discuss outreach and promotion efforts for the 2015 Vermontivate. Melanie attended the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Creating Prosperity & Opportunity Confronting Climate Change Conference on 2/18.

Lake Champlain Byway - Dan participated in a 2/9 meeting of the Byway Council to finalize Interpretation Coordination Plan and brainstorm on elements of a Byway "ESRI" Story Map. Dan worked with MajaDesign on minor size edits and with LightWorks on production of Byway activities posters for installation at Rokeby Museum. Dan provided info to City of Winooski on directional signage. Dan conferred with organizers of Lamoille River paddle trail.

Regional Bike/Ped Planning - Peter sent the draft Regional Bike/Ped Plan scope to Local Motion staff and Jon Kaplan at VTrans for review and comments.

Transit & Transportation Demand Management (TDM) - The Way to Go! Website log in and materials will be available on March 13. This year's event will be two weeks, May 4-15. Local Motion interviewed Bryan/CCRPC on 2/6 about cargo bikes for a spring newsletter edition. CATMA continues to meet with interested businesses throughout the County and recruit Employee Transportation Coordinator network members. With the assistance of CATMA, CCTA staff drafted an Unlimited Access agreement for Seventh Generation to allow them to use the Employee Transit Pass. CCTA and VTrans are working on upgrading traffic signals with emergency preemption that will be activated by transit emitters. When all intersections are addressed CCTA will be ready to activate the emitters on its buses and take advantage of Transit Signal Priority. Multiple timepoint changes were made in February to improve the on-time performance and schedule reliability of weekday afternoon Shelburne Road trips. System-wide ridership is up 1.0% through January. The South Burlington Circulator route is showing the highest ridership increase for local routes with a 12.5% increase. The Milton Commuter has been the best performing Commuter route with ridership up over 15% from FY14. The ADA program is trending at a 3% increase, with less than 1% increases in the second quarter of FY14. On the cost side, the program is on budget. Winooski and Williston are experiencing high increases in ridership and we are exploring the causes of these spikes. Two new bus passenger shelters are currently being considered; Riverside Ave. in Burlington and Route 7 in Shelburne. Solar lighting will be installed in 10 additional bus passenger shelters in Burlington, South Burlington, and Winooski by September 2015. The Transit Station construction bids were due 3/6, but that date has been extended to accommodate design changes necessitated by revisions to the Vermont Accessibility Code. The VCF-funded Transportation & Inclusive Communities grant project has started - Bryan and Melanie, with partners VEIC and NRPC, are mapping existing affordable housing and overlaying walking, biking and transit.

Training - The CCRPC co-hosted a right-of-way training with VTrans on 2/11, with 14 participants. Regina, Lee and Pam attended an Introduction to the Emergency Protective Measures Authorization Process (a change to post-emergency in-stream permitting) webinar on 2/18.

Regional/Shared Services – Lee continued follow-up work and background research on the shared services concept, in anticipation of continued conversation with our member municipalities.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Programming - Pam generated miles of plowed roads for Colchester, made edits to the Burns Property map for Charlotte, printed large orthophoto maps for an Essex Junction public forum, finished edits and printed the Shelburne Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure Development Plan map, and made final edits to the Westford Town Plan maps. Online mapping improvements - Pam developed an online map (<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/rivercorrplanning>) to enable staff to have a better understanding of the various water protection buffers, corridors and floodplains. Data Development & Maintenance - Chris completed the final draft of the Colchester Crosswalk warrant guidance and analysis for Colchester. Chris and Pam completed documenting the status of VTCulverts/Inventory data and sent results to VTrans. Chris provided Essex Junction with GIS data of the hydrant locations they gps'd. Pam worked with our intern to compile all parcel data and then provided it to VCGI for public access. Using the newly available historic sites online database (from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation), our intern has been enhancing the historic sites database. VT Online Bridge & Culvert Inventory Tool (VOBCIT) - Pam presented to the TAC an online map highlighting priority town roads. Pam then updated the data based on municipal feedback and provided the data to CVRPC, who will combine all RPC data which will then be used as part of the prioritization tool that will be added to vtculverts.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Burlington - North Ave. Corridor Plan - Project work is complete. Eleni will finalize the report in March. Burlington Pearl Street - Battery Street to St. Paul St. - Christine attended a project stakeholder meeting on 2/4 and organized and held a public meeting on 2/11 to present future concepts for Pearl Street to the public. Burlington Railyard Enterprise Scoping Study - Resource Staff met on 2/3 to review and score the Historic Preservation and Archeology criteria and VTrans met with VT Rail to score the rail operations criteria. The Evaluation Matrix was revised, sent to the stakeholders and finalized at a meeting on 2/18. The meeting was extremely productive and the stakeholders unanimously selected five out of the 10 Draft Alternatives to move forward into a more detailed Phase 2 evaluation. For more information please go [here](#). PlanBTV South End - Phase 1: All comments were addressed and the [Existing Conditions report](#) was finalized 2/9. Phase 2: Lee and Eleni participated in an array of activities this month including: reviewing documents and posters, and participating in many of the workshops during a multi-day community design process. There were several hundred participants overall. For more information, please go to: burlingtonvt.gov/planBTV/SE. Burlington TDM Plan – Peter and the Advisory Committee met on 2/17 to review the short and long term recommendations. A follow-up meeting with the City's CAO is scheduled for 3/6 to discuss the potential financial implications of the recommendations. Burlington Residential Parking Study - Peter helped Burlington and RSG staff prepare a list of 20 strategy recommendations. The advisory committee met on 2/10 and the committee agreed to forward all recommendations to the public. Peter also prepared for a project update for the Burlington Ward 6 NPA. Downtown Parking Initiative - Peter and Charlie prepared for and attended the meetings of the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee on 2/3 and 2/10.

Charlotte US7/Ferry Rd/Church Hill Rd Scoping Study - Completed. Charlotte Ferry Road - US7 to Milton Sidewalk Scoping Study – Sai had the consultant address comments and submit the draft final report for review. Charlotte Park and Ride - Peter sent the site evaluation matrix and recommendations to VTrans for review and comment.

Essex – Bryan finalized the [Essex/Essex Junction Bike/Ped Plan](#) and distributed printed copies to the Town and Village.

Hinesburg Village Ctr. Trans/Land Use Stormwater Analysis – VHB’s work continues.

Jericho Transportation & Bike/Ped Plan - Bryan incorporated edits and maps into the draft final Jericho Transportation Study and Bike/Ped Plan. Drafts were sent to Todd Odit for review.

Milton Sidewalk Scoping Study - Toole submitted draft preferred alternative plans for the four study areas with advisory committee members offering some comments via email. A public presentation is scheduled for the 4/6 Selectboard meeting, prior to which a draft report will be submitted. US 7 Corridor Plan - The 1/29 public meeting notes have been posted to the project [website](#).

Richmond Route 2 Bicycle & Pedestrian Path Study - The [study](#) was completed with copies sent to the Town.

Shelburne Transportation & Land Use Implications Analysis in an Expanded Sewer Service Area - Regina reviewed and provided comments on the Existing Conditions Report. Shelburne Form Based Code – Lee talked with Town staff to clarify and align revised project schedules and workflow.

So. Burlington Trans. Facilities Stormwater Impacts - Consultant work proceeding. So. Burlington Williston Road Area Study - Christine met with City staff and the consultant to review preliminary results of this study. So. Burlington Chamberlin Neighborhood Master Plan - The project will launch in March, with a Project Team meeting and a public meeting. Zoning Administration Assistance - Dan prepared draft Staff Comments and draft Findings of Fact & Decisions on proposals before the DRB.

Winooski Bylaw Development (Winooski Zoning Ordinance Update Assistance) - Regina continued working on the Winooski bylaws and attended the PC meetings on 2/5 and 2/19. Winooski Form Based Code - The draft was presented to the public on 2/11. There were numerous meetings within the two-day visit by the consultant to learn how to administer the code, and refine certain elements. The 2/11 meeting kicked off a 5-week public comment period, and a marketing campaign to promote engagement. Winooski Transportation Master Plan - Eleni presented a revised draft scope of work to the Winooski Public Works Commission on 2/12. Additional comments were incorporated into the final scope of work.

ORGANIZATIONAL

Finance, Budget & Accounting - The unaudited financial reports through 1/31 show that due to our reduced indirect rate and some staff changes, revenues are down against the budget. The income statement shows a deficit of around \$80,000. It is quite possible that the income statement could become more negative by the end of the fiscal year. Fortunately, positive income in recent fiscal years have allowed us to accumulate some reserves. The draft FY16 budget continues to be developed along with the draft FY16 UPWP.

Personnel Administration – Comments were provided on the draft Compensation Study. Job advertisements were developed and advertised for Transportation Program Manager and an entry level planner or engineer. Applications were due on 2/27 for the entry level position and on 3/4 for the manager.

UPWP – The FY16 UPWP Committee had their second meeting on 2/18. CCRPC staff reviewed the project requests from municipalities and partners in more detail and refined budgets and estimated hours to complete the work. A draft FY16 budget was developed from this information. See [workplan](#) for more information.