

## **FY2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Town of Milton**

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**. Milton's dues were \$13,087 in FY17 and \$12,945 in FY18.

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

- CCRPC representative – Vacant
- CCRPC alternate – Henry Bonges
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Jacob Hemmerick
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Jacob Hemmerick
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – Jeffrey Castle
- MS4 Subcommittee – Jeffrey Castle
- All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Committee – Vacant

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

## MILTON ACTIVITIES

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

- **Initial Plan Review and Consultation** – CCRPC reviewed the 2013 Milton Town Plan in advance of its 2018 expiration. CCRPC completed a consultation with the Milton Town Manager and Planning and Zoning staff and provided clarity on new state requirements for municipal plans.
- **US Route 7 Milton Corridor Study** – The final report was completed in November 2016 (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/corridors-circulation/milton-us-7-corridor-study/>). Total consultant costs for this project were approximately \$78,335. Staff costs were \$36,226.
- **Railroad Crossing Scoping Study** – This scoping study was finalized in August 2016 (<https://ccrpcvt-public.sharepoint.com/Studies%20and%20Reports/FINAL%20Milton%20RR%20Crossing%20Scoping%20Study%20with%20Appendices%20August%202016.pdf>). Total consultant costs for this project were approximately \$22,000. Staff costs were \$1,265.
- **All-Hazards Mitigation** – CCRPC staff prepared the Town's draft All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) with assistance from Town Staff and the Milton Planning Commission. This plan outlines key municipal actions to address and mitigate against common hazards such as severe rainstorms and flooding. The AHMP was adopted by the Milton Selectboard in April and then given formal by FEMA in May. Milton's flood resiliency checklist was also completed and submitted to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.
- **Stormwater Planning** – Provided support to Milton by managing 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 MS-4 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/>).
- **Transportation Safety** – In October 2016, CCRPC staff worked with VTrans and municipal staff to coordinate a Milton road safety audit as part of the Vermont Highway Safety Improvement Program. CCRPC staff also reviewed road safety audit reports for Railroad St and Main St, as well as the Westford Rd/North Rd/Main St intersection.
- **Transportation Forum** – In February 2017, CCRPC staff presented at joint meeting with the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Development Review Board, Economic Development Commission, and the Selectboard on issues related to transportation planning, funding, the project development process and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- **Geographic Information Systems** – The Milton map viewer was updated: <http://map.ccrpcvt.org/miltonmap/>. A map was developed for a sidewalk grant the town applied for. GIS staff also created an e911 Road Map for the South Hero Fire Dept, as they have a mutual aid agreement with Milton.
- **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 Milton in the summer of 2017, in preparation of the

state's Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP). CCRPC interns and staff conducted the inventories and are in the process of prioritizing the sites based on established criteria and in close consultation with the Town. In addition, the CCRPC will be using FY 18 MPO planning funds (no local match) to develop conceptual plans and cost estimates for the top 5 erosion sites. These plans and preliminary costs will assist the municipality when applying for various state (VTrans and DEC) implementation grants.

- **Technical Assistance** – CCRPC Staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the Town. We:
  - worked with Milton planning staff to develop a presentation for the Vermont Parks and Recreation Conference on how to blend planning for parks and recreation into the broader realm of municipal governance, budgeting and land use planning;
  - provided assistance with the development of Milton's Local Emergency Operations Plan;
  - put together a table for the Public Works Supervisor that lists all of Milton's roadways by town highway classification, functional classification and surface type;
  - provided Milton staff with support related to the development of its Municipal Planning Grant application;
  - prepared a Regional Plan consistency letter for Milton's TIF substantial change request application; and,
  - worked with the Lake Champlain Basin Program to synthesize stormwater treatment data to support the redevelopment of the Milton Square property.

### Milton 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. Milton projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also identified in the FY2017 Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program for design or construction.

- **US 7/Middle Road/Railroad Street Intersection** – \$4.2 million for intersection reconstruction. Construction scheduled for FY2021.
- **I-89 U-Turn Widening, Milton** – \$660,000 for the widening of an existing U-turn at mm 100.9 and the construction of a new U-turn at mm 102.7 in Milton. Funds to be obligated in FY17.
- **US 7 Sidewalk - Nancy Drive to Haydenberry Drive** – \$1.1 million for to fill 3,830 feet of sidewalk gaps on the north side of US 7. Partially funded with an \$850,000 bike/ped grant from 2016.

### 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/>)

- **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/>. Relaunched 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.ocell.com](http://www.lcbyway.ocell.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 x23.