

FY2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Richmond

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), 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 FY18, 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 \$5.3 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$132,000 in local match for specific projects—a **14:1 return on local investment**.

Richmond representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY18 were:

- CCRPC representative – Bard Hill
- CCRPC alternate – Ellen Kane
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Geoffrey Urbanik
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Clare Rock
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – Geoffrey Urbanik
- All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Committee – Clare Rock
- Long Range Planning Energy Sub-Committee – Jeff Forward

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

RICHMOND ACTIVITIES

In FY2018, the CCRPC provided assistance to Richmond on the following projects and initiatives:

- **Richmond Stormwater Master Plan** – The CCRPC continued to collaborate with Richmond staff, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District and the Friends of the Winooski River to develop a stormwater master plan for the Town. Stone Environmental was hired as the primary consultant for this project. The scope of work consists of a review of the existing conditions, an assessment of problem areas and a comprehensive identification of potential projects to address stormwater and its impacts. A kick-off meeting was held in August 2017, a public meeting was organized in October, a second public meeting was held to review the preliminary list of Town and school retrofit/project sites and conceptual design/cost estimates were prepared for a series of recommended sites.
- **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation** – CCRPC staff worked in early 2018 with municipal staff to prepare a 2017 Progress Report on the implementation of the actions recommended in the Richmond All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Typically, these were roadway and stormwater projects to mitigate the impacts of future severe rainstorms.
- **Emergency Management – LEOP:** CCRPC staff offered assistance in the Spring of 2018 with the annual local emergency operations plan (LEOP) to ensure that Richmond is prepared in the event of a disaster.
- **Municipal Plan Development Assistance** – CCRPC staff reviewed drafts of each chapter of the Richmond Town Plan and provided comments to Richmond staff, as well as in preparation for two reviews by the CCRPC Planning Advisory Committee. .
- **Municipal Energy Planning/Act 174 Assistance** – CCRPC staff worked with Richmond staff and the Richmond Planning Commission to draft sections of the Richmond Town Plan to meet the Department of the Public Service Energy Planning Standards for Municipalities.
- **Geographic Information Systems** – CCRPC GIS staff developed updated maps for the Richmond Town Plan. CCRPC GIS staff uploaded zoning and overlay data to the Vermont Open GeoData Portal.
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC conducted one turning movement count in support of Richmond’s transportation projects and studies (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** CCRPC staff continued to provide assistance to all member municipalities to address policy, data, and reporting issues to meet the MRGP requirements.
- **VTrans Better Roads Program:** CCRPC staff assisted the Town in applying for a FY19 Category B grant Wes White Hill Road.
- **Grants-in-Aid:** Staff provided assistance with planning for future grants-in-aid cycles.
- **Technical Assistance** – CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the Town, including:
 - organized meetings with municipal and VTrans staff to discuss issues related to the US 2/Bridge Street/Jericho Road signalized intersection, bridge work over Interstate 89, concrete panels under Route 2, curb/sidewalk/stormwater work, and bike/ped improvements along Route 2.

Richmond 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. Richmond 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.

- **I-89 Paving, Waterbury-Richmond** – \$7 million to pave northbound and southbound lanes, approximately from Kenyon Road overpass to Waterbury. Construction scheduled for 2019.
- **VT 117 Paving, Jericho-Richmond** – \$6.9 million to pave from Essex-Jericho Town Line to US 2. Construction to begin in 2018.
- **US2 Bridge over I-89** - \$180,000 for design of a bridge replacement project. Construction schedule to be determined.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **ECOS Plan and Annual Report** – The ECOS Plan is the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County and was readopted in 2018 with major updates to the energy, transportation and economic development sections:
 - 2018 ECOS Plan: <http://www.ecosproject.com/2018-ecos-plan/>
 - **Summary:** http://www.ecosproject.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2018-ECOS-Plan-Summary_20180807_FINAL.pdf
 - The 2017 Annual Report highlights regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions: <http://www.ecosproject.com/annual-report/>
 - The ECOS Scorecard is our online data 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>
- **Legislative Forum** – The CCRPC hosted the 2017 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 2018-2019 legislative session, including: housing, water quality, and municipal shared services.
(<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>)
- **Building Homes Together** – The CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont continue to lead a coordinated campaign to strengthen Chittenden County communities and our economy by building 3,500 homes by 2021 for people of all incomes, including 700 affordable homes. CCRPC staff developed a series of housing indicators with the first-year data for a press conference that was held in September 2017. CCRPC also began to host a meeting of municipal Housing Committees to facilitate peer learning.
(<http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together>)

- **Clean Water** – The CCRPC is committed to supporting water quality initiatives throughout our region to ensure that all residents have access to clean drinking water; to strengthen our region’s recreation and tourism industry; and to become more resilient to flood events. To assist our member municipalities and the state in working together to achieve these goals, the CCRPC has facilitated the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>), provided guidance to the Clean Water Board, worked with DEC to revise the grant manual for the Ecosystem Restoration Program, assisted municipalities with Better Roads grants, stormwater master plans, and supported water quality-focused advocacy and education programs such as the Chittenden County Stream Team (<http://rethinkrunoff.org/the-stream-team/>).
- **Public Health**– The CCRPC supports and serves the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance (CCOA, <http://www.ecosproject.com/chittenden-county-opioid-alliance>) together with numerous other regional stakeholders. The CCOA is made up of many dedicated stakeholders who come from different sectors of the community and have partnered together: local non-profit agencies, state and local government; UVM Medical Center; Health Department; 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 included expansion of drug take back locations, promoting drug take-back days, fake ID enforcement, and community education about substance use prevention.
- **Regional Dispatch Implementation** – The CCRPC continues to work in partnership with Chittenden County municipalities to implement a plan for a consolidated regional dispatch environment for law enforcement, fire and rescue agencies. CCRPC staff facilitated discussions with municipal legislative bodies, participated in hearings with the Vermont Legislature’s Government Operations Committees and provided support to the Joint Survey Committee. Following strong support from voters in Burlington, Colchester, Milton, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski on Town Meeting Day 2018, the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority (CCPSA) was approved as a new union municipal district tasked with delivering regional emergency dispatch services to improve public safety operations. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>)
- **Emergency Management** – In collaboration with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 1, <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>), the CCRPC hosted and participated in a variety of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to enhance resilience to disasters in our region. CCRPC also served as a key coordinator between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, worked with municipalities to complete Local Emergency Operations Plans, and facilitated Incident Command System training.
- **Regional Energy Planning** – The CCRPC adopted a Regional Energy Plan to support the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan consistent with municipal and regional land use plans and policies. The CCRPC conducted significant outreach and incorporated feedback into the Plan from the following: municipal Energy Committee/Planning Commissions; municipal legislative bodies; members of the public; State agencies, including the Vermont Department of Public Service;

and CCRPC's Long Range Planning Committee, Energy Sub-committee, Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The final plan was adopted on June 20, 2018 as part of the ECOS Plan (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-energy-plan/>) and was granted an Affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance by the Department of Public Service on August 9, 2018. This means that the ECOS Plan's policies will be given "substantial deference" during Public Utilities Commission proceedings. CCRPC has increased participation in PUC proceedings to ensure that local and regional policies are recognized.

- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC participated in and hosted the following trainings: Emergency Management Director/Public Information Officer Workshops, Act 250: Next 50 Years Conference, Economics of Housing Workshop, Regional Housing Convening. 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 and finalized the Byway's Corridor Management Plan available at: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/lake-champlain-byway/>.
- **Transportation Demand Management** – The CCRPC and VTrans transitioned the popular annual **Way to Go! Challenge** (www.waytogovt.org) to a school-focused K-12 program to encourage sustainable transportation (non-single occupant vehicle travel) and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits. With the recent expansion of CATMA's (Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association) TDM services throughout the region, 2017 was the final year of promotion for **Go! Chittenden County**, a one-stop-shop for information and advice about our region's transportation resources (www.gochittendencounty.org). The CCRPC's **Travel Smarter** campaign and trip planner provides a side-by-side comparison of the time, costs, distance, and calories associated with driving, biking, walking, and taking the bus. This transitioned into VTrans' TDM program (www.TravelSmarterVT.org).
- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, the CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to improve the integration of 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>)
- **Regional Active Transportation Plan** – The CCRPC began steps to implement the Regional Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan recommendations for a comprehensive, connected, accessible and safe regional network for walking and biking. CCRPC staff led the development and launch of the regional **Greenride Bikeshare** system (www.greenridebikeshare.com), provided walk/bike recommendations on local and state paving plans, assisted municipalities with bike/ped grant applications, developed model bike parking ordinances for municipalities, promoted TDM strategies, and conducted walk/bike counts on paths, bike lanes and roadways. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>)
- **Regional Transportation Model** – The regional transportation model was updated to better reflect current and future transportation demands due to forecasted demographic and employment changes in the county. The model is a tool used by the CCRPC to compare various land use and transportation scenarios and their effects on our transportation system at a

regional level. Most recently, it was utilized in the 2018 update of our Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to assist in identifying and prioritizing transportation investments that will be most effective in meeting the MTP goals.

- **Chittenden County Transportation Survey** – The 2018 survey largely replicates the 2000, 2006 and 2012 versions to note any historical attitudinal shifts. The chief purpose of the survey is to objectively measure public opinion in Chittenden County regarding the performance of the region’s transportation system and to identify strategies to address existing and future deficiencies. Questions measure public opinion on how well the transportation system serves the public’s travel needs, affects livability, promotes economic development and opportunity, and affects the environment. Results will be released in October 2018.
- **Diversity & Equity** – The CCRPC continues to use the **2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP)** to guide our focus on diversity and equity in all projects. An update is planned in FY19 to ensure everyone understands our role and responsibilities for public participation. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>)
- **Regional Technical Assistance** – This includes: various transportation issues, GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250/Section 248 application reviews, grant administration, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>).
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)** – The CCRPC has been planning, designing and implementing advanced technologies on congested corridors in the county to improve safety, facilitate traffic flows and reduce delays. (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/intelligent-transportation-systems/>):
 - **Advanced Traffic Monitoring System (ATMS) using Bluetooth Technology** - The CCRPC, in close coordination with VTrans and FHWA, planned, designed and implemented an Advanced Traffic Monitoring System for five (5) congested corridors in Chittenden County to gather real-time travel data using Bluetooth technology. The system will ultimately integrate with the VTrans ATMS and Traveler Information System (TIS) for 511 through the State Transportation Operations Center (TOC). The entire system will be tested and validated and the real-time travel data collected will assist VTrans and municipalities to improve the efficiency, safety, and reliability of the regional transportation system.
 - **Exit 14 Area Traffic Signal Assessment Study** – The CCRPC has been coordinating with VTrans and the municipalities of South Burlington and Burlington to identify strategies to reduce congestion and improve traffic flows in the vicinity of the I-89 Exit 14 interchange. The CCRPC has completed a system assessment study for traffic signals along Williston Road/Main Street between Staples Plaza and Midas Drive, and Dorset Street between Williston Road and Kennedy Drive and developed a strategic plan for signal and communications infrastructure improvements and upgrades. Exit 14 Earmark funds will be used in the near future to implement the highest priority recommendations in South Burlington.

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.