



CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC

Communities Planning Together

CCRPC Directors' Report September 2014 Highlights

Below is a summary of project highlights from the past month. There are many other activities that we are taking part in that are not included in this summary. Please contact either Charlie Baker (cbaker@ccrpcvt.org) or Michele Boomhower (mboomhower@ccrpcvt.org) for more information.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

Title VI and Public Participation Plan - Charlie and Michele scheduled meetings to discuss the Public Participation Plan and process. Emma worked with the PPP Advisory Committee to schedule a final meeting for 10/09. A public hearing and adoption of the PPP is scheduled for 10/15.

Vermont Community Foundation Equity Network – Charlie determined that we should move in a slightly different direction and not hold the convening in October. We may return the \$20,000 to VCF unless we can negotiate another way to invest the funds.

ECOS Annual Report - Melanie and Peter continue to update the ECOS indicators and work with Results Scorecard software. Melanie attended the Indicators Consortium Conference in DC. Melanie provided the City of Burlington with assistance on the STAR Community Rating System and attended a STAR training.

Community Outreach & Partnerships - Emma prepared the September Newsletter and sent it on 9/17. Emma provided assistance in communicating the new hands-free device law, preparing a segment on the website and a specific email that was sent to the entire CCRPC list on 09/30. Michele worked with regional partners and internal staff to prepare an article for the Burlington Free Press on the topic of transportation congestion in Chittenden County; published in the paper and online on 09/16. Bryan prepared draft municipal annual reports. Charlie participated in GBIC, Opportunities Credit Union, FAHC Community Benefits Committee, and Housing Vermont board meetings. Charlie and Michele hosted a meeting of officials from FAHC, Burlington and South Burlington to discuss FAHC future expansion plans.

Health Planning - Lee continued to manage the Partnership for Success project. Melanie updated the map of alcohol outlet locations in Winooski for the Winooski Coalition.

Energy, Climate and Air Quality Planning – Melanie prepared energy and GHG emissions data for the Underhill Town Plan update process. Melanie participated in the VT Drive Electric Showcase on 09/20 at the UMall.

Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation and Safety - Dan participated in an All Hazards Mitigation Planning skills exchange workshop on 09/17. Dan and Lee attended the VT Emergency Preparedness Conference on 09/18. Dan participated in "EOC Operations and Planning for All-Hazards Events" 09/23-09/25. Lee participated in a training simulating an incident at Vermont Yankee. Lee consolidated a collection of formerly separate hazardous materials surveys into a single, consolidated survey; and

experimented with an online approach rather than paper; a final report and analysis will be prepared. Dan, Bryan and Lee continued to track municipal compliance with pending new regs for ERAF. Dan participated in a September 16th training at ANR on FEMA's Community Rating System "quick check" process. Michele and Eleni assisted VTrans in staffing the Vermont Highway Safety Council booth at the Champlain Valley Exposition. Sai continued planning for the October Highway Safety Forum for Chittenden County.

Byway Coordination & Technical Assistance – Dan reviewed draft of new Vermont Tourism Byway brochure. Dan provided information on grant opportunities to aid Milton Historical Society in development of visitor services at General Stannard house. Dan provided background materials on signage for use in City of South Burlington Red Rocks Park management plan. Dan worked with Maja Design on final edits and photo selection for the Water Recreation brochure. Dan worked with Landslide Consultants on final edits to the draft and then worked with Emma to distribute a press release announcing a public comment period on the Byway Plan and with Jenn Karson of OpenSesame Media on posting of plan to www.lakechamplainbyway.com

Regional Bike/Ped Planning - Bryan and Michele attended ProWalk/ProBike/ProPlace in Pittsburgh, PA 09/8-09/11 and attended sessions on health, complete streets, mobile technology, active transportation modeling, economic impacts of active transportation, protected bike lanes, behavior change programs, innovative infrastructure projects and transportation demand management.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) – Bryan and Go! Chittenden County partners presented and tabled at the 09/27 Living Green Fair at UVM.

Training - CCRPC hosted a roundtable discussion with the Planning Advisory Committee members on Transportation Improvement Districts.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Programming - Pam provided final town plan maps to Essex Junction and Huntington. Pam met with a member of the Shelburne Bike & Pedestrian Committee to discuss development of an official Bike & Pedestrian map (first draft has been completed); and various maps have been provided to the Town Clerk and Town Planner. An updated zoning map including current parcel data and the new FEMA DFIRM data was prepared by Pam for Richmond. Pam revised the Colchester Restricted Gun Use map to include a Winooski Valley Park District property that had not been previously identified. Pam attended the GIS-Pro conference in New Orleans 09/8 – 09/10. Online mapping improvements - Pam made updates to the ECOS Map Viewer, Westford, and Jericho map viewers. Data Development & Maintenance - An intern has been hired for the Fall Semester to assist with various GIS data update and development tasks. The intern is currently working on updating the housing point data and the sidewalk and shared use path data, both of which will be used for the next ECOS indicator updates. A third project for the intern is to organize all of the orthophotos for each town to make access and viewing the orthophotos easier. Chris completed final QC of Bolton RSMS, created deliverables and sent information out to Carol Devlin. Chris went to Underhill and Richmond/Hinesburg to inspect the final two road segments for the Town Highway Major Collector Sufficiency Program. Chris is collaborating with Brian Lee and the TRC to do some QA/QC video detection testing for our Bike ATR. Chris completed a final QC, archive, and data cut for the Underhill sign inventory and emailed both spatial and non-spatial data files to Brian Bigelow and Sarah McShane. Functional Classification and Town Highway maps were posted to our website by Chris. VT Online Bridge & Culvert Inventory Tool (VOBCIT) - Pam has begun testing the new features of the vtculverts website. These changes will be introduced at an October 15th Transportation Structures Workshop. LiDAR Data Acquisition for

Chittenden County - Pam received word that a contract has been awarded to Quantum Science for the LiDAR project. The project will cover more than 2400 square miles, complete the Lake Champlain Basin area on the Vermont side and all of Chittenden County.

Stormwater Planning - Charlie and Dan conferred frequently with Karen Bates of ANR and with Northwest RPC and Addison RPC on the Watershed Basin 5 planning process. Dan and Christine participated in a 09/19 webinar on stormwater master planning. The CCRPC hosted and Dan participated in a 09/26 meeting of the state's Green Infrastructure Roundtable. Charlie and Dan worked extensively with the RPC's TMDL subcommittee to craft a position paper for review by the full commission at two meetings on 09/10 and 09/22.

Transportation Technical Assistance & Training - Michele participated in Channel 17 Live at 5:25! with Ted Wimpey, discussing the interface between Fair Housing and Transportation access. The TIP was amended to add new VTrans Bike/Ped awards. Revised project prioritizations were approved by the Board to include Circ Alternatives Phase III projects. Bryan and partners from the ECOS Science to Action project presented at the 2014 NNECAPA conference in Stowe on 09/12. Bryan and Pam attended the Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife 09/21-09/24, presenting the ECOS Science to Action project again.

Traffic Operations Planning - Adaptive Signal Control (ASC) Pilot - Michele met with the Carnegie Melon project team, visited the Pittsburg pilot area, met with the local community development staff, reviewed the model status with CMU staff and coordinated with CCRPC staff regarding outstanding items. A visit to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Commission (Pittsburgh's MPO) was also conducted to discuss the pilot project and the role of the MPO in traffic operations. Michele prepared an FHWA Accelerated Innovations Deployment Grant application to secure funding for traffic monitoring using Blue Tooth and Dedicated Short Range Communications devices in select corridors in the region.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Burlington North Ave. Corridor Plan - Nicole and Eleni presented the North Ave Corridor Plan (study process, outcomes and recommendations) to the TEUC at their September 10th meeting. The TEUC voted on preferred short, medium and long-term concepts that will be presented to the City Council at their October 6th meeting for acceptance. Burlington Pearl Street - Battery Street to St. Paul St. - A steering committee meeting was held with Burlington and the consultant to evaluate possible roadway cross sections. The committee discussed the downtown transit center, which is currently being designed, and possible modifications to Pearl Street that will be required by that project. Burlington Rail Yard Enterprise Scoping Study - The REP Steering Committee met on September 4th to review the revised Purpose and Need (P&N) for this project and discuss next steps as we re-engage with this project. RSG had a (web) meeting with VTrans' Archeologists and interim Historic Preservation Officer and Specialist to review the revised P&N and existing draft alternatives. A subsequent meeting with the VTrans archeologist is set for the beginning of October. Michele participated in a meeting with the City of Burlington, VTrans, and the FHWA Vermont Division Administrator and the Eastern Division Director of Field Services; the meeting highlighted progress to date and challenges facing the Champlain Parkway and the Railyard Enterprise project, including a spotlight on the Every Day Counts process for Planning and Environmental Linkages. PlanBTV South - The planBTV South End master plan effort (phase 2) was launched during the South End Art Hop at the beginning of September. As part of the planBTV South End effort, the AARP Vermont sponsored an Active Living Workshop for Burlington's South End, 09/25-

09/27, with Dan Burden of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute. Burlington TDM Plan - Two focus group meetings were held with downtown Burlington employees and employers.

Charlotte Ferry Road - US7 to Milton Sidewalk Scoping Study - Bryan participated in Sept 25 alternatives work session with the project advisory committee.

Colchester Lakeshore Drive & Town Services Neighborhood Buildout Analysis & Transportation Circulation Study - A kick-off meeting with municipal staff was held on 9/9. Melanie, Sai, and Jason worked on developing a scope of work for this project.

Essex/Essex Junction Bike Ped Plan – Dubois and King presented the Plan to the Essex Junction Planning Commission on Sept 18.

Hinesburg Village Ctr. Trans/Land Use Stormwater Analysis - Dan met with Alex Weihagen on 09/16 to review the project deliverable and the consultant selection process.

Milton Sidewalk Scoping Study - Bryan participated in the 09/25 alternatives work session with the project advisory committee. US 7 Corridor Plan - Jason met with the consultant, PB, to conduct a field visit and tour of the corridor. The Study Team met on 09/22 to discuss the existing conditions report and to prepare for the 10/06 public meeting.

Shelburne Transportation & Land Use Implications Analysis in an Expanded Sewer Service Area - Regina fielded questions on the RFP. Two proposals were submitted by the 09/26 deadline.

So. Burlington Trans. Facilities Stormwater Impacts - Dan met with Tom DiPietro on 09/05 to review consultant hiring process and deliverables. Dan met with DiPietro and with Greg Goyette of Stantec on 09/30 for a project kickoff meeting.

Winooski Bylaw Development (Winooski Zoning Ordinance Update Assistance) - Regina continued to work on the dimensional requirements and land uses for the residential, industrial and commercial zoning districts with the Planning Commission at meetings on 9/4 and 9/18/14. Winooski Form Based Code - Ferrell Madden prepared the initial draft of the code, and this was presented to the Steering Committee on 9/30. It will take some more time to walk the City and Steering Committee through the Code before it is brought to the public.

Transportation Technical Assistance - Sai delivered the final speed study report for Ayer Road in St. George. Dan and Bryan met with Bolton officials concerning road erosion and driveway icing problems at Bolton Valley.

ORGANIZATIONAL

Finance, Budget & Accounting – Sullivan Powers was in our office to gather information for the FY14 Audit. It should be complete and presented to the CCRPC Board in November.

Personnel Administration – A consultant (Municipal Resources, Inc.) was hired to conduct a compensation study of all staff. (We do this every five years per our personnel policy.)