CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC
Communities Planning Together

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FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

-SHELBURNE-

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. The CCRPC also serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible for transportation planning with our municipalities, state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in Chittenden County. The CCRPC is governed by a 29-member board consisting of one representative from each of the County's 19 municipalities, transportation representatives and, at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, and housing/socio-economic. CCRPC's 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. Click here to learn more about the CCRPC.

In FY23, the CCRPC invested over $7 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages around $6.5 million in Federal and State investment with $255,408 in municipal dues and around $250,000 in local match for specific projects—a 13:1 return on local investment.

Shelburne representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY23 were:

- CCRPC Representative: John Zicconi | Alternate: Jeff Carr
- Transportation Advisory Committee: Adele Gravitz
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC): Aaron DeNamur
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC): Chris Robinson
- Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC): Jerry Ouimet, Matthew Lawless

To access this report online follow the below link or QR code. Then look for Annual Reports in the right column:

https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-communities/shelburne/

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

Shelburne Activities

In FY2023, the CCRPC provided assistance to Shelburne on the following projects and initiatives:

- **Shelburne Walk & Bike Connectivity Study**: This study used existing work to develop an action plan for improving walking and bicycling conditions and therefore connectivity throughout Shelburne. It synthesized the Town's more than 20 plans and studies completed over the years and prioritized their 30 individual project recommendations. The final report was completed in September 2022 and

accepted by the Selectboard at their 9/13/2022 meeting. The total consultant budget for this project: $20,000.

- **Municipal Project Management**: The CCRPC continues to serve as Municipal Project Manager (MPM) for the Irish Hill Road sidewalk and Pedestrian Bridge design and construction project in Shelburne, which is 80% funded through a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian grant award. Management activities have included reviewing and monitoring the master schedule, permits and approvals, assisting with right-of-way issues, coordination with utility companies, participating in public and stakeholder outreach, reviewing design plans, coordination with the VTrans Project Supervisor and reviewing invoices for accuracy and completeness. The MPM contract completion date is December 31, 2023 and the contract budget is $52,000.
- **Shelburne Stormwater Plan Update and Conceptual Designs:** The project involves feasibility analysis and conceptual plans for MS4 Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) providing flow and phosphorus reductions from municipal roads, sidewalks, and other transportation assets. Total consultant budget: $39,997.
- **Geographic Information Systems:** GIS work done specifically for Shelburne in FY23 includes:
    - Using Field Maps to map out new shared use paths.
    - Developing an online map of neighborhoods in Shelburne to share with residents to comment on and suggest neighborhood names.
    - Creating an online map of Shelburne's Treasured Places for the bike & pedestrian committee, and an online map for Shelburne's Natural Resource Committee.
    - Updating the Shelburne bike/pedestrian map and the regional bike/pedestrian database.
    - Updating Zoning and Zoning Overlay maps.
    - Identifying 15cm imagery buy-up areas.
    - Developing a proposed zoning change in Shelburne Village.
- **Technical Assistance**: CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the Town, including:
    - Presenting a training on Land Use Essentials to Shelburne staff.
    - Meeting with the Planning Director to discuss local bylaws and forest block protection.
    - Answering questions from the Gardenside neighborhood in Shelburne regarding compliance with their 3-9050 permit.
    - Reviewing Shelburne's floodplain regulations to ensure compliance with National Flood Insurance Program minimum standards.
- **Traffic Counts:** In FY23, 2 Automatic Traffic Recorder counts were conducted in Shelburne. Historic traffic counts conducted in support of Shelburne's transportation projects and studies can be found here.
- **Byway Coordination:** Chittenden County includes eight of Lake Champlain Byway's 22 communities: Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex Junction, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne, and Charlotte. CCRPC staff maintained the Byway website including a helpful Interactive Map. Additionally, CCRPC continued funding during the summer for the Byway's audio stories App & Phone line.
- **Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program:** The Chittenden County E&D Transportation Program supports community members through affordable transportation to medical appointments, access to fresh food at the grocery store, and social visits. In FY23, 104 trips were provided to Shelburne residents as part of this program.

Shelburne Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP 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. Shelburne projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also included in the Vermont Agency of Transportation

- **US7/Harbor Rd/Falls Rd**: $1.54 million for intersection upgrades. Project schedule to be determined.
- **Irish Hill Road Pedestrian Bridge and Sidewalk**: $579,200 Bike/Ped award in 2018 and $235,500 Transportation Alternatives award in 2023 for prefabricated ped bridge and new sidewalk along Irish Hill Road. Construction scheduled for 2023.

Regional Activities

- **ECOS Plan Implementation and Update:** The *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan* (Environment; Community; Opportunity; Sustainability) is the regional plan for Chittenden County and combines the Regional Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into one. The ECOS Scorecard monitors the accomplishments and progress indicators for all 17 of the ECOS goals. CCRPC began updating the ECOS plan for the next five years in FY 2023 for intended adoption in 2024.
- **Public Engagement and Racial Equity:** The CCRPC continued to build organizational capacity to address systemic racism and inequities in our communities through the following actions:
    - Hiring a full time Equity & Engagement Manager to lead organizational and project-specific equity and racial justice efforts.
    - Facilitating, providing, and/or taking advantage of educational opportunities for our staff, municipalities, and other local and regional partners.
    - Strengthening existing relationships and partnerships and forging new ones with community organizations, grassroots organizers, and individuals working directly with marginalized communities.
    - Supporting and facilitating an Equity Advisory Committee to guide CCRPC's equity work.
    - Drafting an organizational Equity Statement and Equity Action Plan, building off of recommendations from the Creative Discourse Group's Organizational Equity Assessment.
    - Beginning to explore and design a community capacity building grant program using FHWA funds to increase trust, education, and participation from marginalized communities in CCRPC's transportation decision-making.
- **Chittenden County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**: With federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), CCRPC completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in concert with the Addison, Rutland and Central VT regions -- collectively called the West Central Vermont CEDS. The CEDS identifies priority economic development strategies and projects and will be used by a variety of federal and state funding programs when making grant decisions. The West Central Vermont CEDS was approved by EDA in June 2023.
- **Housing:** The Building Homes Together campaign is a collaboration between CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust, and Evernorth that focuses on the production of much-needed housing in Chittenden County through outreach, education, and advocacy efforts. The Building Homes Together 2.0 campaign was launched in fall 2021 with the goal of building 5,000 homes by 2025 for people of all incomes, including at least 1,250 affordable homes. Review the latest housing data, infographics, and press releases here.

In 2023, the Legislature passed the HOME Act (S.100/Act 47) changing municipal zoning requirements in an effort to encourage more housing production.

- **Mapping Assistance:** The CCRPC has many mapping applications to assist municipalities with planning. Applications include dashboards, town plan mapping, zoning maps, thematic and analytical mapping of natural, cultural and transportation resources. CCRPC has also built an ArcGIS Urban model that supports land use scenario planning and impact assessment.
- **Regional Energy Planning**: The CCRPC continued initiatives to support the Region's Enhanced Energy Plan, Statewide Comprehensive Energy Plan, and emerging climate goals. With guidance from CCRPC's Long-Range Planning Committee's Energy Sub-committee, the CCRPC drafted the ECOS Plan's enhanced energy plan sections to be consistent with the 2022 Department of Public Service's Energy Planning Standards. CCRPC shared guidance on how to address climate change in land use regulations with municipal planning offices and planning commissions, and via state-wide presentations with VT Fish & Wildlife. Lastly, with Drive Electric Vermont, the CCRPC engaged municipal planning offices regarding strategies on how to develop electric vehicle charger plans.
- **Regional Energy Implementation:** The CCRPC provided information regarding the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, the Inflation Reduction Act, and electric vehicle incentives. CCRPC provided technical support to municipalities regarding the state-wide Municipal Energy Resilience Program for municipal buildings.
- **Public Transportation Planning:** The CCRPC remains engaged with Green Mountain Transit (GMT) in a wide variety of public transit planning projects and initiatives to support the continued development of a transportation system that is efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable. Within the CCRPC's FY23 UPWP, $442,840 was allocated to GMT for transit planning in Chittenden County.
- **Regional Technical Assistance**: This includes, but is not limited to, municipal technical assistance for various transportation issues, GIS mapping, and bylaw revisions, Act 250/Section 248 application reviews, grant administration and grant application assistance for plans, federal grant assistance, projects and initiatives at the local level.
- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM)**: CCRPC and VTrans managed the second year of Park Your CARbon, formerly the Way to Go! Challenge. This outreach and education program encourages sustainable transportation by demonstrating the environmental and financial benefits of non-single occupant vehicle travel. The CCRPC participated in CATMA's inaugural Transportation Summit and their Transportation Coordinator (TC) Network program and events to learn from other TC Network members about employee TDM benefits and programs. TDM partners include: the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), CarShare VT, the University of Vermont, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Local Motion, Bird Bikeshare, Go! Vermont/VTrans, NetZero Vermont/Walk to Shop, and United Way.
- **Walk/Bike Planning**: The CCRPC completed the 2022 Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which serves as the active transportation element of the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The ATP includes a recommended regional network with prioritized project list, as well as programs and policies to support active transportation throughout the region. CCRPC staff collaborated with TDM partners and local municipalities to relaunch the regional bikeshare program. The CCRPC also promoted TDM strategies and provided bike/ped-related technical assistance to municipalities and businesses, assisted municipalities with bike/ped grant and UPWP applications, managed bike/ped-related UPWP projects, and conducted bike/ped counts on paths, designated bike lanes, and other roadways.
- **Clean Water**: The CCRPC continued to host the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee and provide guidance to the State on disposition of the Vermont Clean Water Fund. CCRPC staff also sit on the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee, and managed Design

Implementation Block Grant projects on behalf of select towns to design stormwater treatment practices. The CCRPC supported education programs such as the Rethink Runoff on behalf of nine of our municipalities, assisted with watershed resiliency mapping, and participated in water quality-focused policy discussions. CCRPC appoints representatives to three different Basin Water Quality Councils which work with their Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP) to oversee the development and implementation of non-regulatory water quality improvement projects that reduce phosphorus loading into these streams and Lake Champlain. These three Councils are the Basin 5 Water Quality Council (BWQC) for the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages, the Basin 7 Water Quality Council for the Lamoille River watershed and the Basin 8 Water Quality Council for the Winooski watershed. Shelburne is in Basin 5. Additionally, CCRPC is the designated CWSP for Basin 5. Upon recommendation of its Basin 5 Water Quality Council, in FY23, funding was initiated to either identify or design water quality improvement projects in the following areas: Mill River in Georgia, Stonebridge Brook in Milton and Georgia, Allen Brook and Mallets Creek in Milton and Colchester and McCabe's Brook in Shelburne.

- **Emergency Management**: CCRPC continued to staff the Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) which consists of two representatives from each municipality and others involved in emergency management in Chittenden County. The purpose of the REMC is to coordinate and support regional all-hazard emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve the region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters. CCRPC staff participate in a wide array of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to support our role in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) when called upon. The CCRPC served as the local liaison between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, collected information from each municipality on annual implementation of hazard mitigation activities, and worked with municipalities to complete Local Emergency Management Plans. Finally, CCRPC assisted IEM, a national consulting firm, with completion of the 2022 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan and its municipal annexes except for Colchester which developed its own stand-alone Local Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** CCRPC staff continued to work with all Chittenden County municipalities on meeting their MRGP obligations. This includes evaluating segments through Road Erosion Inventories (REIs), tracking and documenting upgraded segments and outlets, and reporting to DEC (see REI dashboard here, click on upper right for individual municipalities). Staff also assists municipalities with the State's Grants in Aid (GIA) program, which allocates funding to participating towns for stormwater improvements related to the MRGP. In FY23, 14 Chittenden County municipalities signed up to participate in the GIA program. An estimated 33 non-compliant segments will be upgraded using the allocated $410,000.
- **Health Equity:** A grant from the Vermont Department of Health enabled CCRPC to work with all the RPCs in the state and Vermont Health Department staff to create the Vermont Health Equity Planning Toolkit. CCRPC hosted a training on the healthy equity toolkit for the Planning Advisory Committee, shared health equity project information with the CCRPC's Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) and will work with the EAC as part of toolkit implementation. CCRPC staff also developed an online Chittenden County Equity Mapping Tool showing a collection of maps on race, disability, poverty status, and English ability.
- **Traffic Alert:** CCRPC compiled and sent out 32 traffic alerts about activities impacting traffic in Chittenden County over 8 months (no alerts January-March).
- **Chittenden County Park and Ride Plan Update:** This plan identifies opportunities for improvements to the existing facilities and evaluates the potential for new facilities that will benefit commuters and residents throughout Chittenden County and the adjacent communities. The final plan was completed in October 2022.

- **VT Culverts:** The VT Culverts website can be used to view a town's bridges and culverts on a map, or in a chart based on condition or inventory date. CCRPC staff is one of two RPCs that manage the website. VT Culverts continues to gain traction in our region and throughout the state. At the end of June, 9 of our municipalities have actively used VT Culverts to inventory town-maintained bridges and culverts.
- **Chittenden County Communications Union District (CUD):** CCRPC assisted the CUD as they started up to plan, contract, build, and manage infrastructure for high-speed internet access throughout Chittenden County. Mission Broadband was hired for consulting and project management services in June.
- **Northwest VT Transit Oriented Development (TOD):** CCRPC received a grant from the US Department of Transportation in the fall 2022 to develop comprehensive plans for transit-oriented development for up to 12 communities across a five-county region in Northwest Vermont. The grant funding will also support planning work to improve bus services and/or commuter rail to connect economically disadvantaged rural residents to employment opportunities and services. Work will begin in late 2023.
- **Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study**: The CCRPC, in collaboration with VTrans, municipalities, and other interested parties, completed the I-89 2050 Study in late 2022. The study developed an implementation plan that will guide short, medium, and long-term transportation improvements to the corridor over the next 30 years.
- **Chittenden County Brownfields Program:** In May 2023, CCRPC secured a competitive EPA grant of $500,000 for Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Planning over the next four years to aid property owners, potential developers and municipalities in investigating environmental issues before potential property redevelopment. The CCRPC has also received $50,000 from ACCD in May 2023 for site assessment and cleanup planning with the potential to receive additional funds if more sites are identified needing such assistance.

For further information about the CCRPC, please visit http://www.ccrpcvt.org/ or contact CCRPC Executive Director, Charlie Baker: cbaker@ccrpcvt.org.