

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

-SOUTH BURLINGTON-

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.

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

- CCRPC Representative: Chris Shaw | Alternate: Meaghan Emery
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Tom Dipietro
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC): Paul Connor
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC): Dave Wheeler
- Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC): Steven Locke, Terry Francis

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<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-communities/south-burlington/>

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

South Burlington Activities

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

- **Climate Action Plan:** CCRPC Staff worked with the City's appointed Task Force to develop a multisector Climate Action Plan that provides a blueprint for the City, its residents, businesses, and partners to take action to meet the City's climate goals. The Climate Action Plan was approved by the City Council on October 3, 2022.

- **Climate Action Plan, Transportation Implementation Plan:** After setting the science-based targets and high impact actions of the Climate Action Plan in the first half of 2021, the CCRPC worked with the City and its chosen consultant to develop a detailed plan for how the City, its residents, businesses, and partners would implement the high-impact actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. Total consultant budget: \$51,997
- **South Burlington Transportation Impact Fees and Land Development Regulation Update Study:** This project will serve to complete the City's Transportation Impact Fee Study and revise the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to better reflect the City's Comprehensive Plan and align the regulations with current travel demand management activities. After initial planning discussions in FY23, this project was shifted to FY24. Total consultant budget: \$19,036
- **Bike/Pedestrian Bridge over I-89 Study:** The goal of this study is to develop conceptual plans connecting the proposed bike/pedestrian bridge over the Interstate at Exit 14 with the surrounding (existing and planned) bike/ped network. This project will continue into FY24. Total consultant budget: \$90,000
- **Evaluation of Bicycle / Pedestrian Lighting Needs Along Kennedy Drive:** This study explored lighting improvements to better serve the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians using the separated, 1.5-mile, shared-use path that runs parallel to the west bound lanes of Kennedy Drive between Dorset Street and Williston Road. The [final report](#) for the Project was completed in June. Total consultant budget: \$25,000
- **Multi-site Crosswalk Assessment: Four Intersections for Connectivity:** This study involved a crossing assessment to evaluate potential crosswalks at four locations in South Burlington. The four crosswalk locations include: Intersection of Songbird Road and Dorset Street; Intersection of Nicklaus Circle and Dorset Street; Intersection of Hinesburg Road and Dubois Drive; Intersection of Pheasant Way and Spear Street. The [South Burlington Multi-Site Crosswalk Study](#) was completed in March. Total consultant budget: \$24,000
- **City Center Modeling:** Using the regional travel demand model and other tools, this study investigates the potential future implications of development and new roadways in City Center on traffic generation and circulation. This project is continuing into FY24. Total consultant budget: \$36,000.
- **Geographic Information Systems:** GIS assistance provided to South Burlington in FY23 included:
 - Creating a map of South Burlington zoning and infrastructure.
 - Updating the South Burlington PAVER database.
 - Providing South Burlington with a GIS data file of their Pavement Condition Scores.
 - Editing South Burlington's GIS zoning data and updating the zoning map.
 - Providing housing development statistics by future land use areas
 - Configuring an ArcGIS Portal for GIS data sharing between the city and CCRPC
- **Technical Assistance:** CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the Town, including:
 - Conducting an Initial Town Plan Review, including working on South Burlington's energy data for an enhanced energy plan by updating the 2018 energy data guide to provide the needed data for the new energy planning standards.
 - Reviewing South Burlington's floodplain regulations to ensure compliance with National Flood Insurance Program minimum standards.
 - Providing electric generation targets data for and reviewing the South Burlington Climate Action Plan.
 - Reviewing and issuing letters of support for the New Town Center and Designated Neighborhood Development Area's applications for renewal.
 - Reviewing two buildings for MERP applications
 - STOP sign Warrant Analyses for three intersections in South Burlington.

- Drafting and finalizing a technical memo with findings and recommendations for the Chamberlin School safety study and providing a school zone sign layout plan to the South Burlington staff.
 - Finalizing the Spear Street and Nowland Farm Rd., intersection multi-way STOP control analysis, and evaluation of exclusive left-turn lanes at the intersection.
 - Meeting with South Burlington staff to discuss potential scope for the Central School driveway and Market Street intersection and school zone safety analyses.
 - Assisting South Burlington's Energy Manager research EVSE infrastructure for its PD, PW, and Fire departments
- **Traffic Counts:** In FY23, 7 Automatic Traffic Recordings and 2 Turning Movement Counts were conducted in South Burlington. Historic traffic counts conducted in support of South Burlington 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, 2,118 trips were provided to South Burlington residents as part of this program.

South Burlington 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. South Burlington projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also included in the Vermont Agency of Transportation

- **Airport Drive Infiltration Project:** 2021 Municipal Highway Stormwater Mitigation Program award for \$365,200. Construction scheduled for 2024.
- **Allen Road Shared Use Path Scoping Study:** 2023 Transportation Alternatives award of \$40,000.
- **Bartlett Bay Road Culvert Replacement:** 2023 Transportation Alternatives award of \$300,000. Construction scheduled for 2026.
- **Bartlett Brook Stormwater Treatment System Expansion:** 2018 Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program award of \$123,988 federal and \$251,732 state funds. Construction scheduled for 2024.
- **Dorset Street Path – Old Cross Road to Sadie Lane:** 2019 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program award for \$661,600. Construction scheduled to begin in 2025
- **East-West Alternative Transportation Crossing:** \$9,768,834 RAISE grant to construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over I-89 near Exit 14. Construction scheduled to begin in 2025.
- **I-89 Exit 14 Area Signal Upgrades:** \$1.3 million project to upgrade signals at Exit 14. Implementation to be completed in 2023.
- **Kennedy Drive Gravel Wetland Retrofit, Pond 2:** \$83,693 federal and \$169,923 state Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program award in 2019. Construction to be completed in 2023.
- **Expansion of Kennedy Drive Stormwater Pond 7:** \$300,000 Transportation Alternatives award in 2018. Construction to be completed in scheduled for 2025.
- **Spear Street Bike/Ped Improvements:** 2021 Transportation Alternatives award for \$300,000. To be construction in 2026.

- **US2 Improvements, Dorset Street to VT116:** Project recently added to the VTrans Transportation Capital Program. Project schedule to be determined.
- **VT116/Cheesefactory Road Intersection Improvements:** New Traffic and Safety Program project. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **Williston Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements:** \$2 million project for bike and pedestrian improvements on Williston Road between Dorset Street and Midas Drive/White Street. Partially funded with a 2017 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program award (\$800,000). Construction scheduled for 2025.
- **US7 Paving, Charlotte (north of Higbee Road) to South Burlington (Swift Street):** \$13.2 million paving project to be completed in 2023.

FY2024 CCRPC Work Program

Project Name	Brief Description	Total Budget
South Burlington Walk/Bike Master Plan	The Walk/Bike Master Plan is a one-year, city-wide effort assessing the existing state of the City's active transportation network and establishing a multi- year plan for improving the network's connectivity and accessibility for all residents.	\$75,000

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. South Burlington is in Basins 5 and 8. Additionally, CCRPC is the designated [CWSP](#) for Basin 5.
- **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.