

FY2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Williston

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**. Williston's dues were \$22,108 in FY17 and \$21,667 in FY18.

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

- CCRPC representative and Board Chair – Chris Roy
- CCRPC alternate – Debbie Ingram
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Bruce Hoar
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Ken Belliveau
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – James Sherrard
- MS4 Subcommittee – James Sherrard
- All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Committee – Ken Belliveau

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

WILLISTON ACTIVITIES

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

- **Formal Plan Review** – CCRPC staff and the Planning Advisory Committee reviewed the Williston Town Plan and offered comments in advance of the Williston Planning Commission’s public hearing on the Plan.
- **Mountain View Road Bike/Ped Scoping Study** – This scoping study evaluates potential bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Mountain View Road from VT Route 2A to North Williston Road. This study was originally completed in 2014. However, the CCRPC worked with Williston and Stantec in FY17 to make updates related to the design of the preferred alternative. The updated report was completed in June 2016. Total FY17 consultant costs for this project were approximately \$25,164 (http://studiesandreports.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MtnViewfeasibilityStudyFinal_022014.pdf).
- **North Williston Road Scoping Study** – The purpose of this scoping study is to identify transportation and stormwater enhancements to accommodate the increased demand associated with nearby land development, growth in commuter traffic, demand for growing bicycle and pedestrian traffic and to ensure that North Williston Road is a resilient and safe corridor for all travelers. A project kick-off meeting was held in December 2016, the scope of work was finalized in February 2017, a local concerns meeting was held in May and the development of the existing conditions report started in June. The Total FY17-FY18 budget for this project is \$50,513. In FY17, consultant costs for this project were approximately \$15,699.
- **Exit 12 Transportation Improvement District** – The CCRPC worked with VTrans, Williston and RSG on a study to investigate whether it is feasible to develop a transportation improvement district (TID) at the Exit 12 area as a mechanism to help pay for identified transportation projects that directly benefit proposed developments. The outcome of the study includes a description of a possible TID, a set of transportation improvements eligible for transportation impact fee investments, development of a proposed fee structure, and a final recommendation whether a TID is feasible at Exit 12. Total FY17 consultant costs for this project were approximately \$49,852.
- **Real-Time Traffic Information** – The CCRPC is working with VTrans and a consultant to plan, design and implement an advanced traffic monitoring system (ATMS) for five corridors in the county (including US Route 2A from Exit 12 to the 5 corners intersection) to collect travel times and average vehicle speeds through anonymously tracking Bluetooth (BT) devices carried by motorists (cell phones) and vehicles. This project is funded through a \$981,760 Federal Highway Administration grant.
- **Grants-in-Aid Program** – CCRPC staff coordinated with the state, Northwest RPC and other RPCs to initiate the Grants-in-Aid Program. This included sending out the announcement of the program, inviting municipalities to participate in the program, providing information related to hydrologically connected segments and responding to questions from interested municipalities.
- **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation** – CCRPC staff worked with municipal staff to prepare the required update to Williston’s All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and submit it to the Vermont Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for review and for final approval by FEMA.

- **Emergency Management – LEOP:** Staff offered assistance with the annual local emergency operations plan (LEOP) to ensure the municipality is prepared in the event of a disaster.
- **VTrans Better Roads Program & Municipal Roads General Permit** – The CCRPC applied for Category A funds through VTrans’ Better Roads Program to conduct municipal road erosion inventories for the town of Williston in preparation of the state’s Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). The CCRPC conducted the inventories in the summers of 2016 and early 2017 and prioritized the sites based on established criteria and in close consultation with the town.
- **Stormwater Planning** – Provided support to Williston 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/>).
- **Traffic Counts** – The CCRPC conducted three roadway (AADT) counts, two turning movement counts and one bike/ped video count (<http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>).
- **Technical Assistance** – Staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the town, including:
 - provided templates for interpretive panel fabrication bid requests to the Williston Planning & Zoning office;
 - evaluated and completed an analysis of the speed limit on Oak Hill Road and Sunset Hill Road;
 - updated transportation maps for the transportation element of the Town Plan.

Williston 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. Williston 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 Exit 12 Improvements Stage 1** – \$1.8 million CIRC Alt Phase III project for a new shared use path under I-89 and new VT 2A lane from Marshall Ave to I-89 NB ramp. Construction schedule to be determined.
- **I-89 Exit 12 Improvements Stage 2** – \$8.5 million CIRC Alt Phase III project for new grid streets and at-grade intersection on VT 2A. Project schedule to be determined.
- **I-89 Exit 12 Improvements Stage 3** – \$21 million CIRC Alt Phase III project for a diverging diamond interchange. Project schedule to be determined.
- **I-89 Exit 12 Improvements Stage 4** – CIRC Alt Phase III project for VT 2A boulevard upgrade from a grid street intersection to Taft Corners. Project schedule to be determined.
- **Mountain View Road Shoulder Improvements** – \$3.5 million CIRC Alternatives Phase III project for shoulder improvements for bike/ped use. Project schedule to be determined.

- **US 2 Shared Use Path** – \$2.8 million Taft Corners to Williston Village CIRC Alternatives Phase III project. Project schedule to be determined.
- **US 2/Industrial Avenue Intersection** – \$6.6 million for reconstruction of intersection and resurfacing of US2 from S. Burlington line east 1.5 miles. Construction scheduled for FY2020 – FY2021.
- **US 2/Trader Lane Signal Traffic Signal** – \$705,000 for a CIRC Alternatives Phase II implementation project.
- **VT 2A Culvert** – \$387,500 for the replacement of a culvert South of Helena Drive. Construction scheduled to begin in FY2020.
- **VT 2A Infill Sidewalk, South of Taft Corners - West Side** – \$146,000 project funded with CCRPC sidewalk grants of \$75,000 in FY15 and \$41,866 in FY16. Construction scheduled to begin in FY2018.
- **VT 2A Paving** – \$2.3 million to pave 1.15 miles of VT2A 2.9 miles north of St. George line extending north 1.035 miles. Paving to be completed in 2017.
- **VT 2A Taft Corners Area Sidewalk/Shared Use Path** – \$450,000 CIRC Alternatives Phase III project to fill the gaps south of US 2 and between Knight Ln and O’Brien Ct. Schedule to be determined.
- **VT 2A/Industrial Avenue/Mountain View Road Intersection Improvements** – \$5 million CIRC Alternatives Phase III project for new two-way left-turn lane between Industrial Ave and River Cove Rd. Project schedule to be determined.
- **VT 2A/James Brown Drive Traffic Signal** – \$3.7 million signal project as part of CIRC Alternatives Phase 1 project. Construction scheduled for FY2018 – FY2019.
- **Williston Park and Ride** – \$3.5 million project to construct a replacement park and ride lot near I-89 Exit 12. Construction scheduled for FY2018.

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). The CCRPC continues promoting the annual **Way to Go! Challenge** (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) 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/>)
- **Functional Classification Updates** – The CCRPC conducted a comprehensive review of the Chittenden County functional classification system to ensure that all roadways in the county are properly classified according to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines. Feedback was solicited from each Chittenden County municipality and updates were made based on the input received. On March 22, the CCRPC Board took action to request that the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) petition FHWA to reclassify 64 roadways in Chittenden County. All functional classification changes were approved by FHWA in September. The roadway classification changes have been added to an interactive online map. (<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/functionalclass/>).
- **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.
- **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.

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.