The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a cooperative regional forum 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, Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), 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 Commission selects the at-large representatives.

The CCRPC appreciates the opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region’s future to protect the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County. In FY15, the CCRPC invested about $4.5 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages $4.7 million in Federal and State investment with $245,000 in municipal dues and another $300,000 in local match for specific projects—a 9:1 return on investment.

**Municipal Planning and Implementation**

RPCs act as a cost effective professional planning staff for many of Vermont’s municipalities. Work in recent years has been focused on improving town plans and local permitting through education and enhanced consultations (on-site training), bylaw modernization, facilitating transition to Development Review Boards and implementing new requirements for economic development and flood resiliency planning. Current and clear plans and bylaws are essential in smooth state and local permitting. This work is supported through local and regional planning funds, local contributions and other grants. All technical assistance provided this year is shown on the At Work map; highlights include:

- **Approved the Essex Junction Comprehensive Plan, and confirmed the planning process.** Reviewed the Underhill and Westford Comprehensive Plans (with approval in FY16). Created Town Plan maps for Huntington, Underhill. Provided flood resiliency town plan language to Essex.
- **planBTV South End** – The CCRPC supported the development of the draft planBTV South End through financial assistance and staff participation. CCRPC staff managed the initial phase of the plan which focused on gathering and analyzing existing land use, transportation,
wastewater/stormwater, and brownfields conditions in Burlington’s south end, and participated in and assisted with public outreach activities and reviews of draft plans.

- CCRPC worked with Burlington staff to implement STAR as a pilot program. STAR is a community rating system for measuring sustainability.
- Provided ongoing development review services for South Burlington, and project specific development review services for Colchester.
- Hinesburg - Provided research and analysis to help with the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan, lakeshore protection districts, and water and wastewater allocation and fee systems.
- Provided Richmond assistance with draft public works specifications.
- Continued funding and assistance in development of Form Based Code zoning amendments in Shelburne, Westford and Winooski. These Codes will make housing and economic development more streamlined in the areas planned for growth.
- Continued providing assistance in re-drafting the City of Winooski’s Zoning Regulations, including incorporation of the Form Base Code, and online mapping of the Regulating Plan.
- The CCRPC held the Development Review Board Summit, and hosted a Regional Highway Safety Forum with VTrans. We surveyed municipal interest in shared services and explored opportunities to implement. We continued hosting meetings and online webinars open to municipalities and regional partners covering topics such as Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide, Emerald Ash Borer, Modeling a Carbon Tax’s Impact on State Economies, New Tools for Estimating Walking and Bicycling Demand, Putting Equity on the Map: Innovative Tools to Measure Access to Opportunity, VOBCIT/VT Culverts (http://www.vtculverts.org/) and more.

Regional Planning
RPC’s coordinate planning at the regional level through the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive regional plan, and related studies. These plans guide local planning and the investment decisions of the public and private sectors.

- Plan Update: The Chittenden County ECOS Plan was adopted in June 2013. It combines the regional plan, comprehensive economic development strategy, and metropolitan transportation plan. No plan updates were made this year, however we continue to monitor our progress through an annual indicator report. The 2014 Annual Report is a summary that highlights a number of regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions. The ECOS Scorecard is our new 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)

- Plan Implementation: CCRPC used the ECOS Plan to evaluate applications and participate in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings. CCRPC implements the Plan through collective impact relationships and projects with the GBIC, Department of Health, United Way, Fletcher Allen, UVM, our member municipalities and many other partners. As an example, we’ve implemented Strategy #2 (Strive for 80% of new development in areas planned for growth, which amounts to 15% of our land area) through the Form Based Code projects mentioned above, permit reviews, and planned transportation investments in those places resulting in 85% of residential growth in these areas.

- Legislative Forum – Hosted a Legislative Forum in December to discuss priority issues of jobs & the economy; smart growth; state & municipal budgets; and water quality. Developed
positions on integrated permitting reform and water quality
(http://www.ccrpcvt.org/aboutus/policies/)

Brownfields
Vermont RPCs have sought and have been awarded over 10 million dollars for this economic development initiative. Environmental site assessments allow properties to be sold, developed or re-developed in ways that benefit the local and state economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

- Provided planning and zoning assistance, and facilitated Brownfields grants from Rutland and Northwest Regional Planning Commissions for final environmental assessments to ground truth redevelopment costs at the Richmond Creamery site.
- **28 Archibald Street, Burlington** - Worked with the Department of Parks & Recreation to provide funding for a Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental site assessment and a Clean-Up Action Plan for the City to take full ownership of the Community Garden. The Garden was formally re-opened by Mayor Weinberger and the Parks & Recreation Department in June 2015.
- **237 North Winooski Avenue, Burlington** - Developed a Clean-Up Action Plan for this site (formerly Q-Tee’s) which aided redevelopment into the Maiden Lane project consisting of 28 apartments and ground floor retail which opened in August 2015.
- **Moran/Waterfront North, Burlington** - Assisted CEDO with soils management activities and cleanup planning related to redevelopment of Moran/Waterfront North.
- **North Forty, Burlington** - Worked with CEDO on gap analysis of previous environmental site assessments of the Urban Reserve ("North Forty")

Economic and Community Development
Economic growth is supported best when development efforts are partnered with solid planning functions. RPCs work with towns and in strong partnership with Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) to this end in a number of ways, including development of comprehensive strategies that will help to position Vermont for long term economic gain.

- Continued capital improvement planning effort to aid municipalities with capital budgeting and impact fees in Hinesburg and Jericho this year. In addition, we assisted with a revision of Williston’s Impact Fee Analysis.
- **Lake Champlain Byway** – As part of the Byway (www.lakechamplainbyway.com) CCRPC staff continued to promote improvements to traveler information and to interpretation of the area’s historic, recreational and scenic resources. Specifically, design of informational content for the Essex Junction Railroad Avenue Information Kiosk, and working with the Milton Historical Society in development of visitor services at the General Stannard house.
- Continued our strong partnership with GBIC/LCRCC working together to advance plans, policies, and projects that improve our economy.

Transportation Planning
Through contract with VTrans, RPCs coordinate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI). This effort has provided a statewide framework for public involvement in planning the improvements to Vermont’s transportation system, with local communities represented through regional Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs). Each regional TAC prioritizes projects, identifies local and regional transportation needs, and provides the platform for public involvement in the planning and development of the state’s transportation system. RPCs serve as the point of delivery for the statewide transportation planning process to support local, regional, state and federal transportation network advancement.

The CCRPC also serves Chittenden County as the sole metropolitan planning organization (MPO) operating within Vermont. MPOs are federally mandated and funded transportation planning organizations governed by representatives from local municipalities and state transportation agencies/departments. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs are channeled through this planning process. Congress created MPOs in order to ensure that transportation projects and programs in urbanized areas (population greater than 50,000) are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (“3-C”) planning process that serve the needs of the municipalities in the area.

- Conducted Bike and Pedestrian scoping and feasibility studies in Richmond, Charlotte, South Burlington, Milton, and Hinesburg.
- Provided Municipal Project Management Services for Bike/Pedestrian projects in Jericho, Huntington, Milton, Underhill, South Burlington, and Shelburne.
- Conducted Scoping Studies in Burlington (Railyard Enterprise Project and Pearl Street), Colchester (Exit 17 Interchange), and Essex Junction (Amtrak Station).
- Conducted Multimodal Corridor and Area-wide Studies for North Avenue in Burlington; US 7 (Forbes Rd to Main St) in Milton; Chamberlin Neighborhood & Burlington Airport in South Burlington; and Williston Road Area (Exit 14 to VT 116) in South Burlington.
- Assisted and supported Park and Ride planning in Charlotte and Colchester (Exit 16).
- Conducted multimodal Transportation Plans for Jericho, Essex/Essex Junction, and Winooski.
- Provided land use (buildout) and transportation planning assistance to Colchester (Lakeshore Drive area)
- Funded and assisted Burlington with Residential and Downtown Parking Assessments and Innovations.
- The CCRPC was involved in the following Transportation Demand Management (TDM) initiatives and studies:
  - Go! Chittenden County; a one-stop-shop for information and advice about our region’s transportation resources.
  - 12th annual Way to Go! Smart Trips Challenge the week of May 4-15 to encourage non-single occupant vehicle travel and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits.
  - Burlington TDM Action Plan
- Funded and assisted with projects addressing stormwater impacts for specific transportation locations in South Burlington and Hinesburg Village.
- Completed a Transportation & Land Use Implications Analysis in an Expanded Sewer Service Area for Shelburne.
• Provided technical assistance on a variety of transportation issues (safety improvements, signal optimizations, complete streets/road-diets, traffic calming, traffic circulation, speed studies, etc.) to Burlington, Winooski, Colchester, Shelburne, Essex Junction, Milton, South Burlington, Underhill and St. George.

• Assisted Burlington and South Burlington with an Adaptive Signal Control Project to evaluate a state-of-the-art signal system to reduce traffic congestion in the Main Street/US 2/Dorset Street corridors.

• The CCRPC is updating the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan for Chittenden County.

• Since Spring 2013, the CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to integrate volunteer drivers into human services transportation in order to increase access to transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by offering a lower-cost mode of transport.

• Provided Annual Traffic Alert! Communications outreach program.

• The CCRPC conducted 95 traffic (ATR and TM) counts for the following municipalities: South Burlington, Shelburne, Burlington, Williston, Jericho, Essex Junction, St. George, Underhill, Colchester, Milton and Winooski. Municipal Infrastructure Inventories (culverts, sidewalks, signs, and pavement) were conducted for 10 municipalities.

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Resiliency

RPCs play key roles in the mitigation and preparedness phases of emergency management in partnership with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Homeland Security Unit, VTrans and the Agency of Natural Resources. RPCs provide direct staff to the State Emergency Operations Center, administrative support to the Local Emergency Planning Committees and coordination among responders and planners throughout the State’s four Public Safety Districts. RPC’s also help update floodplain bylaws and FEMA-required hazard mitigation plans, coordinate updates to municipal emergency plans and assisted as needed in special circumstances like Tropical Storm Irene and other declared disasters.

• 19 (100%) of municipalities in the CCRPC region currently have an adopted hazard mitigation plan as part of Chittenden County’s Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA in August, 2011.

• 17 (89%) of municipalities in the CCRPC region currently have an updated local emergency operations plan. The other two have LEOPs, but have not formally adopted them.

• Staff assisted with information and details regarding new rules for Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) and flood resiliency planning requirements, and facilitated discussion with State and Federal officials for damage assessments and hazard mitigation grant possibilities after the June storms.

• Provided assistance regarding elevation certificate issue for Centerbar property in Huntington.

• Working on a pilot program with VTrans and VANR to advance information management and accessibility, including risk assessment integration, for high hazard riparian and transportation corridors.

• CCRPC, with Local Emergency Planning Committee 1 (LEPC 1 http://www.ccrpcvt.org/em/lepc/), 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.
- Participated in several Vermont Yankee-based exercises, culminating in a FEMA graded exercise, including an After Action Review.
- Participated in statewide meetings of EM planners to share ideas, concerns, needs, experiences; and some of us participated in a process to determine training needs for EM planners and those participating in exercises at the SEOC.

**Geographic Information System Services**

In addition to enhancing the RPC work, RPCs provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

- Developed interactive web maps: town-specific online maps for Essex Junction, Huntington, Jericho, and Westford. Provided support to Essex GIS Staff in development of their in house online mapping.
- Created town plan maps for Huntington, Underhill and Westford; and town plan data for Essex.
- Developed maps for St. George’s Town Center project.
- Developed or updated numerous GIS datasets (zoning, speed limits, culverts, signs, sidewalks, pavement, etc.) for Charlotte, Colchester, Essex Junction, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Underhill, Williston and Winooski.
- Created the Shelburne Business location online map: [http://map.ccrpcvt.org/shelburnebizmap](http://map.ccrpcvt.org/shelburnebizmap)
- Colchester - continue to provide updates to map service which links to town’s VueWorks Asset Management system.
- Hinesburg Growth Center Buildout Analysis
- CCRPC continues to work with partners to improve, enhance and support the VOBCIT website (vtculverts.org).

**Energy Conservation and Development**

A renewed focus on clean, renewable, sustainable and affordable energy presents Vermont with great opportunity and significant challenges. RPCs integrate energy planning with land use, transportation and natural resources efforts, and work with municipalities to assist with project implementation. RPCs participate in Section 248 proceedings and support comprehensive planning at the local and regional level to inform the permitting process.

- Partnered with Efficiency Vermont to assist municipalities with complying with Act 89. Organized 2 workshops for zoning administrators and other town officials on a workshop on code and above-code, how to comply with Act 89, and guidance on how to assist with homeowners building new homes. Developed a FAQ related to municipal procedures for complying with State energy code standards. Collected data for two six month periods on the number of energy code certificates recorded with town clerks. 15 towns responded in the first cycle. 7 towns responded in the second cycle.
- Reviewed and made recommendations on 3 municipal energy plan elements to ensure content meets state statute. Provided energy consumption and GHG emissions data for Essex, Essex Junction, and Hinesburg to include in their town plan.
• Sponsored Vermontivate as a way to reach and encourage individuals to learn and act on behaviors that reduce their carbon footprint. Sponsorship support included the development of game challenges regarding individual and collective behavior in the face of climate change.

• Collaborated with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) to develop case studies on municipalities’ inclusion of electric vehicles in their fleets and model town plan language to encourage the adoption of EV model bylaw language in municipal regulations. Coordinated outreach with municipalities and businesses. Delivered an EV presentation to Essex, Essex Junction, Burlington, Williston, Richmond, and Huntington. An EV charging installation guide was developed for electrical contractors.

Watershed Planning and Project Development
RPCs work with the Agency of Natural Resources to assist with completion of the EPA required watershed plans. RPCs also work with municipalities to implement river corridor assessments in local planning and regulations which result in better and safer growth management decisions.

• Stormwater – Provided ongoing staff support to 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 EPA stormwater permit requirements for public participation and involvement.

• Assisted Colchester as a pilot project for the FEMA Community Rating System, including analysis and mapping.

• So. Burlington - Potash Brook Impervious Surface Analysis – analyze future potential non-jurisdictional impervious area.

• Managed a contractor for the required Flow Restoration Plan for Centennial Brook on behalf of the Cities of Burlington and South Burlington along with VTrans and UVM.

• As manager of VAPDA’s Green Infrastructure (GI) project, CCRPC developed a training curriculum for training of municipal officials by all RPCs. Also developed materials for a GI municipal toolkit on the Vermont Planning Information Center (VPIC) website.

Special Projects
• The CCRPC updated the Public Participation Plan (PPP), which focused on diversity and equity. We are currently soliciting assistance from outside organizations to help with implementing the PPP for specific projects. (http://www.ccrpcvt.org/aboutus/public/)

• Community Health and Public Safety Dashboard – CCRPC & UVM obtained grant funding to build a dashboard that characterizes behavioral health issues in the City by compiling data from a variety of social service agencies, the UVM Medical Center, and the police department. The Burlington Police Department Service Executives Committee guides this work.

• Served as the lead agency for the Department of Health’s Partnership for Success to reduce alcohol and substance abuse among youth. Provided alcohol outlet mapping for the Winooski Coalition.

• Provided technical assistance to the City of Burlington to collect and analyze data for the STAR Community Rating System that measures community sustainability across a broad spectrum
of goal areas. The City of Burlington achieved a 4-STAR rating.  
https://reporting.starcommunities.org/communities/65-burlington-vermont

- Initiated work with the Shelburne Tree Advisory Committee to create a management plan for public trees; work will continue into and will be completed in FY16.

Administration and Funding
The CCRPC receives most of its funding through performance-based grants and contract with the state. Town assessments constitute a small but very important percentage of our funding. For the 2014 fiscal year, the CCRPC’s total revenue of approximately $4.5 million dollars was derived from 85 percent federally funded grants, 1 percent municipal project grant funding, 9 percent state funding, and 5 percent from town assessments with $2.5 million or 56% passing through to consultants.

Virtually all of the CCRPC’s revenue sources are tied to contracts with scopes of work, guidelines and/or performance measures. CCRPC works with our members and VTrans to decide the best way to invest our MPO funding annually in developing our unified planning work program. Municipal dues, and the funding received through the CCRPC’s performance contract with ACCD, are also necessary to provide matching funds required by grantors. The grants we receive enable us to work with our municipalities on areas such as transportation, emergency planning, community development, brownfields redevelopment, energy, and natural resources. Revenue from virtually all federal and state grantors requires non-federal matching funds. Required match ranges from 10 percent (transportation planning) to 50 percent (Emergency Management Planning Grant).

The CCRPC conducts a single audit on an annual basis. For FY 2014, as in past years, there were no significant findings.

During FY2015, CCRPC hired two staff Marshall Distel, Transportation Planner, and Emily Nosse-Leirer, Regional Planner, to replace departed staff.

‘At Work’ Map