# **Agenda**

# **Executive & Finance Committee**

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 – 5:45 p.m.

**Remote Access Meeting Only** 



Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83139801137 One tap mobile: +16468769923,,83139801137# US (New York) Dial in: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) Meeting ID: 831 3980 1137

When participating remotely, please wait until you are recognized by the Chair before you speak. For each agenda item, the Chair will make sure to ask if anyone participating remotely would like to speak.

- a. Use the "chat" feature or raise your hand if on video, or ask the Chair to request to speak.
- b. To ensure everyone is heard, only one person should speak at a time.
- c. When recognized by the Chair, introduce yourself each time.
- d. Speak up so everyone in person and on the phone can hear clearly.
- e. When participating remotely, take steps to avoid background noise, and make sure your microphone/phone is muted when you are not speaking.
- 1. Call to Order, Attendance
- 2. Changes to the Agenda, Members' Items (Action)
- 3. Approval of December 2, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes\* (Action)
- 4. Act 250 & Section 248 Applications (Action)
  - a. Section 248, Bolton Valley Solar, LLC, Bolton, 20-3676-AN\*
  - b. Act 250 Application, The Burton Corporation, Burlington; #4C0174-6,4C0368-3\*
- 5. FY21 UPWP & Budget Mid-year Adjustment\* (Action)
- 6. Racial Equity Consultant Draft Scope of Work (expecting to receive 1/6) (Action)
- 7. Legislative Briefing debrief and Policy Participation review\* (Discussion)
- 8. Chair/Executive Director Report
- (Discussion) a. All Hazards Mitigation Plan
  - b. State Rail Plan
  - c. Clean Water Service Provider
- 9. Draft CCRPC Board Meeting Agenda\* (Discussion)
- 10. Other Business (Discussion)
- 11. Executive Session (requested to discuss personnel matters) (Action)
- 12. Adjournment (Action)

\*Attachments

NEXT MEETING - Executive Committee - Wed. February 3, 2021; 5:45 p.m.

In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the CCRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, or other requested accommodations, should be made to Emma Vaughn, CCRPC Title VI Coordinator, at 802-846-4490 ext. \*21 or evaughn@ccrpcvt.org, no later than 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION 2 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES** 3 DRAFT 4 5 DATE: Wednesday December 2, 2020 6 TIME: 5:45 PM 7 PLACE: Remote Attendance via ZOOM Meeting 8 PRESENT: Mike O'Brien, Chair Catherine McMains, Vice Chair 9 John Zicconi, Treasurer Bard Hill, At Large <5000 10 Andy Montroll, Immediate Past Chair Chris Shaw, At Large >5000 11 Jeff Carr, Finance 12 Regina Mahony, Planning Mgr. STAFF: Charlie Baker, Executive Director 13 Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Mgr. Forest Cohen, Senior Business Mgr. 14 Bryan Davis, Senior Planner Amy Irvin Witham, Business Office Mgr. 15 Emma Vaughn, Communications Mgr. OTHERS:

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- 1. Call to Order, Attendance. The meeting was called to order at 5:48 PM by the Chair, Mike O'Brien.
- 2. <u>Changes to the Agenda, Members' Items</u>. There were none.

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3. Approval of November 4, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ANDY MONTROLL MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CATHERINE MCMAINS, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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- 4. Act 250 & Section 248 Applications.
- 28 a. Bolton Solar, LLC, Bolton Preferred Site Letter

Regina noted that this project was seen previously. This came through last year as a 500 kW project and has since been revised. The preferred site designation request is for the construction of a 150 kW solar array to be located on Roosevelt Highway (US 2) in Bolton, Vermont. The CCRPC identified the following State possible constraints: Flood Hazard Area and Agricultural Soils, and one local possible constraint, Flood Hazard Area II. The subject property also contains several other known and possible constraints as identified in the 2018 ECOS Plan, however, the draft site plan indicates that these constraints will be avoided. These constraints include a deer wintering area, slopes greater than 25%, and Vermont Conservation Design Highest Priority Forest Blocks. CCRPC identifies the proposed site as a "preferred site" for netmetering. These comments are based on the information currently available; the CCRPC will review the project application again at the next stage to confirm our initial findings.

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JOHN ZICCONI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY ANDY MONTROLL, TO APPROVE THE LETTER AS PRESENTED TO ALL EARTH RENEWABLES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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#### 5. Amend Section 125 Plan with Dependent Care Account

Forest explained in 2018 there was an addition of a Dependent Care Account benefit to the CCRPC Section 125 Plan, however, the addition was not formalized via resolution. The staff requested the Executive Committee approve and execute the resolution amending the CCRPC Section 125 Plan to retroactively add the Dependent Care Account. The amendment requires approval and signatures

from the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Members asked for clarification that this is an administrative task. Forest confirmed, yes. ANDY MONTROLL MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY BARD HILL, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CCRPC SECTION 125 PLAN AND RETROACTIVELY ADD A DEPENDENT CARE ACCOUNT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 6. Racial Equity Consultant Selection

Charlie referred members to the memo included in the packet. He said we received several responses to the RFQ and have narrowed the pool of candidates. We would like the Executive Committee to participate in the final selection. John Zicconi requested the detailed discussion be moved into an executive session at the end of the meeting. Members agreed.

#### 7. Legislative Briefing Topics

Charlie asked members to share their opinions on his presentation for the upcoming Legislative Briefing. He said he would like assistance in scaling back, editing, and hearing any thoughts or comments members have on the overall agenda and presentation. Charlie explained we typically begin with an overview of our ECOS Plan and the "Circle of Prosperity" which reiterates, "When Chittenden County Prospers, Vermont Prospers". He went on to provide members an overview of the draft PowerPoint presentation which included the following:

- Legislative Briefing Agenda and Program
- Implementing Our ECOS Plan
  - The Circle of Prosperity
  - Invest in Chittenden County
- Racial Equity
- Invest in Vermont, Chittenden County Smart Growth
- Act 250 & Permit System Change
- Housing
- Broadband
- Energy and Climate
- Regional Dispatch
- Transportation Investments
- I-89 2050 Study
- Water Quality Funding
- Marijuana
- Economy and Workforce
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
- Invest in Chittenden County Population Health
- Property Assessment & COVID Impacts
- Invest in Chittenden County Regional and Municipal Planning
- CCRPC Resources
- CCRPC Current Work

Members discussed the importance of the topics. Members agreed that a discussion on Broadband is important. Andy said the state is currently working on the COVID Broadband Plan. He explained there are funds allocated for the project with the State of Vermont Department of Public Service. Charlie asked Andy to serve as the subject matter expert at the Legislative Briefing. Members requested to have at least one municipal representative on the Marijuana topic. Members said the

economy and workforce topic needs to be addressed since COVID has negatively affected employment options and there is a high unemployment rate. Members suggested removing the Regional and Municipal Planning topic, since the budget is not likely to allow for an increase.

Charlie requested member input on the best way to organize the presentation. He explained they typically go through the presentation and open for questions at the end. Members agreed, waiting to take questions at the end is the best approach. Mike suggested time limits be applied. Andy suggested moving the racial equity slide to the end because it serves to tie all the subject matter together and this works as a keystone to lock everything in. Members agreed.

Eleni excused herself from the meeting at 7:00 PM

8. Chair/Executive Director Report

 a. <u>UPWP Mid-year Adjustment.</u> Charlie reminded members we are beginning to look at the UPWP mid-year adjustments. He stated there are a couple of new projects that have come up and adjustments will need to be made. The I-89 Project budget will need to be examined and shifted. More information will be presented on this at the next meeting.

9. Other Business: There was none.

10. Executive Session. JOHN ZICCONI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CHRIS SHAW, TO MOVE INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS RECORDS RELATING SPECIFICALLY TO THE NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS FOR A POTENTIAL RACIAL EQUITY CONSULTANT WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE: MIKE O'BRIEN, CATHERINE MCMAINS, JOHN ZICCONI, CHRIS SHAW, BARD HILL, ANDY MONTROLL, and staff, CHARLIE BAKER, REGINA MAHONY, FOREST COHEN, AMY IRVIN WITHAM, BRYAN DAVIS, and EMMA VAUGHN, BEGINNING AT 7:03 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

JOHN ZICCONI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CHRIS SHAW, TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION AT 7:48 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. <u>Adjournment</u>: CATHERINE MCMAINS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY BARD HILL, TO ADJOURN AT 7:49 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

35 Respectfully submitted,36 Amy Irvin Witham

110 West Canal Street, Suite 202 Winooski, VT 05404-2109 802-846-4490

January 6, 2021

David Mullet All Earth Renewables 94 Harvest Lane Williston, VT 05495

Re: Bolton Solar, LLC - 45-day Notice of Application

Dear Mr. Mullet,

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission ("CCRPC") is in receipt of the 45-day notice of application submitted by All Earth Renewables for the construction of a 150 kW solar array to be located on Roosevelt Highway (US 2) in Bolton, VT. The subject parcel is owned by the Eastcote Holdings (C/O Charles Deslauriers). CCRPC previously reviewed the project, and deemed the project a "preferred site," in December 2020 upon Bolton Solar, LLC's. CCRPC has reviewed this project's conformance with CCRPC's 2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan, which gained a Determination of Energy Compliance from the Vermont Department of Public Service on August 9, 2018.

#### **ECOS Energy Goal**

CCRPC finds that this project meets the intent of the Energy Goal (Goal #17) of the 2018 ECOS Plan: "Move Chittenden County's energy system toward a cleaner, more efficient and renewable system that benefits health, economic development, and the local/global climate by working towards the State's Comprehensive Energy Plan goals."

Strategy 2, Action 4b of the ECOS Plan states "CCRPC supports the generation of new renewable energy in the County to meet the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan's goals of using 90% renewable energy by 2050, in a manner that is cost effective and respects the natural environment." Development of this solar facility helps implement this action.

The Plan's suitability policies help determine whether projects are cost effective, and the Plan's constraint policies help determine whether projects respect the natural environment:

#### **Suitability Policies**

The 2018 ECOS Plan recommends the location of renewable energy generation facilities in appropriate locations, as defined by the polices in Strategy 2, Action 4b. The project as proposed meets the following suitability policies:

- 1. <u>Locate energy generation proximate to existing distribution and transmission infrastructure</u>: The proposed facility is located adjacent to existing distribution infrastructure.
- 2. <u>Locate ground-mounted solar larger than 15 kW...outside of state designated village centers</u>: The project is not located within a designated village center.

CCRPC finds that the location of this project meets the suitability policies of the 2018 ECOS Plan.

#### **Constraints Policies**

The 2018 ECOS Plan states that development should be located to avoid state and local known constraints that have been field verified, and to minimize impacts to state and local possible constraints that have been field verified (Strategy 3, Action 1.f and Strategy 4, Action 1.f and Action 2.e). Our review indicates that two State possible constraints may be impacted by the project:

- Flood Hazard Area The proposed project is located within the Flood Hazard Area. The 45-day notice notes that equipment will be located at least two feet above base flood elevation, yet also indicates that some electrical equipment will be buried. CCRPC requests that impacts to the Flood Hazard Area be minimized in accordance with the recommendations of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.
- Agricultural Soils The proposed project appears to be located on prime agricultural soils and statewide
  important agricultural soils. CCRPC requests that impacts to the prime agricultural soils and statewide
  important agricultural soils be minimized in accordance with the recommendations of the Vermont
  Agency of Natural Resources.

Further, one local possible constraint may be impacted by the project:

• Flood Hazard Area II - The proposed project is located within the Bolton - Flood Hazard Area II. CCRPC requests that impacts to the Flood Hazard Area be minimized in accordance with the recommendations of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and/or the Town of Bolton.

In addition, the subject property does contain several other known and possible constraints identified in the 2018 ECOS Plan, but the site plan indicates that these constraints will be avoided. These constraints include a deer wintering area, slopes greater than 25%, and Vermont Conservation Design Highest Priority Forest Blocks.

These comments are based on information currently available; we may have additional comments as the process continues. We understand that the project may change between the submittal of the advance notice and the final petition. CCRPC will review the project location again with each new submittal to confirm our findings.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Charlie Baker Executive Director

CC: CCRPC Board

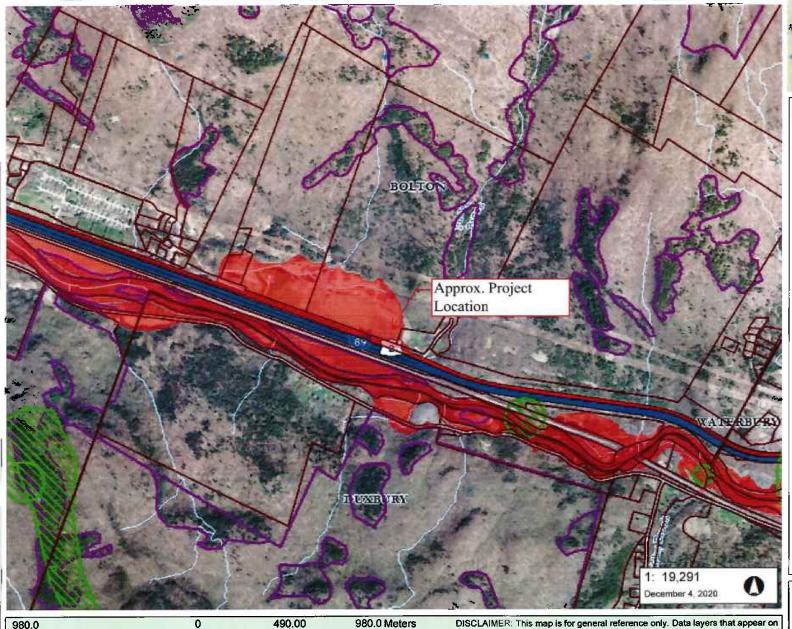
Jon Ignatowski, Planning and Zoning Administrator



WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere

© Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

# vermont.gov



1608 Ft.

1cm =

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

193

Meters

DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. ANR and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but no limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map.



#### LEGEND

Rare Threatened Endangered

Threatened or Endangered

N Rare

Significant Natural Community

\* Wetland Projects

Flood Hazard Areas (Only FEN

AE (1-percent annual chance flood)

A (1-percent annual chance floodpl.

AO (1-percent annual chance zone feet)

0.2-percent annual chance flood ha

# Parcels (standardized) Roads

\_\_\_\_ Interstate

US Highway: 1

State Highway

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Town Highway (Class 1)

Town Highway (Class 2,3)

Town Highway (Class 4)

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State Forest Trail

National Forest Trail

Legal Trail

Private Road/Driveway

Proposed Roads

Stream/River

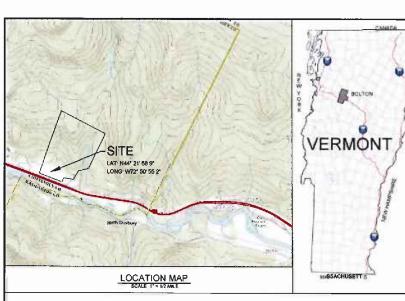
Stream

Intermittent Stream

Town Boundary

#### NOTES

Map created using ANR's Natural Resources Atlas



#### LEGEND

EXISTING POWER POLE / PROPOSED POLE APPROXIMATE PROPERTY LINES PROJECT PARCEL PROPERTY LINE EXISTING GRADE CONTOUR LINES (5-FOOT INTERVALS) EXISTING GRADE CONTOUR LINES (1-FOOT INTERVALS)

EXISTING OVERHEAD POWER SOIL LIMITS FROM WEB SOIL SURVEY

SOLAR SETBACKS APPROXIMATE WETLANDS FROM STATE
OF VERMONT MAPPING ENVIRONMENTAL BUFFER

> PROPOSED UNDERGROUND POWER LINES PROPOSED OVERHEAD POWER LINES

PROPOSED SOLAR TRACKERS



SETBACK DISTANCES			
POINT OF INTEREST	DISTANCE FROM NEAREST PROJECT RELATED STRUCTURE TO POINT OF INTEREST		
NORTHERN PROPERTY LINE	±3,375'		
WESTERN PROPERTY LINE	±1,085°		
SOUTHERN PROPERTY LINE	±210°		
EASTERN PROPERTY LINE (NEAREST BOUNDARY)	±26		
NEAREST RESIDENCE	±150°		
FORE OF TRAVELED WAY	<b>△77</b> E		

#### NOTES:

- 1 ASPECTS OF PLAN ARE APPROXIMATE AND DERIVED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
- THE HORIZONTAL COORDINATE SYSTEM IS BASED ON NAD83 VERMONT STATE PLANE 4400 (US SURVEY FEET) ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON THE NAVD88 (US SURVEY FEET)
- 3 EXISTING GROUND CONTOUR ELEVATIONS ARE BASED ON STATE OF VERMONT 2014 LIDAR
- UTILITIES ARE NOT WARRANTED TO BE COMPLETE OR ACCURATE CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT DIG SAFE BEFORE BEGINNING ANY EXCAVATION.
- 5 THIS IS IN NO WAY A BOUNDARY SURVEY PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ON THIS FLAN ARE FROM TAX MAP INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE TOWN
- 6 THIS IS A PRELIMINARY DESIGN PLAN FINAL DESIGN WILL BE MODIFIED TO MATCH EQUIPMENT PURCHASED AND POSSIBLE PERMIT CONSTRAINTS REVEALED DURING PROJECTS REVIEW

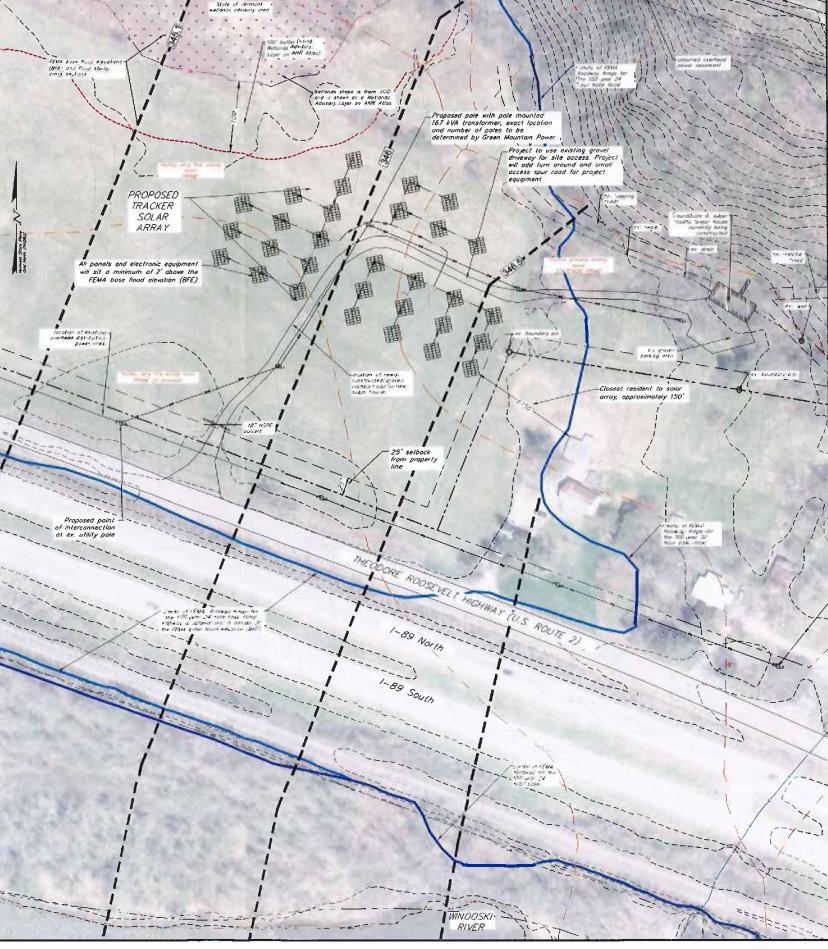
# SOLAR LLC Theodore Roosevell Highway (VT Route 2) Bolton, Vermont

KREBS & LANSING ONSULTING ENGINEERS P (802) 878-0375

BOLTON

ISSUED FOR PERMIT REVIEW NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

CIVIL ENGINEER



136,36' 170,46' 68 18 REDUCED GRAPHIC SCALE (1" = 138.36)
WHEN PLOTTED TO FIT ON 11" BY 17" NEDN

PROPOSED SOLAR ARRAY 45 DAY NOTICE PLAN

DATE ISSUED. 12/02/20 ROJECT NO 20279

SCALE: 1" = 60 C-1.00



110 West Canal Street, Suite 202 Winooski, VT 05404-2109 802-846-4490 www.ccrpcvt.org

January 6, 2021

Aaron Brondyke State Coordinator 111 West Street Essex Junction, VT 05452

RE: The Burton Corporation; Burlington; #4C0174-6,4C0368-3

Dear Mr. Brondyke:

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's (CCRPC) Staff and Executive Committee have reviewed this Act 250 application for the s redevelopment of an existing 83,000-square foot manufacturing building into a mixed-use facility, including a performing arts center, and associated parking improvements. The proposed project is located at 266 Queen City Park Road in Burlington, Vermont. The City of Burlington's Development Review Board has approved the project.

#### **CCRPC** offers the following comments on the proposed project:

The proposed project is located within the Enterprise Planning Area as defined in the Chittenden County Regional Plan, entitled the *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan*. CCRPC finds the proposed project to be consistent with the Planning Areas for the following reasons:

- 1. The Enterprise Planning Area is identified in the Plan as an area planned for growth, and therefore the proposed project helps implement Strategy #2 of the Plan, which calls for 80% of new development in the areas planned for growth.
- 2. The proposed project is served by municipal water and sewer, is located on bus lines, and is within walking distance to many services/jobs.
- 3. The proposed land uses are consistent with the local regulations, as evidenced by the Burlington DRB's approval of the project.

Therefore, CCRPC finds the proposed project to be in conformance with the Planning Areas of the 2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan,

The Traffic Impact Study dated 4/23/2020, and associated supporting documents, assembled by VHB was reviewed. In particular, we noted in Exhibit 020, and later confirmed in Exhibit 051, that the PM peak hour trips have been reduced from 222 to 74. Given this information and our review of the TIS, the CCRPC does not have any concerns regarding the proposed project's anticipated traffic impacts.

Due to the detailed level of development review in most Chittenden County municipalities, and the environmental permit reviews at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, CCRPC focuses its Act 250 reviews on the type of proposed land use and the Planning Areas section of the 2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan. The CCRPC also focuses its review on transportation-related issues, where appropriate, in accordance with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which is within the 2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan.

Page **1** of **2** #4C0174-6,4C0368-3

These comments are based on information currently available; we may have additional comments as the process continues. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Charlie Baker Executive Director

Cc: CCRPC Board Certificate of Service

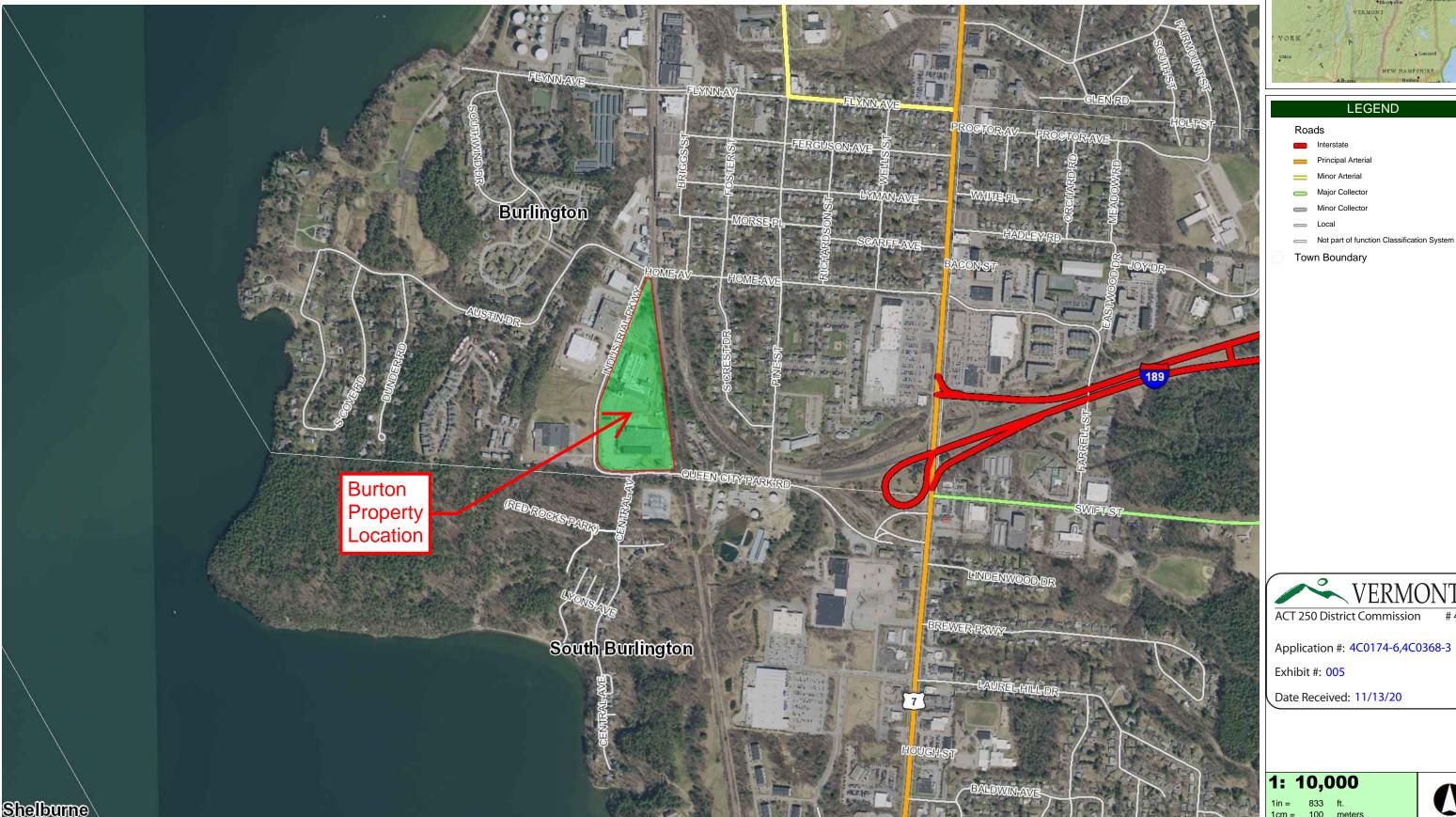
Page **2** of **2** #4C0174-6,4C0368-3

# Burton Corporation Location Map Vermont Agency of Natural Resources **VERMONT**

# vermont.gov



LEGEND





Application #: 4C0174-6,4C0368-3

Exhibit #: 005

Date Received: 11/13/20

1: 10,000

1in = 833 ft. 1cm = 100 meters

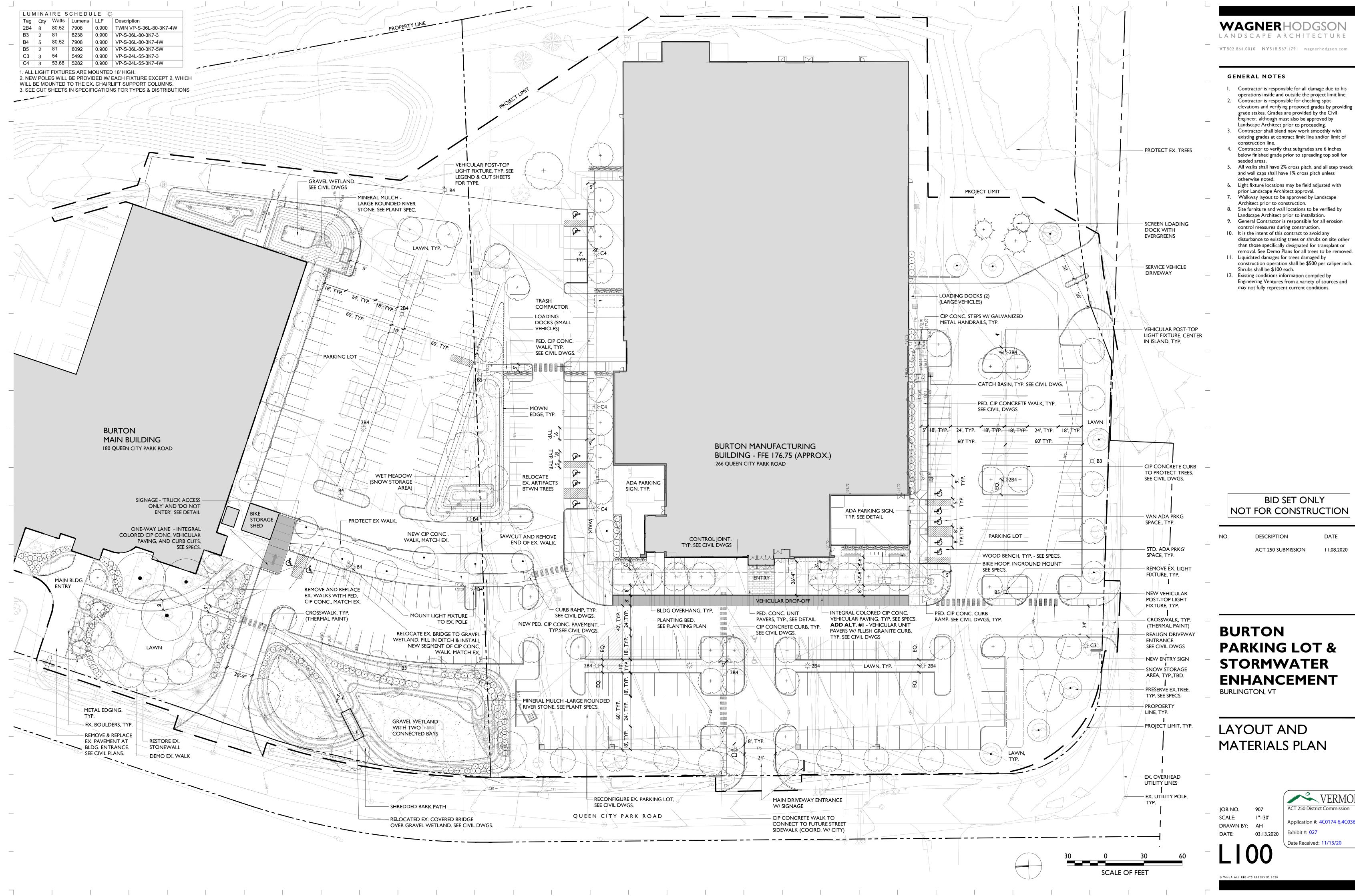


1,667.0 834.00 1,667.0 Feet

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NOTES

Map created using ANR's Natural Resources Atlas



**WAGNERHODGSON** 

- I. Contractor is responsible for all damage due to his
- Contractor is responsible for checking spot elevations and verifying proposed grades by providing grade stakes. Grades are provided by the Civil
- Landscape Architect prior to proceeding. 3. Contractor shall blend new work smoothly with
- 4. Contractor to verify that subgrades are 6 inches below finished grade prior to spreading top soil for

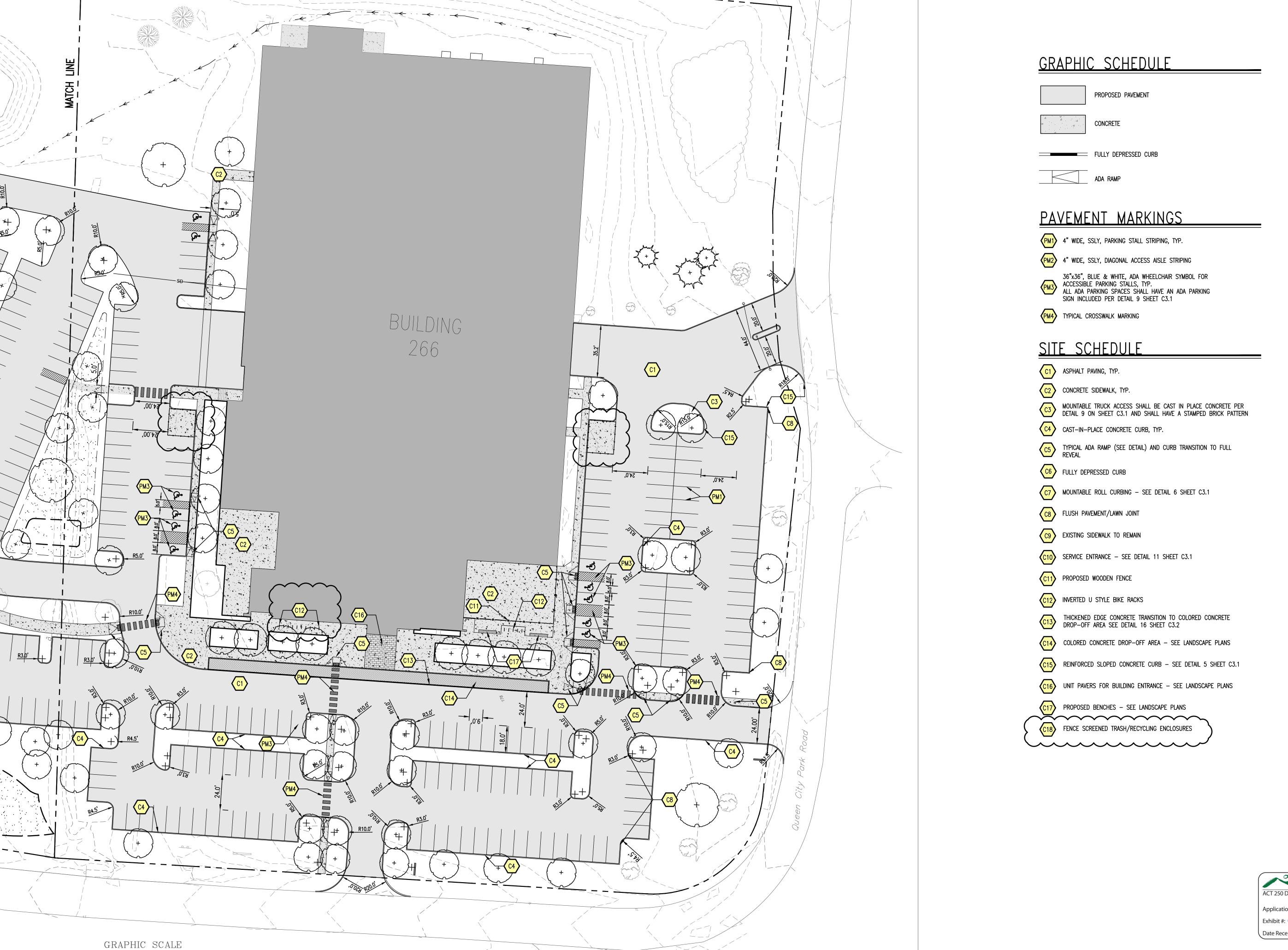
- 6. Light fixture locations may be field adjusted with

- 8. Site furniture and wall locations to be verified by
- Landscape Architect prior to installation.
- 9. General Contractor is responsible for all erosion
- disturbance to existing trees or shrubs on site other than those specifically designated for transplant or
- removal. See Demo Plans for all trees to be removed. 11. Liquidated damages for trees damaged by construction operation shall be \$500 per caliper inch.
- 12. Existing conditions information compiled by Engineering Ventures from a variety of sources and

11.08.2020

**PARKING LOT & ENHANCEMENT** 

VERMONT ` ACT 250 District Commission # 4 Application #: 4C0174-6,4C0368-3



1 inch = 30 ft.for sheet size 24" x 36"

VERMONT ACT 250 District Commission # 4 Application #: 4C0174-6,4C0368-3 Exhibit #: 037a Date Received: 11/25/20

ISSUED FOR BID 3/27/2020

ENGINEERING VENTURES PC

rds Burton Snowboar

of 2

Site Layout Sheet 2

Designed By: Checked By: Drawn By: Scale: As Noted Date: Mar 13 2020

EV#18174

# **DRAFT** – Potential Policy Participation Topics for CCRPC Board – January 2021

This list has been updated and will be discussed at the January Board meeting to prepare for 2021 Legislative session.

	<b>Topic</b> – click on links for more detailed info in this document	ECOS Plan Strategy	ECOS Plan Top 10 Action	Included in FY21 UPWP?	CCRPC Committee	Staff Recommendation
1.	Clean Water (2019 Act 76)	#3 – water quality	#5 – water quality	Yes	CWAC	Yes, final comments on Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) rule in front of the Board in February.
2.	Transportation Bill, VTrans' Project Selection & Prioritization Processes (VPSP2), and the Transportation Climate Initiative	#2 – smart growth	#2 - transportation	Yes	TAC	Yes, Staff will monitor this year's Transportation bill (as always). Staff recommends that CCRPC continue to assist VTrans in the VPSP2 effort and bring drafts to the TAC and Board for review. CCRPC will continue to monitor the Transportation Climate Initiative work, though it is likely there won't be any action until 2022.
3.	Act 250 Reform & Housing	#2 – smart growth	#1 – land use/smart growth	Yes	ad hoc Act 250, PAC	Yes, CCRPC Staff recommends that we continue with this work.
4.	Broadband Deployment throughout Vermont	#1 – economic development	Not specifically included	No	PAC	Yes, Staff recommends that we assist in the latest expansion efforts.
5.	Climate Change – Global Warming Solutions	#2 – smart growth	#4 – energy planning	No	Executive	Yes, Staff recommends that CCRPC monitor the Climate Commission's work.
6.	Proposed Changes to PUC Rule 5.100 (19-0855-RULE)	#2 – smart growth	#4 – energy planning	Yes		Yes, Staff recommends that CCRPC continue to monitor and participate in this rulemaking process, with a particular focus on the issue of preferred sites.
7.	Cannabis taxation and regulation (Act 164 of 2020)			No	PAC	CCRPC will be working with the Planning Advisory Committee on the relevant rule making and municipal zoning as more details are worked out.
8.	Project Specific TIF	#2 – smart growth	#1 – land use/smart growth	Yes	PAC	Yes, Staff recommends that CCRPC monitor and support this bill if it gets re-introduced.
9.	Equity Related Bills	#8 - equity	Not specifically included	Yes	Executive Committee	Yes, Staff recommends that equity be a major focus area, and lens through which we do all of our work.

10.	Increased Municipal Self- governance	#7 – government efficiency & finance	Not specifically included	No		Discuss at Board meeting in January or February.
11.	Rental safety/registry bill	#5 – health & safety	Not specifically included	No	PAC	Staff recommends that CCRPC consider supporting this bill if introduced.
12.	Regional Dispatch Start-up Funding	#5 – health & safety; and #7 – government efficiency & finance	#6 – emergency management	Yes		Staff recommends that CCRPC look for opportunities for support.
13.	COVID Related Property Assessment Impacts	No	No	No		Staff recommends that CCRPC monitor if there is something proposed.

#### 1. Clean Water (2019 Act 76)

Act 76, the 2019 Clean Water Bill that was the brainchild of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), establishes a new structure for improving water quality throughout Vermont. It should also better achieve the clean water goals established in total maximum daily load (TMDL) plans that have been approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The concept is to devolve responsibility for administering non-regulatory clean water programs to entities other than ANR, which is not well suited to implementing them. CCRPC will be the Clean Water Service Provider for the Direct to Lake Basin. The rulemaking process is currently underway to address the specifics of how the Clean Water Service Providers will operate. CCRPC will remain heavily involved in this process.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: CCRPC Staff will bring comments on the rulemaking to the Board for review in February.

# 2. Transportation Bill, VTrans' Project Selection & Prioritization Processes – VPSP2, Transportation Climate Initiative

VPSP2 - VTrans is in the process of updating its project selection and prioritization processes. They are seeking to improve the performance-based and data driven project selection and prioritization framework. They intend to review/revamp/revise the current processes to: identify and define how ideas for transportation improvements can become transportation projects; and, take advantage of "harmonization" opportunities to address transportation needs to deliver increased value through our transportation projects. VTrans has been seeking RPC input throughout the process. Christine has been serving on the technical advisory committee.

The <u>Transportation and Climate Initiative</u> (TCI) is a regional collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The participating states are: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont,

and Virginia. Recognizing that more than one third of all carbon emissions come from the transportation sector, participating states started taking action through working groups focused on regional priorities, such as <u>clean vehicles and fuels</u>. Several TCI states are also now working together to explore potential regional policies to improve transportation systems and reduce pollution. In Vermont, ANR and VTrans are working together on this initiative.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Continue to monitor the state Transportation bill (as we do every year), Continue to assist VTrans in the VPSP2 effort and bring drafts to the TAC and Board for review; continue to monitor TCI work as it directly ties into our transportation and energy work.

#### 3. Act 250 Reform and Housing

H.926 – a minimal Act 250 bill was passed by the Legislature in September. This bill was vetoed by the Governor. The bill did not include Act 250 exemptions for Downtowns and Neighborhood Development Areas, which were critical to CCRPC for a balanced approach to Act 250 reform. It is expected that Act 250 reform will be discussed again in the 2021 session.

S.237, Act 179 of 2020 – the Housing bill, as passed by the Legislature in September, includes amendments to Accessory Dwelling Units, existing small lots and does not allow small multi-family dwellings to be denied based on character of area in conditional use review. The bill also grants municipalities the authority to regulate short-term rentals. There is an issue with the provision on restricting private covenants; many agree a technical correction will be needed in the next legislative session. There was also a lot more in the original bill that may get re-introduced.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: CCRPC has been working with our municipalities and regional partners on the Act 250 reform effort for the past three years. CCRPC Staff recommends that we continue in this work in line with ECOS Plan Strategy #2; and Top 10 Action #1. CCRPC Staff also recommend that we assist with the technical correction to Act 179, help municipalities implement the changes required from this bill; and monitor any new bills.

# 4. Broadband Deployment throughout Vermont

With COVID-19 there has been an increased effort to expand broadband in the state. COVID has demonstrated the challenges for our rural residents and students without good internet service. Communications Union Districts in adjacent regions are starting up and may present a possibility for serving our rural towns. <a href="mailto:Draft Covid-19 Response Telecommunications Recovery Plan">Draft Covid-19 Response Telecommunications Recovery Plan</a> under review in December 2020. CCRPC will review this Plan for implementation recommendations; and CCRPC will assist in ensuring broadband expansion in the region.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: CCRPC will assist in the latest expansion efforts.

# 5. Climate Change – Global Warming Solutions

H.688 of 2020 (Act 153), known as the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020, creates the ability for a citizen to sue the state if it fails to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to 26% below 2005 levels by 2025, to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below by 2050. The legislation creates

a council facilitated by the Agency of Natural Resources charged with developing a plan to meet the milestones outlined above. The Governor's veto was overridden.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Staff recommends that CCRPC monitor the Climate Commission's work.

#### 6. Proposed Changes to Vermont's Net Metering Rules (PUC Case 19-0855-RULE)

The Public Utilities Commission began an investigation regarding the biennial update of Vermont's net metering rules in March 2019. The net metering rules cover a number of topics, including electric rates, grid constraints, caps on renewable energy utilities by individuals and businesses, and siting. Siting issues, particularly the definition of "preferred sites" for net metering solar and wind facilities, are an important component of energy planning work at the regional and local level. VAPDA provided comments on this in the Fall of 2019; and it appears that the case is still open. In addition CCRPC should also monitor caps on renewable energy generation to ensure these projects are not hindered, and Act 153 can be achieved.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Staff recommends that CCRPC continue to monitor and participate in this rulemaking process, with a particular focus on the issue of preferred sites. Energy siting on preferred sites is highly encouraged in the ECOS Plan and it is important that these sites remain viable for energy development. Also, CCRPC should also monitor caps on renewable energy generation to ensure these projects are not hindered, and Act 153 can be achieved.

## 7. Cannabis taxation and regulation (Act 164 of 2020)

<u>S.54 (Act 164 of 2020)</u> – Cannabis Tax and Regulate – became law on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and will become fully effective in 2022. The new tax and regulatory system is still a work in progress, with responsibility for some details left to the new Cannabis Control Board, which will be formed in 2021. Here are some key points:

- Local municipalities (via voter approval) may opt in to allow retail sales in their community.
- Municipalities cannot issue blanket prohibitions of cannabis establishments (cultivation, testing, warehousing, and distribution) via ordinance or zoning, but can regulate via zoning and local licensing boards.
- CCRPC will assist municipalities with zoning issues upon request.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: CCRPC will be working with the Planning Advisory Committee on the relevant components of this bill as more details are worked out.

#### 8. Project Specific TIF

This was introduced as House bill 642 in 2020 – it proposed allowing a municipality to use tax increment financing to develop a project. The intention is to simplify the process and program for small infrastructure projects in rural communities like municipal wastewater. It was introduced in January 2020, but didn't move.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Staff recommends that CCRPC monitor and support this bill if it gets re-introduced.

## 9. Equity Related Bills

We anticipate bills emerging in the 2021 session, such as a proposed BIPOC Land Access Opportunity Fund Bill from the VT NAACP. This issue has been one of our ECOS Plan Strategies since 2013. Addressing systemic racism will take a concerted effort by everyone. CCRPC is currently in process of hiring a racial equity partner to deepen our understanding, help our municipalities, and help us create meaningful change. We anticipate that we'll be updating our equity impact assessment tool.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Staff recommends that equity be a major focus area, and lens through which we do all of our work. We will monitor any bills that are relevant to our work.

## 10. Increased Municipal Self-governance

This was Senate bill 106 of 2020 but it did not pass. Voter approved self-governance on matters solely affecting the municipality taking action, including (a) local option taxes; (b) measures to reduce emissions, increase resilience to climate change, and build a cleaner economy; and (c) law enforcement policy and oversight implemented in accordance with the municipal governance structure.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Will be discussed at CCRPC Board meeting in January or February.

# 11. Rental safety/registry bill

This was House bill 739 of 2020 but it did not pass. This bill would establish a statewide rental registry and move the authority for rental code inspection from municipal town health officers and the Dept. of Health to the state Dept. of Fire Safety. Towns with established code enforcement could retain that.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Consider supporting this bill if introduced.

## 12. Regional Dispatch Start-up Funding

As the State looks for alternatives to the current system, we created a Chittenden County Public Safety Authority for the purpose of regional dispatch. This concept works financially and operationally in the long term and will provide better service; however, there is a significant amount of capital needed for start-up. There is a \$2,100,000 total needed. So far, the municipalities have come up with about \$325,000; leaving a gap of \$1,775,000.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: CCRPC look for opportunities for support.

# 13. COVID Related Property Assessment Impacts

Due to COVID, there is concern about drops in commercial property valuation, which may have significant impacts on municipal budgets and the education fund. Municipalities may need help to avoid major ups and downs in their grand list due to COVID causing a drop in the CLA and triggering a reappraisal.

Staff Recommendation to the CCRPC Board: Monitor if there is something proposed.

# REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 - <u>6:00 p.m.</u>



(Discussion; 15 minutes)

#### **Remote Access Meeting Only**

Please join the meeting by clicking https://www.gotomeet.me/CCRPCVT October Board Meeting

For those who would prefer to join by phone or those without a microphone on your computer, please dial in using your phone.

Call: <u>+1 (786) 535-3211</u> Access Code: 728-160-477

When participating remotely, please wait until you are recognized by the Chair before you speak. For each agenda item, the Chair will make sure to ask if anyone participating remotely would like to speak.

- a. Use the "chat" feature, raise your hand if on video, or ask the Chair to request to speak. To ensure everyone is heard, only one person should speak at a time.
- b. When recognized by the Chair, introduce yourself each time.
- c. Speak up so everyone in person and on the phone can hear clearly.
- d. When participating remotely, take steps to avoid background noise, and make sure your microphone/phone is muted when you are not speaking.

#### CONSENT AGENDA -

#### Add TIP amendments

#### **DELIBERATIVE AGENDA**

1.	Call to Order:	Attendance:	Changes to the	he Agenda	(Action: 1 minute)

2. Public Comment Period on Items <u>NOT</u> on the Agenda (Discussion; 5 minutes)

3. Action on Consent Agenda - none (MPO Action, if needed; 1 minute)

4. Approve Minutes of October 21, 2020 Meeting\* (Action; 1 minute)

5. Municipal Powers (speakers to be identified) (Discussion: 30 minutes)

6. 2021 Policy Participation review\* (Discussion: 20 minutes)

7. Racial Equity Update

8. Chair/Executive Director Report (Discussion; 5 minutes)

- a. All Hazards Mitigation Plan
- b. State Rail Plan
- c. Clean Water Service Provider
- 9. Committee/Liaison Activities & Reports\* (Information, 2 minutes)
  - a. Executive Committee (final minutes August 5, 2020 and final minutes September 2, 2020)\*
     i. Act 250 Sec 248 letters
  - b. Clean Water Advisory Committee (draft minutes July 7, 2020)\*
  - c. Transportation Advisory Committee (draft minutes, October 6, 2020)
- 10. Future Agenda Topics (Discussion; 5 minutes)
- 11. Members' Items, Other Business (Information; 5 minutes)

In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the CCRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, or other requested accommodations, should be made to Emma Vaughn, CCRPC Title VI Coordinator, at 802-846-4490 ext. \*21 or evaughn@ccrpcvt.org, no later than 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

#### 12. Adjourn

The October 21, 2020 Chittenden County RPC streams LIVE on YouTube at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjLFn4BZd2O0I4hJU\_nJ9q0I3PdQR0Pp">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjLFn4BZd2O0I4hJU\_nJ9q0I3PdQR0Pp</a>. The meeting will air Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 1 p.m. and is available on the web at <a href="https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/series/chittenden-county-regional-planning-commission">https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/series/chittenden-county-regional-planning-commission</a>.

Upcoming Meetings - Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at our offices:

- Transportation Advisory Committee Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 9am
- Clean Water Advisory Committee Tuesday, November 3, 2020, ~11am
- CWAC MS4 Subcommittee Tuesday, November 3, 2020, ~12:30pm
- Executive Committee Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 5:45pm if needed
- Planning Advisory Committee Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 2:30pm
- CCRPC Board Meeting Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:00pm

# Tentative future Board agenda items:

February 17, 2021	
March 17, 2021	