

# Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

## FY 2021 Annual Report

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 for comprehensive and collaborative transportation planning involving municipalities, state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in Chittenden County. The CCRPC works to ensure implementation of the regional transportation plan and 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), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), 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 FY21, the CCRPC invested more than \$4.8 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$4.3 million in Federal and State investment with \$250,400 in municipal dues and another \$242,500 in local match for specific projects—a 10:1 return on local investment.

### MUNICIPAL PLANNING & 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, municipal dues, and other grants. All technical assistance provided this year is shown on the At Work map; highlights include:

- **Town Plan Assistance:** Provided direct assistance to Underhill on finalizing their Town Plan (won't be approved until FY22). Created Town Plan maps for Westford. Worked with Shelburne on municipal plan and zoning recommendations for proper protection of forest integrity in accordance with Act 171, including a map viewer with natural resource and a locally developed habitat block layer.

- **Town Plan Approvals:** Approved the Comprehensive Plan, Enhanced Energy Plan and confirmed the planning process for Westford; and the Enhanced Energy Plan for Williston.
- **Zoning:** Continued with assistance to South Burlington on zoning-related assistance including drafting zoning amendments for natural resource protection and developed a related map viewer to illustrate the natural resources in the proposed amendments. CCRPC assisted Williston with their official map. CCRPC staff also began work in Bolton on zoning bylaw amendments from the Bolton Valley Master Plan. CCRPC assisted Milton with bylaw amendments recommended in previous fiscal years to address hurdles to additional housing development. CCRPC began a bylaw amendment project in Essex Junction to advance a pedestrian friendly landscape in the Village. Bylaw assistance was also provided to Huntington, Westford, and Richmond. CCRPC used parcel boundaries and building footprints to help identify parcels in Richmond that are not in conformance with setback regulations in some parts of the Village.. CCRPC began a Form Based Code project for Williston's Taft Corners using transportation planning funds.
- **State Designation:** CCRPC aided Charlotte with their Village Center Designation including development of maps.
- **In-house Planning Services:** CCRPC provided zoning administration and development review assistance in St. George; and development review assistance in Richmond and Shelburne.
- **Training:** CCRPC provided the Charlotte Planning Commission with a housing presentation. Two Land Use Essentials trainings were held – Westford, Milton, Richmond, and Underhill Planning Commissioners and Development Review Boards were invited (14 participants from 3 municipalities). CCRPC also continued to host the 12-month webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals for municipalities and regional partners.

## REGIONAL PLANNING

RPCs 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.

- **ECOS Plan Implementation:** CCRPC continues to implement its [2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan](#) which combines the regional plan, comprehensive economic development strategy, and metropolitan transportation plan, as reflected here in this report. CCRPC implements the Plan through collective impact relationships and projects with the GBIC, Department of Health, United Way, UVM Medical Center, 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 zoning projects mentioned above, permit legislation, and planned transportation investments in those places resulting in 87% of residential growth in these areas (2019 5-year average). CCRPC used the ECOS Plan to evaluate applications and participate in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- **ECOS Plan Annual Report and Indicators:** The 2020 ECOS Annual Report includes some of the data we report on annually, as well as indicators of disparities that have resulted from systemic racism in our nation and community, as well as indicators associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This intentional focus on race, equity, and the COVID-19 pandemic marks the commitment of the ECOS Leadership Team to address these challenges (<http://www.ecosproject.com/2020-annual-report>). The ECOS Scorecard hosts the ECOS

Partners' shared measurement and indicator system that monitors how well Chittenden County is doing relative to achieving our shared ECOS goals.

(<https://app.resultsscorecard.com/Scorecard/Embed/8502>)

- **Legislative Forum:** In December, the CCRPC hosted a Legislative briefing to serve as a forum for municipal representatives and legislators to connect on a few important topics for the upcoming legislative session, including: Act 250 changes, housing, broadband, water quality funding, regional dispatch, energy/climate, cannabis, the economy and workforce, transportation investments, property tax implications of Covid-19 and racial equity (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>).

## ECONOMIC & 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 several ways, including development of comprehensive strategies that will help to position Vermont for long-term economic gain.

- **Lake Champlain Byway:** Chittenden County includes eight of the Byway's 22 communities: Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex Junction, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne, and Charlotte. CCRPC staff maintained the Byway website (<https://lakechamplainbyway.com/>) including a helpful Interactive Map (<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/> which was updated to fix broken hyperlinks and updated images).
- Continued our strong partnership with GBIC/LCRCC working together to advance plans, policies, and projects that improve our economy such as the Brownfields program below.
- **Community Development:** CCRPC continued assisting with grant administration on behalf of the Town of Bolton on the CDBG grant for hotel and water/wastewater improvements at Bolton Valley. CCRPC began assisting Westford with program management for a community wastewater system in the Village. This includes application and administration of a VCDP planning grant. Under n MPG grant, CCRPC is working as program manager for community wastewater in Huntington including working on a RFQ for engineering, grant writing assistance and developing a workplan for bringing this project to fruition. Assisted Hinesburg in evaluating an EDA grant application to upgrade the Town's wastewater facility.
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** With federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration, CCRPC began work on a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region and the Addison, Rutland and Central VT regions -- collectively called the [West Central Vermont CEDS](#). Ultimately this document will help identify priority economic development strategies and projects and will be used by a variety of federal and state funding programs when making grant decisions.

## 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.

- CCRPC obtained a \$400,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant in FY16; and a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant in FY18. Since the fall of 2016, using these two grants the

program has provided \$586,488 to assess perceived or real contamination issues in various municipalities.

- Bolton: 4302 Bolton Valley Access Road (Bolton Valley Resort)
- Burlington: 316 Flynn Avenue (Redstone Apartments); 400 Pine Street/20 Howard Street (Unsworth Properties); 339 Pine Street (Railyard Enterprise Project); 56 and 58 North Avenue (Sarah Holbrook Center); Lake Street (Waterfront Park); 314 North Winooski (Champlain Transmission); 75 Briggs Street (Petra Cliffs); 207 Flynn Avenue (City Market); 453 Pine Street (near Barge Canal); 405 Pine Street (Burlington City Arts); 44 Lakeside Avenue (Blodgett Ovens / HULA); 241 N. Winooski Avenue (McClure Center); 676 Riverside Avenue / 56 Bright Street (Burlington Housing Authority); 157 South Champlain Street (former Autoclean car detail).
- Colchester: 2031 Roosevelt Highway (Champlain Chiropractic); 110 Heineberg Road (New York Cleaners).
- Essex Junction: 3 Maple Street (Chittenden Crossing) and 1 Main Street (Road Res-Q).
- Milton: 7 River Street (Milton Grange) and 204-210 & 214-218 U.S. Route 7 (Town-VAOT “Hourglass” Road reconfiguration project).
- Shelburne: 5531 Spear Street (Kwiniaska/Fairway at Spear).
- South Burlington: 600 Spear Street (south of UVM Farm Barn)
- Westford: 1705 VT Route 128 (parcel adjacent to Town Office)
- Williston at the Jacob parcel (Stirrup Circle) and the Catamount Outdoor Family Center.
- Winooski: 4 & 12 Winooski Falls Way (south of traffic circle); City Lot 7D on Winooski Falls Way (behind CCV); 42 Pine Street (Myers Pool); City Lot 8 on Winooski Falls Way (in front of Waterworks Restaurant), and 355 Main Street (Andy’s Used Cars)
- Outside of County: Barre – 16 Prospect Street (Bonacorsi); Montpelier - 65 Granite Shed Lane (Granite Works); Swanton – 1, 3 & 5 Canada Street (near Ace Hardware)

## **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

Through contracts with VTrans, RPCs coordinate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI). This effort has provided a statewide framework for public and municipal involvement in planning for 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 region’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 serves as the only 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 is 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.

### **Objective #1: Enhance Cooperation and Coordination between VTrans, RPC Regions and Municipalities**

**TAC Activity:** The TAC met 10 times in FY21. Seventeen member municipalities actively engaged in transportation planning and TAC attendance varied from 10 to 21 members, from 32% to 68% of total membership. Twelve (12) non-municipal TAC members were actively engaged in transportation planning in the county.

**TAC Outcomes:** The TAC approved, discussed, received presentations on and/or made recommendations on the following projects/tasks:

- Statewide Rail and Freight Plans
- CCRPC Public Participation Plan and Title VI
- Jericho MRGP Plan
- Transportation Resilience Planning Tool
- Williston Form-based Code Project
- FTA Title VI Program
- Burlington Winooski Avenue Corridor Study
- Vermont Data: COVID-19's Impacts on Commuting
- Transportation Equity Coalition
- TAC Roundtable: COVID-19 Impacts on This Construction Season
- Functional Classification Changes
- Racial Equity Consultant Selection
- Federal Aid Funding and Highway Legislation
- VTrans Proposed Congestion Policy Update
- I-89 2050 Study Update
- Asset Management Roundtable Discussion
- Various TIP Amendments
- Shelburne Street Roundabout
- FY22 UPWP Work Plan and Budget
- Traffic Impact Studies 101
- CCRPC Planning, Engineering, and Environmental Services RFQ
- Updates to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Procedures
- Draft FY2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- 2023 Transportation Project Prioritization using VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization System (VPSP2) and Pilot Transportation Equity Screen
- VPSP2 Updates

***Transportation Coordination Activities with Municipalities and VTrans Provided by CCRPC:***

- Partnering with VTrans, municipalities and other stakeholders on the ongoing Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study.
- Collaborated with VTrans, provided funding, and promoted participation in the 2020/2021 Way to Go! School Challenge; and conducted TDM outreach to municipalities, businesses, and partners countywide through CATMA.
- VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Methodology (VPSP2) effort: participated in the VPSP2 Core Group and TPI presentations and discussions.
- Continue to monitor the real time travel data from Bluetooth sensors in five major corridors in the county; investigating ways to integrate the data into the State's Tristate ATMS.

- Coordinated with VTrans and NRPC to further evaluate a possible Park & Ride site at Exit 17 and reached out to the municipality (Colchester) to receive input on this facility.
- Participated in discussions with VTrans and Richmond on the US2 paving/slab removal project. Coordinated with Richmond to complete VTrans' New Project Summary.
- Coordinate with VTrans and Charlotte on a Road Safety Audit for Ferry Road.
- Ongoing assistance to municipalities on VTrans' Bridge Scoping questionnaires.
- Ongoing coordination with VTrans, FHWA and FTA on highway and transit performance measures and targets.
- Bike & Ped Program – worked with the Cities of Burlington, South Burlington and Winooski as well as UVM, Champlain College and CATMA to complete Greenride Bikeshare fleet expansion and conversion to E-Bikes; assisted with and supported municipal applications to state bike/ped grant programs; assisted with South Burlington's RAISE grant application for a bike/ped bridge near I-89 Exit 14; coordinated with VTrans and Local Motion to relocate electronic bike lockers from Winooski to Exit 11 Park and Ride; promoted TDM strategies to municipalities and businesses; compiled Complete Streets data for Chittenden County municipalities; and, conducted bike/ped counts on paths, bike lanes and roadways.
- Assisted municipalities with Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) tasks and submitted Road Erosion Inventory (REI) data for all municipalities in the county to the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- Provided Annual Traffic Alert communications outreach program.

## **Objective #2: Better Connect Federal, Regional and Statewide Transportation Planning**

**Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):** The 2018 MTP was adopted by the CCRPC Board June of 2018 (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-metropolitan-transportation-plan/>).

**Municipal Transportation Plans:** 18 municipalities have current municipal plans that include an updated transportation component. In FY21, the CCRPC assisted two (2) municipalities with the transportation element of their municipal plan.

**Act-250 and Section 248 Reviews:** CCRPC staff reviewed all applications in Chittenden County but participated only in major applications and a small number of minor ones with potentially significant impacts. In FY21, the CCRPC provided transportation related comments for three (3) Act-250 applications and two (2) Section 248 applications.

**Coordination with Public Transit Providers:** Staff participated in regional public transit planning activities including:

- The Elderly & People with Disabilities program advisory committee
- GMT's ADA Advisory Committee
- United Way's Neighbor Rides (volunteer driver program) Advisory Committee
- Tri-Town Transportation Study
- Future of Rural Transit Study
- Tilley Drive Transit

**RPC participation in VTrans committees:** A list of committees that the CCRPC staff participated in is provided below:

- Public Transit Advisory Council
- Rail Advisory Council
- VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization (VPSP2) Core Group

- State Rail Plan
- State Freight Plan Advisory Committee
- Vermont Highway Safety Alliance
- Way to Go! Challenge
- Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) working group

**Project Prioritization:** The CCRPC prioritizes Capital Projects on the state's Transportation Program once a year. In addition, the CCRPC has a representative on the Core Team for the VPSP2 prioritization effort.

### **Objective #3: Provide Technical Assistance to Municipalities**

During FY21, the CCRPC hosted regional transportation meetings; initiated, managed, and was involved in major regional and local transportation plans, studies, and initiatives; provided technical assistance and support to municipalities and partners on transportation issues. Please see below for more information on these activities.

**Road Foreman Meetings:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CCRPC did not host their usual Spring Road Foreman Meeting. CCRPC staff shared events and funding opportunities throughout the year as appropriate.

**Assistance with Transportation Grants:** Staff assisted municipalities and provided letters of support for 14 grant applications including Better Roads, VTrans Transportation Alternatives, and VTrans Bike/Ped grants.

**Budget Spent on Municipal Assistance:** The CCRPC invests approximately 70% of MPO funding for municipal assistance.

#### **CCRPC Data Collection in FY21:**

- Two (2) Pavement Inventories, one (1) Stop/Speed Limit Sign Inventory, and eight (8) updates to Culvert Inventories.
- Complete Streets Inventory.
- While the CCRPC's transportation count program was limited in FY21 due to Covid-19, 4 ATR counts and 17 Bike/Ped were collected.

**Participation in Transportation Planning and Project Development Activities:** Below is the list of Planning Assistance, Project Definition (Scoping), water quality/transportation planning and Municipal Construction Projects (Local Project Management: LPM) that the CCRPC managed in FY21:

- Railyard Enterprise Supplemental Scoping Project (Burlington)
- Burlington Property Transportation Plan
- City Center Parking & Movement Plan (So. Burlington)
- Intermodal Facilities and Official Map (Williston)
- Winooski Parking Inventory, Analysis, and Management Plan
- Update to So. Burlington Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance
- Transportation Impact Fee Study (Winooski)
- North Williston Road Traffic Calming Evaluation (Williston)
- City of Burlington School District School Travel Plans and Traffic Control Plans
- Huntington Bridge Improvement & Maintenance Plan
- CCRPC Bicycle Count Program Evaluation and Data Analysis

- Lake Street Stormwater and Sidewalk Feasibility Study (Burlington)
- Bikeway Connectivity, Pedestrian Safety, and Stormwater Management in the Old North End (Burlington)
- River Road/Pleasant Valley Road Bicyclist Accommodation and Pavement Analysis (Underhill)
- Exit 17 Park & Ride Supplemental Evaluation (Colchester)
- Burlington Winooski Avenue Corridor Study - Phase 3
- Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study
- Bridge Street Complete Streets Corridor Study (Richmond)
- Lower Village Supplemental Scoping (Huntington)
- Multiuse Path Connecting Williston to South Burlington - Supplemental Scoping
- Queen City Park Road/Austin Drive Bike and Pedestrian Connections Scoping
- Colchester Avenue Protected Bike Lanes and East Avenue Intersection Safety Improvements (Burlington)
- Tanglewood Drive Shared-Use Path and Stormwater Scoping Project (Essex)
- Richmond Road Intersection Scoping (Hinesburg)
- Jericho Riverside Village Sidewalk Scoping Study
- Jericho Bolger Hill Road Supplemental Scoping
- So. Burlington Swift St/Spear St Intersection Feasibility Study
- Williston VT2A Connector Path Scoping Study
- Right-of-Way Condition Inventory for Stormwater Retrofit Feasibility – Phase 1 (Burlington)
- Essex Town and Essex junction Stormwater CCTV Inspection
- Town of Williston Phosphorus Control Plan
- City of Winooski Phosphorus Control Plan (Phase 2)
- Inspection and Inventory of Existing Stormwater System (Winooski)
- Colchester Stormwater Condition Assessment (Phase 2)
- Huntington MRGP Implementation Plan
- Milton Phosphorus Control Plan
- Shelburne Phosphorus Control Plan
- LPM services for Underhill sidewalk construction on VT 15
- LPM services for Hinesburg Village South VT 116 sidewalk design and construction
- LPM services for Shelburne for the Irish Hill Road sidewalk and pedestrian bridge project

The CCRPC managed the following multimodal Corridor and Area-wide Studies:

- Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study
- Kimball Ave/Kennedy Dr/Old Farm Rd/Tilley Drive/VT 116 Transportation Needs Analysis (South Burlington)
- Winooski Avenue Corridor Study (Burlington)
- Richmond Bike/Ped/Trails Master Plan – Phase 1
- Close the Gaps in Regional Bike Facilities

The CCRPC was also involved in the following Transportation Demand Management (TDM) initiatives and studies:

- Annual Way to Go! School Challenge to encourage non-single occupant vehicle travel and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits, with a focus on schools but program



updates and a spring event open to all Vermonters in response to COVID-19 impacts ([www.WayToGoVT.org](http://www.WayToGoVT.org)).

- Provided funding to CATMA, CarShare Vermont, Local Motion, UVM TRC, and Old Spokes Home for TDM projects and technical assistance.
- Since 2013, the CCRPC has been investing in United Way's Neighbor Rides program 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 option. In FY21, this program shifted its focus to work with community partners on a more collaborative volunteer driver strategy. However, as the Covid-19 pandemic evolved, this goal was revised to focus on integrating health and safety strategies within the program.

**Road Erosion Inventories in Support of Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP):** Completed road erosion inventories (REI) for all 19 municipalities in Chittenden County. Staff updated REI data for 17 municipalities based on information from municipalities and site visits.

#### **Objective #4: Advance VTrans Strategic and Long-Range Transportation Plans**

**CCRPC Data Collection Activities Conducted Specifically for VTrans:** CCRPC staff conducted the following activities in support of VTrans' Plans:

- 17 bike/ped specific counts
- 4 ATRs
- 19 Park & Ride counts (9 State & 10 Municipal)
- Reviewed and updated MIRE data in 18 municipalities (excluding Buel's Gore)
- Staff collected information from each municipality on new bicycle and sidewalk facilities and added them to the regional map. CCRPC updates its regional bike/ped database annually and has recently migrated the database schema to be consistent with VTrans' standards.

#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & 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 when needed, administrative support to the Local Emergency Planning Committees, and coordination among responders and planners throughout the State's four Public Safety Districts. RPCs also help update floodplain bylaws and FEMA-required hazard mitigation plans, coordinate updates to municipal emergency operations plans and assisted as needed in special circumstances like Tropical Storm Irene and other disasters.

- **COVID:** During the unprecedented time of global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CCRPC staff worked extensively with municipalities, state health officials, and the public to relay important updates, resources, and general information about the pandemic. A COVID-19 Municipal Response webpage was developed and maintained (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/covid-19/>). CCRPC staff assisted Chittenden County municipalities with applications for the Local Government Expense Reimbursement (LGER) grant program to help cover the cost of eligible COVID-19 expenses such as supplies, facility alterations and overtime compensation.
- **FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation:** CCRPC collected information from each municipality on annual implementation of hazard mitigation activities recommended in the County and Municipal All-Hazard Mitigation Plans.

- **Local Emergency Management Plans:** 19 out of 19 (100%) municipalities in the CCRPC region currently have completed their updated local emergency management plan. CCRPC is working with Buel's Gore to complete the LEMP signature page. Once that is submitted to VEM all Chittenden County municipalities will have adopted LEMPS.
- **Local Emergency Planning Committee:** CCRPC hosted the final meetings of Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 1, <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/local-emergency-planning-committee/>) and worked with the state on the transition to a statewide LEPC starting in July 2021.
- **Local Liaison:** CCRPC served as a key coordinator between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events.
- **Hazardous Materials:** Helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents by exported the Tier data for Chittenden County from Tier II Submit to a table format and provided a list of facilities and chemicals to each EMD in the county.

## 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.

- **Town-Specific Web Maps:** Updated/created interactive town-specific web maps, story maps, and dashboards for Bolton, Buel's Gore, Charlotte, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, South Burlington, Underhill, Westford, and Winooski. Developed a map-based survey tool for the Burlington School District's Travel Plan to collect information on travel concerns for the district's 9 school campuses.
- **Regional Web Maps:** Created an interactive map of regional bike facilities. Created a story map, web map and dashboard for the Lewis Creek Association's South Chittenden River Watch. Created a regional map depicting broadband status in the region. Updated the ECOS Map Viewer, River Corridor Planning map viewer, and Permit Review map viewer with more current data.
- **Town Plan Maps:** Created wall-size maps for Westford.
- **GIS Data:** Developed or updated numerous GIS datasets (ash tree inventories, zoning, , culverts, housing points, , scenic resources, state designations, , trails, conserved land, utilities, etc.) for Bolton, Burlington, Charlotte, Colchester, , Hinesburg, Jericho, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Underhill, Westford, Williston and Winooski. Utilized ESRI's Business Analyst tool to provide Williston, Essex, and Milton with demographic and employment information.
- **Colchester Map Service:** Continued to provide updates to their map service which links to the Town's VueWorks Asset Management system.
- **Winooski Map Service:** Continued to provide updates to the map service which links to Winooski's NexGen Asset Management system.
- **Regional Conservation Area Project:** Continued to participate in the Champlain Valley Partnership and provide mapping support. The CVP partnership continues to work on inventorying and mapping conserved areas using the Vermont Center for Geographic Information's Protected Land data standard.
- **Data available via Vermont Open Data Portal:** Uploaded housing points, regional future land use, municipal zoning and overlay data to the portal to allow public access to the GIS data.

- **VOBCIT:** CCRPC continues to work with partners to improve, enhance and support the VOBCIT website (<https://vtculverts.org>).

## ENERGY CONSERVATION & 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.

- **Regional Energy Plan:** The *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan* was granted an Affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance by the Department of Public Service on August 9, 2018. CCRPC has increased participation in PUC proceedings (applications for Certificates of Public Good and various investigations) to ensure that local and regional policies are recognized. CCRPC participated in 3 PUC proceedings in FY21.
- **Municipal Energy Plans:** The CCRPC board granted affirmative determinations of energy compliance to enhanced energy plans in Westford and Williston. Eleven municipalities have adopted enhanced energy plans and three municipalities have plans in development (Hinesburg, Underhill and South Burlington).
- **Energy Planning Implementation:** The CCRPC participated in implementation activities funded by Efficiency Vermont which include Weatherization Wednesdays, a Button-Up Vermont event, statewide RPC roundtables, energy data reporting and training, energy committee technical assistance, and electric vehicle education webinars. Assisted the Charlotte energy committee members and town staff regarding the process for supporting net-metered preferred sites.
- **State Energy Planning:** CCRPC participated in conversations to assist the Vermont Climate Council committees in their work. CCRPC has provided input into the state Comprehensive Energy Plan update; and assisted in hosting a local input meeting. CCRPC commented on VELCO's draft Long Range Transportation Plan. CCRPC has also participated in a working group to update Act 174 standards for regional and municipal energy plans.

## WATERSHED PLANNING & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

RPCs work with the Agency of Natural Resources to assist with completion of the EPA-required watershed tactical basin plans. RPCs also work with municipalities to implement river corridor assessments in local planning and regulations for better and safer growth management decisions.

- **Clean Water:** The CCRPC's water quality initiatives help to safeguard our clean drinking water, support our recreation and tourism industry, and make our municipalities more resilient to flood events. The CCRPC continues to host the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>) and provide guidance for the Vermont Clean Water Fund. CCRPC staff also joined the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee, participated in Vermont Clean Water Network meetings, assisted municipalities with developing stormwater master plans and implementing Clean Water Block Grant projects, supported education programs such as the Rethink Runoff (<http://www.rethinkrunoff.org>), assisted with watershed resiliency mapping,

participated in water quality-focused policy discussions, and was appointed by the Vermont DEC to become the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages, Basin (5). As the Basin 5 CWSP, the CCRPC will oversee the development and implementation of non-regulatory water quality improvement projects that reduce phosphorus loading into these streams and Lake Champlain.

- **Block Grants:** Through funding provided by the DEC and administered by the Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission, the CCRPC managed Clean Water Block Grants to implement the following stormwater projects: in Jericho, design of two stormwater infiltration best management practices for Jericho Center; in Winooski, design of an upgrade to an existing outfall experiencing severe erosion on Elm Street. The CCRPC also secured a Design Implementation Block Grant for Shelburne and Milton.
- **Water Quality Outreach:** CCRPC is managing, with all RPCs as sub-grantees, a grant provided from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct a multi-pronged outreach effort focused on improving water quality in compliance with the Vermont Clean Water Act (VCWA). CCRPC continues work with municipal staff and boards to provide information about the requirements for municipalities triggered by the VCWA and also work with them on options such as stronger municipal protections against flood hazards and river corridor erosion, stormwater master planning, and other town plan or zoning changes to improve water quality. CCRPC completed assistance on the final Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages Tactical Basin Plan.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** CRRPC staff continues 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. Staff also assists municipalities with the State's Grants in Aid (GIA) program, which allocates money to participating towns for stormwater improvements related to the MRGP. In FY2021, 13 Chittenden County municipalities signed up to participate in the GIA program; an estimated 38 non-compliant segments will be upgraded using the allocated \$253,000. CCRPC staff wrote letters of support and assisted six municipalities (Bolton, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Milton, Richmond, Williston) with FY21 **Better Roads** grants to secure funding for erosion control and maintenance activities that protect and enhance water quality around our region. The CCRPC also provided funding to municipalities through the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for inspection and inventory of their stormwater system, development of Phosphorus Control Plans (PCPs) for MS4 communities and conceptual plans for transportation-related water quality projects on local roads.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Racial Equity & Public Engagement:** Achieving a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous future for Chittenden County is the vision of our Regional ECOS Plan. However, the ECOS partners know we cannot achieve that future without addressing the systemic racism in our community. While addressing inequity has been one of the eight key strategies in the ECOS Plan since 2013, there is much work to be done. Throughout the past fiscal year, CCRPC staff have started to plan for the update of the **2014 Public Participation Plan (PPP)**: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/> with a renewed focus on analyzing inequities in all sectors of our work to ensure that we actively eliminate barriers

and foster an inclusive and meaningful public engagement for all planning and policy work we do – this meaningful engagement is the foundation that leads to actions that meet the needs of our diverse community. In FY20, the CCRPC continued to address issues related to racial and economic disparities through the following actions:

- Hiring a consultant, Creative Discourse, to address racial equity within the organization.
  - Established a CCRPC Racial Equity Leadership Team.
  - Facilitating, providing, and/or taking advantage of educational opportunities for our staff, municipalities, and other local and regional partners that address inequities and advance anti-racism efforts.
  - Strengthening existing relationships and partnerships and forging new ones with Vermont organizations working to advance anti-racism efforts.
  - In FY21 we will be holding an Equity Summit and examining our organization's policies, practices, culture, and services through the lens of anti-racism and white privilege to ensure they reflect our commitment to racial justice.
- **Building Homes Together:** The Building Homes Together campaign was initiated by the CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust, and Housing Vermont (now Evernorth) in 2016. The campaign, supported by over a hundred local and state officials, nonprofits, businesses, and individuals, set a five-year goal of 3,500 new homes in Chittenden County with 20% of them permanently affordable. This amounts to an annual target of 700 overall homes with 140 affordable; the average over the first four years is 787 homes, and only 112 of them affordable. While the 2020 annual progress report showed continued overall success in new housing being created, there is still a persistent lack of affordable homes in our region. More information can be found at <http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together/>.
  - **Public Health:** CCRPC staff continues to be engaged with substance use prevention by participating in the Vermont Department of Health's Regional Prevention Partnership (RPP) grant. The RPP activities are led by the United Way of Northwest Vermont and focus on developing a strategic plan that will lay the groundwork for a regional prevention network in Northwest Vermont. In response to remote work, education, health care, and other needs prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, the CCRPC has been assisting state agencies and municipalities with a number of pandemic-related planning efforts through the following actions:
    - Identification of locations with free public Wi-Fi for access to the internet.
    - Support with COVID-19 information sharing between Vermont Emergency Management, municipalities, and other partners.
    - Participation in the Governor's COVID press conferences and Vermont Emergency Management's municipal official meetings.

## ADMINISTRATION & FUNDING

The CCRPC receives most of its funding through performance-based grants and contracts with the state. Town assessments constitute a small but very important percentage of our funding. Individual municipalities also contribute match dollars for some federally funded transportation planning projects within their own borders. For the 2021 fiscal year, the CCRPC's total revenue of over \$4.8 million dollars was derived from about 74% federally funded grants, 14.7% state funding, and 10.6% from

municipalities. Nearly \$2.6 million, over 50% of the total funding, was passed through to consultants or sub-grantees.

All of the CCRPC's revenue sources are tied to federal, state, or municipal agreements 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 (UPWP). Municipal dues, and the funding received through the CCRPC's performance agreement 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, public health, and natural resources. Revenue from federal and state grantors typically 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. The federal single audit field work was conducted in September 2021, with the full report to be completed by November 2021.

### **'AT WORK' MAP**

The map depicting the range of services provided by the CCRPC to member municipalities is included on the next page.