

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, October 6, 2021
TIME: 6:00 PM
PLACE: CCRPC Offices; 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202; Winooski, VT 05404 and
REMOTE ATTENDANCE via ZOOM MEETING VIDEO

PRESENT:

Bolton:	Sharon Murray	Buel's Gore:	Garret Mott
Burlington:	Andy Montroll	Burlington:	Max Schindler (Alt.)
Charlotte:	Dana Hanley	Charlotte:	Deidre Holmes (Alt.)
Colchester:	Jacki Murphy	Essex:	Jeff Carr
Essex Junction:	Jeff Carr (Alt.)	Hinesburg:	Andrea Morgante (Alt.)
Huntington:	Barbara Elliott	Jericho:	Catherine McMains
Jericho:	Wayne Howe (Alt.)	Milton:	Tony Micklus
Richmond:	Bard Hill	St. George:	Absent
Shelburne:	Absent	So. Burlington:	Chris Shaw
Underhill:	Kurt Johnson	Westford:	Absent
Williston:	Andy Watts	Winooski:	Mike O'Brien
Cons/Env.:	Don Meals	VTrans:	Amy Bell
VTrans:	Matthew Langham	Bus/Ind:	Absent
GMT:	Absent	Agriculture:	Absent
Socio/Econ/Housing:	Absent		

Others: Kevin Harms, CCTV Susan McCormack, Creative Discourse
Dr. Nadia Mitchell, Creative Discourse

Staff:

Charlie Baker, Executive Director	Regina Mahony, Planning Program Mgr.
Eleni Churchill, Trans. Program Mgr.	Forest Cohen, Senior Business Mgr.
Amy Irvin Witham, Business Office Mgr.	Christine Forde, Senior Trans. Planner
Dan Albrecht, Senior Planner	Ann Janda, Senior Energy Proj. Mgr
Bryan Davis, Senior Trans Planner	Marshall Distel, Senior Trans Planner
Chris Dubin, Senior Trans. Planner	Jason Charest, Senior Trans Engineer
Pam Brangan, GIS & IT Mgr.	Sai Sarepalli, Senior Trans Engineer
Taylor Newton, Senior Planner	Melanie Needle, Senior Planner

1. Call to order; Attendance; Changes to the Agenda.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by the Chair, Catherine McMains.

There were two changes to the agenda. First, the addition of a TIP Amendment as Item 3.a in place of the consent agenda. The VPSP2 update was moved up to item 3.b.

2. Public Comment Period on Items NOT on the Agenda. There were none.

3. A. TIP Amendment, MPO Business.

1 Christine Forde referred members to the memo they received in a separate e-mail prior to the
2 meeting. She explained this is on the TIP as a rail-bridge project and is the rehab of an existing
3 structure. The project is part of the work that needs to be done for the Amtrak extension to
4 Burlington and is on the critical path. Christine asked Matthew Langham from VTrans to elaborate.
5 Matthew explained the project is being funded with western corridor earmark funds and is not
6 subject to fiscal constraint. Dana from Charlotte asked if there are any concerns with environmental
7 and water quality issues with the repair that is taking place. Matthew answered, no; when the work
8 on the culvert is being done measures will be taken to ensure water quality is maintained. Andrea
9 Morgante said she appreciates this as well as the explanation of the costs associated with this
10 project. She said there have been a lot of water quality assessments and this had been identified as
11 an undersized structure. She feels it is important that all interested parties understand the poor
12 condition of our railways and bridges throughout Vermont and feels we need to be addressing these
13 issues. She wants awareness brought to these structures to ensure we are not compromising safety.
14 Bard wonders if the topic of the safety and condition of rail structures could be an agenda item to
15 discuss at another time. Members agreed. The requested FY21 TIP Amendment is as follows:

- 16 • **Charlotte Rail Bridge over Thorp Brook, Project RR008, Amendment FY22-07.** Add
17 \$470,715 in Federal funds for the construction in FY21. This project will repair and repoint
18 an existing stone culvert and repair the headwall. The FY22-25 TIP has construction funding
19 in the FY23 budget, but the project is ready to advance to construction in FY22.
20

21 BARBARA ELLIOTT MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY ANDY MONTROLL, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED
22 TIP AMENDMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY MPO MEMBERS.
23

24 3. B. VPSP2 Update

25 Charlie referred members to the VPSP2 memo included with the packet. He wanted to make sure
26 everyone had a chance to review because it will be an action item at the next Board Meeting to be
27 held on October 20th, 2021.
28

29 4. Equity Training, The Creative Discourse Group.

30 Charlie and Catherine introduced Sue McCormack and Dr. Nadia Mitchell, our Diversity, Equity, and
31 Inclusion (DEI) consultants from The Creative Discourse Group. Nadia said she has been working
32 with CCRPC as well as other organizations within our community. She said her team likes to focus
33 the work on group engagement and have had a nice journey with the CCRPC. They are excited to
34 continue to share in this journey with us. Sue said she lives in Essex Junction with her wife and has
35 two grown daughters. Like Nadia, Sue said she is also excited about the partnership with CCRPC and
36 wants to help us find better ways to engage with the community. She explained, when these
37 connections go well, new relationships and innovations that may not have seemed possible before
38 can happen.
39

40 Sue and Nadia reminded everyone this will be the first of two trainings, and the second session is
41 scheduled for the October 20, 2021, Board Meeting. Sue went on to provide a presentation with
42 members and an outline of the format for tonight's session:
43

- 44 • Welcome
- 45 • Session Context & Overview
- 46 • Personal Journey – Becoming Aware of Race
- 47 • A History of Injustice

- 1 • The Legacy of Racist Planning Decisions: An Introduction
- 2 • Closing Reflection

3
4 Sue explained, when we are successful in creating equity for one group, it often benefits many other
5 groups of people within a community. She explained this work is very important right now and
6 reminded everyone the City of Burlington and the CDC both declared Racial Inequities a public
7 health emergency. She shared an excerpt from our ECOS Plan and the CCRPC website regarding our
8 Racial Equity work:

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10 “Achieving a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous future for Chittenden County is the vision of our
11 regional ECOS Plan. However, we know we cannot achieve that future without addressing the
12 systemic racism and inequities in our community... We at CCRPC are committed to working
13 through the racial and economic disparities in our community together with our member
14 municipalities, partner organizations, employers, and residents.”

15
16 Sue said tonight’s learning session will start from a personal lens, but at the next session we will look
17 at the issues in a systemic and statistical way. Nadia said having personal conversations can be
18 tricky, as it can be a challenge to know if we are saying the right thing. There are shifts and changes
19 in how we think about inclusion and diversity and equity. She said Creative Discourse heard this
20 loud and clear in the work we have done together so far.

21
22 Nadia went on to share the Saturday Night Live skit “Black Jeopardy” with everyone. After viewing,
23 Nadia asked members what they noticed about the video and Sue asked if anyone noticed changes
24 in the characters’ body language as the skit went on? Members discussed how they gradually
25 became more comfortable with one another and more accepting of perceived differences. Chris
26 Shaw said he thought the characters were trying to find commonality between all. Sue and Nadia
27 stated once common ground is found, it won’t be linear. There could still be awkwardness and
28 moments of discomfort, but we can lean into these moments and move into a better place. Wayne
29 Howe said he feels when cultural perspectives can be shared, we may be more likely to meet others
30 in the middle. Sue agreed and said it is nice to see each other’s humanity before we engage in social
31 discussions.

32
33 Sue and Nadia created small break out groups of 3 to 4 people to discuss and share information
34 from the Personal Journey Timeline and the History of Racial injustice calendar items that were
35 included in the packet.

36
37 The Personal Journey Timeline: Becoming Aware of Race asked the following questions:

- 38 • When did you first realize you were considered by others to have a particular racial identity?
- 39 • What were you taught about other people’s races?
- 40 • What are your earliest memories of interacting with people of a different racial identity?
- 41 • Where and when did you first experience or witness an act of racism?
- 42 • Where and when was the first time you intervened during an act of racism?

43
44
45 Members joined their breakout groups for 15 minutes to discuss findings from the Personal Journey
46 Timeline exercise and came back together for a large group discussion. Mike O’Brien said he was
47 part of Room 9 with Forest and Marshall. He stated they all had a hard time pinpointing the exact

1 time they acknowledged racial identity, but Mike felt television played a role in how he noticed race.
2 Wayne said he moved to Vermont from New York and within the white community he said the
3 French Canadians were singled out. Sue said she has had the opportunity to facilitate many
4 conversations about race and explained how many of us have had experiences in our childhood
5 where race played a part of shaping us and our views.
6

7 Sue said we would move into work about systemic racism. Members joined a second 15 minute
8 breakout group to discuss findings from the History of Racial injustice calendar with examples of
9 injustice that occurred during their birth month. After the breakout groups, members came back
10 together for a large group discussion. Sue asked everyone how they felt policy and government
11 played a part in the injustice? Nadia asked if there were any connections to planning that the CCRPC
12 does? Mike O'Brien said his group discussed how there continues to be racism despite historical
13 knowledge, education, and media reports. Jacki Murphy said in 2009 there was a KKK group that
14 violently protested the having a black neighborhood too close to a white neighborhood. Kurt said
15 these instances are shocking and horrific and it is long overdue that racist views and prejudices go
16 away. He said we need major change, and this shouldn't be our reality in the 21st century. Members
17 shared various experiences with racism. Nadia asked how we engage personally, as individuals, with
18 these experiences we are hearing about and what are the implications of the history of racism, in
19 the moment that we are in right now? Wayne Howe stated, it is not anti-American, rather it is
20 American to be working to make these important changes, that we, as Americans are strong enough
21 to do this work. Garret agreed with Wayne, he feels America is strong enough to do this work and
22 he feels the forces actively fighting against advancements in unification, justice, and equity, is the
23 worry. Should these be groups be exposed or should we ignore them? Does acknowledgement add
24 fuel to their fires? Sue agreed; there are instances of people becoming more aware of progress
25 being made and actively working against it.
26

27 Sue mentioned how the book Caste, by Isabel Wilkerson, highlights the history of racism in America
28 and likens it to owning an old house, where there are always repairs and a lot of work to be done.
29 Nadia said we will come back this this topic at our next session to discuss new ways to approach our
30 systems. We will have conversations about systemic racism, housing issues and redlining. Nadia
31 thanked everyone for a great session and said she and Sue look forward to more discussions at our
32 next Board Meeting. Catherine and Charlie thanked Nadia and Sue for joining us and presenting us
33 with the activities.
34

35 5. Committee member review/volunteers

36 Catherine referred members to the memo included with the packet and reviewed the FY2022
37 Regional Board members. Charlie stated he is working on filling the Socio-Economic-Housing spot
38 since Justin Dextrateur has moved out of state. He wanted to recognize Justin as he was on the
39 board for 20 years.

40 MIKE O'BRIEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY GARRET MOTT, TO APPROVE THE REGIONAL BOARD
41 MEMBER APPOINTMENTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

42 Catherine reviewed the Committee Appointments. She noted there are still a few open spots on the
43 Board Development Committee, The UPWP Committee, TAC Interest Group, Disabled, Long Range
44 Planning, Brownfields Advisory, and the All Hazards Mitigation Plan committees. Andy Montroll said
45 he would like to volunteer to join the Board Development Committee and the Long Range Planning
46 Committee. Charlie noted Max Schindler, also from Burlington, volunteered for the Long Range
47 Planning Committee too. Members agreed it was fine for both Max and Andy to serve on the LRPC.
48 Dan said the AHMP will wrap up in the spring and should have only a few more meetings.

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CHAIR CATHERINE MCMAINS APPROVED THE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS, AS THERE WAS NO OBJECTION FROM THE BOARD.

6. Chair/Executive Director Report

Charlie referred members to the Building Homes Together news release and infographics included with their packets. He said the press release went out last week (September 27). The information provides a summary of the Building Homes Together five year campaign. Regina thanked Melanie for the detailed data over the last five years and Emma for creating the infographics. The information highlighted included: Total New Home Construction, Chittenden County Vacancy Rates and Affordable Housing Goals. Regina reminded everyone the information is also on the ECOS page on our website.

Charlie also thanked members for their attendance and patience with holding multiple meetings over the past few weeks.

7. Committee/Liaison Activities & Reports. Catherine noted the minutes for our committees are included with the packet and as links to the online documents. (Executive/Finance Committee, TAC, PAC, CWAC MS4 Sub-Committee and Equity Leadership Team).

8. Future Agenda Topics: There were none.

9. Members' Items, Other business. There were none.

10. Adjournment. JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MIKE O'BRIEN, TO ADJOURN THE BOARD MEETING AT 7:58 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Irvin Witham