

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
3 FINAL
4

5 DATE: Wednesday, October 20, 2021
6 TIME: 6:00 PM
7 PLACE: CCRPC Offices; 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202; Winooski, VT 05404 and
8 REMOTE ATTENDANCE via ZOOM MEETING VIDEO
9

10 PRESENT: Bolton: Absent Buel's Gore: Garret Mott
11 Burlington: Andy Montroll Charlotte: Dana Hanley
12 Colchester: Jacki Murphy Essex: Jeff Carr
13 Essex Junction: Dan Kerin Hinesburg: Mike Bissonette
14 Huntington: Barbara Elliott
15 Jericho: Catherine McMains Jericho: Wayne Howe (Alt.)
16 Milton: Tony Micklus Richmond: Bard Hill
17 St. George: Absent Shelburne: John Zicconi
18 So. Burlington: Chris Shaw Underhill: Brad Holden
19 Underhill: Kurt Johnson Westford: Absent
20 Williston: Andy Watts Winooski: Mike O'Brien
21 Cons/Env.: Absent VTrans: Amy Bell
22 Bus/Ind: Absent GMT: Absent
23 Agriculture: Absent Socio/Econ/Housing: Absent
24
25 Others: Dr. Nadia Mitchell, Creative Discourse Susan McCormack, Creative Discourse
26 Kevin Harms, CCTV
27
28 Staff: Charlie Baker, Executive Director Regina Mahony, Planning Program Mgr.
29 Eleni Churchill, Trans. Program Mgr. Forest Cohen, Senior Business Mgr.
30 Amy Irvin Witham, Business Office Mgr. Christine Forde, Senior Trans. Planner
31 Dan Albrecht, Senior Planner Ann Janda, Senior Energy Project. Mgr.
32 Bryan Davis, Senior Trans Planner Marshall Distel, Senior Trans Planner
33 Chris Dubin, Senior Trans. Planner Jason Charest, Senior Trans Engineer
34 Pam Brangan, GIS & IT Mgr. Taylor Newton, Senior Planner
35 Emma Vaughn, Communications Mgr.
36

- 37 1. Call to order; Attendance; Changes to the Agenda.
38 The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by the Chair, Catherine McMains. She let everyone
39 know Charlie would join the meeting a little late.
40
41 2. Public Comment Period on Items NOT on the Agenda. There were none.
42
43 3. Action on Consent Agenda. There were none.
44
45 4. Equity Training, The Creative Discourse Group.
46 Catherine introduced Sue McCormack and Dr. Nadia Mitchell, our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
47 (DEI) consultants from Creative Discourse Group. Sue said this was the second of two trainings; the
48 first session was held October 6. She reminded everyone the Equity Summit is scheduled for

1 Saturday, November 6, 2021. Sue explained their work with the CCRPC has been very engaging so
2 far. They know that we are committed on working with the people in our communities to create
3 new ways of thinking. Sue explained the first session focused on personal views, whereas this focus
4 was to address racial equity in a systemic and statistical way. She provided a presentation to
5 members and an outline of the format for session two:
6

- 7 • Welcome & Overview
- 8 • The Legacy of Racist Planning Decisions
- 9 • Analysis of Structural Inequities - Addressing Systemic Inequities
- 10 • Closing Reflection

11
12 Sue explained, they do understand these conversations could be uncomfortable, however, it is
13 important to be open in our dialogue with others. Sharing experiences and leaning into the difficult
14 conversations is an important step in the process.
15

16 Nadia addressed the group and explained, to understand the CCRPC's work in terms of equity, it is
17 very important to understand the history of inequities and systemic racism. Nadia went on to share
18 a video on the legacy of racist planning decisions. The video provided an overview on housing
19 segregation, the history of redlining in America, and highlighted the interconnectedness between
20 housing, healthcare, school systems, and the justice system.
21

22 Nadia explained, much of the generational wealth American families experience came from home
23 ownership. Home ownership is an area where black people were completely excluded. Due to this
24 exclusion, white families have been able to accumulate more wealth. Redlining is the discriminatory
25 practice of denying financial services to residents of certain areas based on race. Redlining and
26 zoning laws kept new housing developments entirely white.
27

28 Nadia stated this practice also occurs in Vermont, where zoning continues to discourage multifamily
29 and low-income housing. She shared a slide that included excerpts from the original covenants for
30 Mayfair Park and the Birchwood subdivision in South Burlington. The covenants stated, "No persons
31 of any race other than the white race shall use or occupy any building or any lot [...] except that this
32 does not prevent occupancy of domestic servants of a different race domiciled with an owner or
33 tenant." Nadia said segregation affects every aspect of our lives. Nadia let members know she
34 understands embarking on this journey can feel overwhelming and having these conversations can
35 be difficult. She also understands our desire to jump into a place of doing something. She reminded
36 everyone an important part of the process is to understand the history of how we arrived at this
37 place. Sue and Nadia created small break out groups of 3 to 4 people to discuss and share thoughts
38 on the video, and asked us to think about answering the following questions:
39

- 40 • What stood out to you about the video?
- 41 • What were some things that were surprising to you?
- 42 • Can you draw a connection between housing segregation, schools, the justice system, and
43 the health system?
- 44 • What ways can this knowledge inform the CCRPC's Equity work?

45
46 Members joined their breakout groups for the 15 minutes discussion exercises and came back
47 together for a large group discussion. Dana Hanley said she has been at community meetings where
48 people openly discourage development of multifamily housing and affordable single-family housing,

1 that they wanted price points to remain high enough to prohibit lower income housing. Bard feels
2 moving from a performative to practical phase is very difficult. Chris Shaw said this does feel like a
3 confirmation bias, which is what happens when a person feels confident their view is correct.
4 Member discussion continued. Garret said in the early seventies he volunteered at two separate
5 hospitals in Lawrence Massachusetts. One of the locations was in the white part of town and the
6 other was not. The difference in funding and services between the two hospitals was enormous.
7 Regina said she was not surprised much of the video, mostly because she read the book The Color of
8 Law, by Richard Rothstein, which explains many of these themes. However, the video did make her
9 think differently about the role of the justice system and policing in certain neighborhoods. Tony
10 Micklus said as a realtor, some of his training has focused on fair housing. However, he is interested
11 in how to help break perpetual cycles of poverty, he asked how can we help teach people it doesn't
12 have to continue? Nadia thanked everyone for their comments. She also addressed Tony, and said,
13 rather than asking how to teach people to break the cycle, could this be an opportunity to ask
14 ourselves how we can break cycles of poverty?
15

16 Sue explained many systems of inequity were put into place very specifically so that white people
17 could keep hold of the power while black people worked without any pay to build the country.
18 However, this system did not just negatively impact black people, it also negatively impacted low-
19 income white people. She reminded everyone we can't do a true analysis without a background
20 understanding of these systemic practices of racism. Instead, we will take a race first approach to
21 understand these systems, but we don't end with race. We want to understand how the systems
22 affect everyone. Ann said she feels our elected public officials would benefit from training on the
23 Fair Housing Act. Nadia said we will expand on many themes in this dialogue at the November 6th
24 Equity Training Summit.
25

26 Sue returned to the presentation and shared a slide featuring the following quote:
27 "Systems change is about shifting the conditions that are holding the problem in place" from The
28 Water of Systems Change, FSG, John Kania, Mark Kramer, and Peter Senge.
29

30 Sue continued with the presentation and said when she began this work one of the perceptions is
31 that people are not involved or engaged: "Meetings are inaccessible and poorly attended by
32 underrepresented populations of people. There is too much jargon, a digital divide, and a lack of
33 translated materials. This is perpetuating marginalization of diverse peoples' voices and
34 experiences." Sue asked why this is difficult to change? She went on to explain there are many
35 things adding to structural racism and inequities, including:
36

- 37 • Personal - biases, beliefs, attitudes, and actions.
- 38 • Cultural - formal and informal practices.
- 39 • Institutional – policies and procedures
40

41 These informal practices can create a lot of barriers. At the institutional level there are policies and
42 procedure that keep things inequitable. The question is, how do we show up as leaders in our
43 county, as municipal leaders, when engaging with people who are underrepresented?
44

- 45 • When you think about trying to create more equitable opportunities for people to have a
46 voice in decisions that impact them, what personal attitudes and beliefs impact your ability
47 to imagine or implement a different way of achieving this?

- 1 • What holds you back from building relationships with people in your community you don't
2 often hear from?
3

4 Sue said we tend to externalize this work and it requires a mindset shift in how we think about
5 ourselves, our roles and what is possible. She encouraged everyone to think about what personal
6 beliefs inhibit our ability to engage. How do we reframe our work in a way to make connections in
7 our work, in ways that multiple pathways people can interact? She said she often hears, "there is
8 not enough time."
9

10 Andy Watts stated he feels, as individual public servants, we tend look at things from a macro view;
11 since we are trying to encompass so many things, it is oftentimes difficult to implement a micro
12 view. Taylor Newton feels there are limitations with time, particularly at the institutional level
13 where there are pressures to keep projects moving forward to the finish. Sue said she understands
14 that people worry if they reach out to different people in our communities, they will say the wrong
15 thing and there is fear of doing it wrong; she understands where efficiency is important and
16 institutional is how we are paid. Jacki agreed, it is very difficult to know how to access people who
17 you aren't regularly engaged with. She said she rarely hears from anyone in town, unless there is
18 something bothering them. She doesn't know how to engage others to build these types of
19 relationships. Sue said elected officials in Essex have been holding regularly scheduled coffee breaks
20 with community members and being available in an informal way can be very beneficial. Members
21 discussed various ways to engage with their communities in a way that will welcome diversity and
22 varying perspectives.
23

24 Sue and Nadia said they are very excited for our upcoming November 6, 2021, Equity Summit. Sue
25 encouraged everyone to adhere to the following three guidelines:

- 26 • First, to believe people when they share their experience.
- 27 • Second, use this as an opportunity to listen and hear different perspectives.
- 28 • Finally, to listen with an open mind. Even if people are sharing ideas that may not work, she
29 asked us to entertain the ideas and think about ways to shift structures in a way that new
30 ways of working can be implemented.
31

32 Jeff said he feels we need more time in small group break-out rooms and less time in the large group
33 settings. Sue agreed the small groups are helpful and said the Equity Summit in November will
34 provide more time within smaller groups. Sue and Nadia thanked everyone for their participation.
35 Charlie and Catherine thanked Nadia and Sue for joining us again.
36

37 5. VPSP2 Update and Recommendations to VTrans

38 Christine referred members to the VPSP2 memo and VPSP2 Full VPSP2 Statewide Potential Project
39 list included with their packets. She explained this is the next to last step in the process and the
40 process identifies funds available.
41

42 The Lists for Paving, Roadway, and Traffic & Safety, with a total of 23 Chittenden County projects
43 were sorted into the following categories:

- 44 • Asset Driven Paving Projects: Total of 5
- 45 • Asset Driven Roadway Projects: Total of 2
- 46 • Asset Driven Traffic & Safety Projects: Total of 5
- 47 • Regionally Driven Projects: Total of 11

1 The 23 Chittenden County projects were combined with projects from VTrans and all other RPCs to
2 create Statewide Potential Project Lists for Paving, Roadway, and Traffic & Safety. Projects were
3 sorted by Transportation Value. From those lists, VTrans made recommendations regarding which
4 projects to fund and which projects to reserve for later consideration. The list includes funded
5 Chittenden County projects by program as well as the projects that were reserved for later
6 consideration. The TAC was asked to review the project lists and provide comments to VTrans. As a
7 starting point for discussion, staff drafted comments for consideration by the Board. These
8 comments were reviewed by the TAC at their October meeting. Christine explained the staff and
9 TAC recommend the comments be submitted to VTrans for consideration in the VPSP2 process, but
10 asked if members wanted to add any edits? Charlie noted that Chittenden County projects scored
11 quite well. He explained we are submitting comments, but we are also trying to be realistic. He
12 wants to thank VTRANS for opening this process to us and reminded members this is the first time
13 VTrans has opened the process up to this extent.

14
15 DAN KERIN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY JEFF CARR, TO APPROVE THE COMMENTS AND SUBMIT
16 TO VTRANS AS DRAFTED. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION BY AMY BELL (VTRANS).

17
18 6. Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan regional plan conformance memo

19 Dan referred members to the three Tactical Basin Plan documents included in their packets. He also
20 thanked Danielle Owczarski for her extensive work with the Clean Water Advisory Committee and
21 on the Draft Lamoille Vermont Tactical Basin Planning.

22
23 Dan provided an overview presentation to members. He explained Chittenden County has three
24 watersheds: the Winooski, the Lamoille, and Northern Lake Champlain. The Draft Lamoille Vermont
25 Tactical Basin Planning document provides an overview of the different basins and focus areas as
26 well as the priority strategies for each. Tactical basin plans focus on the projects or actions needed
27 to protect or restore specific waters and identify funding sources to complete the work, based on
28 monitoring and assessment data. The issues identified in the plans will be prioritized for
29 management attention and funding. The plan was released to the public on October 13 and was
30 followed by a public meeting held in the Town of Jericho on October 14, 2021. Comments are
31 welcomed and can be sent via USPS or e-mail. Comments must be received or postmarked or before
32 4:30 PM, November 12, 2021. We were directed to analyze the relative conformance of the Draft
33 Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan with the relevant goals, strategies and recommend actions of the
34 Regional Plan to provide recommendations regarding project prioritization. There are several focus
35 areas that include various priority strategies, including:

- 36
37
- 38 • Agriculture
 - 39 • Developed lands-Stormwater
 - 40 • Developed lands
 - 41 • Wastewater
 - 42 • Rivers
 - 43 • Lakes
 - 44 • Wetlands
 - 45 • Forests

46 The 2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan serves as the County's regional plan. The ECOS Plan also
47 serves as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development

1 Strategy for the County. The Regional Plan has 17 goals organized under four broad goals; the goals
2 applicable to this review are the following:

- 3
- 4 • **Broad Goal, Natural Systems:** Design and maintain a strategically planned and managed
5 green infrastructure network composed of natural areas, working lands and open spaces
6 that conserve ecosystem values and functions and provide associated benefits to our
7 community.
- 8 • **Broad Goal, Build Environment:** Make public and private investments in the built
9 environment to minimize environmental impact, maximize financial efficiency, optimize
10 social equity and benefits, and improve public health.

11 Dan closed his presentation by sharing the following statement with members:

12 “As detailed in the CCRPC staff analysis of the TPB’s strategies, the CCRPC Board of Directors
13 affirms that the draft Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan is in conformance with the applicable goals
14 and objectives of the 2018 Chittenden County Regional Plan.”
15

16 Catherine asked for clarification if the Lee River is part of the Lamoille tactical basin? Dan said yes.
17

18
19 GARRET MOTT MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY TONY MICKLUS, TO APPROVE THE REGIONAL PLAN
20 CONFORMANCE LETTER FOR SUBMISSION TO THE DEC, AS DRAFTED. MOTION CARRIED
21 UNANIMOUSLY.
22

23 7. FY23 Municipal Dues

24 Charlie referred members to the FY2023 Municipal Dues memo included with the packet. He
25 explained the staff and Executive Committee are recommending a 2% increase in dues for FY23.
26 Charlie said the increase is clearly needed for local funding to match federal funds and that we had
27 not raised dues the last two fiscal years. The municipal dues assessment amounts distributed to the
28 member municipalities are based on the Equalized Education Grand List (E EGL).
29

30 MIKE O’BRIEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY GARRET MOTT, TO APPROVE THE 2% INCREASE IN
31 MUNICIPAL DUES FOR FY23. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
32

33 8. Chair/Executive Director Report

34 Regina said the ECOS Plan needs to be updated every five years and the 2023 ECOS plan will need to
35 be adopted by June of 2023. The Draft 2023 ECOS plan will be prepared by January of 2023.

36 Items that will be incorporated in the new update, include:

- 37 • MTP: I-89 Study, Active Transportation Plan, Park & Ride Plan, etc.
- 38 • CEDS: West Central Vermont CEDS
- 39 • Regional Plan: Equity, Building Homes Together 2.0, State Climate Action Plan, State
40 Comprehensive Energy Plan, All Hazard Mitigation Plan

41
42 Regina thanked the Long-Range Planning committee. Charlie reminded everyone this was an
43 informational item, and no action is needed. He said the 2023 plan will be developed over the next
44 15 months. There are various issues within our communities we want to incorporate.
45

46 Charlie said the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC) was requested/required to consult
47 with us as they are required to provide the State of Vermont a top 10 list of Economic Development

1 projects. Staff is providing edits to the list now and Charlie will circulate the list so we can discuss at
2 the November Board meeting.

3

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

7

8 10. Future Agenda Topics: There were none.

9

10 11. Members' Items, Other business. There were none.

11

12 12. Adjournment. JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CHRIS SHAW, TO ADJOURN THE BOARD
13 MEETING AT 7:52 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14

15 Respectfully submitted,

16 Amy Irvin Witham

