

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE - MINUTES
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4 DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2022
5 TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda
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Members Present:

Annie Costandi, CWAC Rep from Essex
Dana Hanley, Board Rep from Charlotte
Bob Henneberger, TAC Rep
Eric Vorwald, PAC Rep from Winooski
Andy Watts, Williston Rep

Staff:

Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Taylor Newton, Senior Planner
Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Manager
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Engineer
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager

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10 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

11 Regina Mahony welcomed everyone at 6:03pm.
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13 **2. Approve February 8, 2022 Minutes**

14 Bob Henneberger made a motion, seconded by Eric Vorwald to approve the February 8, 2022 minutes with the
15 following amendment: Dana Hanley is not the alternate rep from Charlotte. No further discussion. MOTION
16 PASSED. Andy Watts abstained.

17 **3. Review the DRAFT Economic Development Section**

18 Regina walked through the draft economic development section that was included in the meeting packet. Regina
19 explained that CCRPC is working with 3 other regions on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
20 (CEDS). This draft ECOS document reflects a draft version of the CEDS document. The CEDS will be continually
21 revised through September; any changes will be reflected in the ECOS Plan as well. Regina added that staff wanted
22 to get this in front of the LRPC for comments early in the drafting of the CEDS document.
23

24 **Economy Section** comments from the LRPC:

- 25 • Arts, Culture & Recreation – key issues more on arts & education but not on recreation. Also not
26 acknowledging transportation related issues.
- 27 • Education – need a date for the source for the second bullet; clarify the trends in the school enrollment (K-12
28 bullet under Figure 17); provide a county level comparison for college-going rate if possible; reformat Figure
29 19 to make “grade” more obvious; drop-out rates – clarify what this is and why it’s important; provide a
30 county level comparison if possible to highest level of education attained (Figure 21);
- 31 • Economy – there was a question about why Colchester has the highest sales tax revenue in the state (thought
32 was Costco); and which community has the 4th highest sales tax revenue (Cabot). Taylor explained that there
33 is also a factor that gets incorporated from manufacturing sales.
- 34 • Economy – regarding the wages and income bullet – is it possible to reflect data more recent than 2019?
35 Taylor and Melanie explained that we could use 5-year 2020 ACS estimate, or 2020 average wage from the
36 Department of Labor.
- 37 • Economy – there was a suggestion to make this statement it’s own bullet and provide municipal by municipal
38 comparisons as this may not be the case consistently throughout the county: “Income increases have not
39 necessarily been distributed evenly during this period and there are significant differences in income growth
40 across occupations.”
- 41 • Economy – broadband bullet. There was a discussion about whether it makes the most sense to include this
42 here or in the infrastructure section. If here it should be reframed to better address it’s impact on the
43 economy. There was also a suggestion to describe the reality of broadband service (100/20) v. state policy
44 (100/100).
- 45 • Economy – regarding the incubator bullet there was a suggestion to add the Maker Space on Pine St. in
46 Burlington.

- 1 • Strategy/Action comments:
- 2 ○ Add broadband to “attract new workforce”
- 3 ○ Reframe child care under attract new workforce to explain how the two are related.
- 4 ○ Workforce Development: add refugee workforce training and education. Including professional
- 5 opportunities for those coming with professional skills, training and education (i.e. nurses,
- 6 doctors, etc.). This could include a specific action to work with those who license these
- 7 types of positions.
- 8 ○ Discussion about high school tech programs and retain college seniors – are there successful
- 9 programs that could be replicated? Taylor indicated that there will be additional focus
- 10 groups in the CEDS process to gather further insight.
- 11 ○ There was a larger discussion regarding whether the ECOS Plan will include actions that
- 12 CCRPC will undertake, or will it include actions that others in the region might do? Regina
- 13 stated that the original ECOS Plan included a much broader perspective beyond what only
- 14 CCRPC could do. While it is still the intent and hope that ECOS isn’t only owned by
- 15 CCRPC; there may be some right sizing that might make sense this time around (like not
- 16 having an entire strategy for education). Regina asked the LRPC to keep this in mind as they
- 17 review each section, and comment on what they think might make the most sense.
- 18 ○ Reframe ‘Remove Zoning Barriers to Housing’ to be clear why this is necessary for
- 19 workforce.
- 20 ○ There was a suggestion to make ‘Creative Economy and the Arts’ more specific if possible.
- 21 ○ Regina added that CCRPC and GBIC will discuss the Industrial Site Locations action and
- 22 figure out what’s the situation today and if this should be updated or removed. There was
- 23 also a suggestion to look at the Allen, Brooks and Minor inventory for industrial.
- 24

25 **4. Adjourn**

26 The next meeting is set for April 12, 2022. We are planning to discuss the rural landscape: Working Lands; Scenic,
27 Recreation & Historic. The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

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29 Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony
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