

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
2 PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES  
3

4 DATE: Wednesday, May 11, 2022  
5 TIME: 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda  
7

**Members Present:**

Joss Besse, Bolton  
Eric Vorwald, Winooski  
Larry Lewack, Charlotte  
Cathyann LaRose, Colchester  
Katherine Sonnicks, Jericho  
Adele Gravitz, Shelburne (left at 3pm)  
Ravi Venkataraman, Richmond  
Darren Schibler, Essex  
Cymone Haiju, Milton

Charles Dillard, Burlington  
Paul Conner, South Burlington  
Katherine Sonnicks, Jericho  
Nick Atherton, Underhill

**Staff:**

Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager  
Taylor Newton, Senior Planner  
Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner

8  
9  
10 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

11 Joss Besse called the meeting to order at 2:37 p.m.

12  
13 **2. Approval of April 13, 2022 Minutes**

14  
15 Eric Vorwald made a motion, seconded by Darren Schibler to approve the April 13, 2022 minutes. No further  
16 discussion. MOTION PASSED.  
17

18 **3. Active Transportation Plan**

19 Bryan Davis explained that CCRPC is working with Toole Design to update the Active Transportation Plan. It was  
20 last updated in 2017. It will be incorporated by reference into the *ECOS Plan*. There is a Committee guiding this  
21 process with the following representation: rural rep, urban rep, VT Department of Health, UVM TRC, Local Motion,  
22 VTrans, CATMA, AALV, AARP, and a member from Old Spokes Home Transportation Equity Coalition. Also  
23 doing more to connect with folks who can't attend typical meetings. Local Motion and Bryan hosted a forum of all  
24 bike/walk committees in the region. The work will include four kinds of analyses: 1. Equity Analysis (both data, and  
25 listening sessions, talking with folks individually, will provide aspects of transportation planning history); 2.  
26 Bicycle/sidewalk connectedness analysis (including a BNA score – high is more connected, low is less connected and  
27 an analysis of stress level for biking); 3. Trip Analysis (bike and ped) in three towns; and 4. An Unpaved Trail  
28 Analysis (possibly shorter more cost effective connections for off road trails). This last piece is a lower priority.  
29 There were a few questions about what the last analysis will include. Bryan indicated that because these informal  
30 networks are less well known, and not likely mapped we'll be asking folks for information on where these might be.  
31

32 Bryan shared the wiki map on how input is being collected: <https://tinyurl.com/RegionalWalkBikePlan>. Bryan will  
33 also share flyers and blurbs for the PAC members to share in their communities.  
34

35 Bryan also asked the PAC members for their top barriers and challenges, and who else he should talk to as part of  
36 this project.  
37

38 **PAC member comments:**

- 39 • Paul Conner stated that through the climate change work they've found the data on where folks live and  
40 work to be helpful in setting the stage. Most people who live in South Burlington and work, work in an  
41 adjacent neighboring community. This is likely a similar pattern to other Chittenden County communities  
42 and it really speaks to why the bike/ped connections are super important. They are also digging into what it  
43 will take to meet the state and Paris Accord goals. For the next decade – they will need a 1% reduction in

1 VMT per year. These kinds of specific targets in the Active Transportation Plan could be really helpful in  
2 defining the need and measuring implementation.

- 3 • Adele Gravitz – it may also be helpful to put the goals into more of a human scale. Because the issue is too  
4 big for some, and it’s hard to influence behavior change. For example, what are the emissions benefits of  
5 parking on the other end of the parking lot, or taking the stairs – in the same way that someone can  
6 understand how many calories they can burn by doing these simple changes. Bryan Davis stated that there is,  
7 or at least was, a similar calculator on the Travel Ready Center site. The calculator gave you both calorie and  
8 emissions information. Darren Schibler put the following link in the chat:  
9 <https://www.connectingcommuters.org/travel-apps/trip-planner/>
- 10 • Adele Gravitz also suggested mentioning this effort at the second public meeting for the Shelburne bike/ped  
11 plan. It would be a great way to get the word out.

12  
13 Bryan Davis asked PAC members to add desires and barriers to the map. Paul Conner asked if the map has the latest  
14 bike/ped data that the municipalities have provided to CCRPC? Bryan Davis stated that he will work with Pam to  
15 make sure all the data is up to date; however it shouldn’t impede the efficacy of the engagement tool.

16  
17 Darren Schibler stated that he has added information to the tool already. He indicated that some of the data fields  
18 were confusing; though they may have been fixed. Darren also asked for CCRPC to share any input that would be  
19 useful at the local level, so issues can be fixed/corrected. Bryan Davis stated that type of information will certainly be  
20 shared.

#### 21 22 **4. CCRPC Updates**

23 Regina Mahony provided the following updates:

- 24 a. ESRI ArcGIS Urban status. We still don’t have a full cost estimate for this product. But it is in the \$25,000  
25 price range. We can use transportation dollars to help cover it; and once we know more information about  
26 how the rest of our budget will play out (largely waiting on the legislature for final ACCD contract amount)  
27 we will know if we need help from the municipalities to cover the match. Because it isn’t clear how it will  
28 serve each of the member towns right from the start, we’d like to match it with regional funds if we can. Paul  
29 Conner suggested that perhaps a few municipalities would be willing to be pilot municipalities and could  
30 help cover the match. The Town of Essex might be interested in this as well.
- 31 b. Broadband: The VT Broadband Board is going to issue a RFP this week to identify a solution or solutions for  
32 towns that are currently not members of a CUD and not actively engaged with a provider to provide speed  
33 equal or great to 100/100 Mbps. This is set up for our region, and just for the towns not in Waitsfield  
34 Telecomm territory, and not Milton as they are in the northern CUD. This will really help us with next steps.  
35 But we will still be under pressure to join a CUD.
- 36 c. Legislative Update – It’s too soon to say where things are going to land.
- 37 d. ECOS Update – CEDS, I89 study:
  - 38 • CEDS: We have a contract with VT Professionals of Color to host focused conversations with their  
39 membership and contacts. These will be happening throughout the summer. There is also a draft of  
40 the Plan being worked on for Steering Committee review in June.
  - 41 • I89: The I-89 Study is nearing completion. The team prepared a draft Implementation Plan for the I-  
42 89 Corridor that was presented to the public last night (May 10<sup>th</sup>) and will be presented to the I-89  
43 Advisory Committee on May 18<sup>th</sup> for their approval. The public meeting presentation is posted [here](#)  
44 and we will have the draft Implementation Plan posted on the [Envision89](#) website by tomorrow or  
45 Friday (the latest).
  - 46 • Moving along on other ECOS sections through the Long Range Planning Committee – thanks Eric  
47 for your participation on that Committee. Energy/Climate Change is the next section we’ll be  
48 working on.
- 49 e. Final Land Use Climate Change Guide is up on the website [here](#). Thanks for your comments at the last  
50 meeting.
- 51 f. Equity work status: We did have a job advertisement, but at this time, we are pausing our hiring process as  
52 we take additional steps to reevaluate the scope of work for this position. We have a second scope of work  
53 with Creative Discourse to help us better define our next action steps; and to help us diversify our Equity

1 Committee.

- 2 g. Three municipal plan initial consultations coming up: South Burlington, Essex & Jericho. We'll review  
3 South Burlington first, and plan to get to the other two over the summer. These are the first that we've done  
4 in quite a while. As Essex and So. Burlington were our first 8 yr. municipal plans. Part of this process will  
5 now include reporting to CCRPC how the Plan has been implemented. We'll provide these initial reviews to  
6 the PAC as a FYI.

## 7 8 **5. Members Items Open Forum**

9 Paul Conner described South Burlington's work on their Climate Action Plan. They are concluding that it is going to  
10 be nearly impossible to meet the goals without carbon neutral for new construction. Carrots aren't likely to cut it.  
11 Paul Conner asked if anyone else is having these conversations? Charles Dillard stated Burlington is starting to look  
12 at an Innovation Overlay District for the Lakeside area. They plan is to incentivize very high performing building  
13 types. But it's a real challenge with the existing building code. As an example, a double loaded corridor apartment  
14 building doesn't allow for cross ventilization, which results in a lot more energy needed for heating and cooling  
15 buildings. There are some states that are starting to require alternatives to these structural challenges (such as VA,  
16 CA and OR). Charles Dillard added that it is really going to be hard to meet the goals without addressing the state  
17 building code. The International Building Code (IBC) is light years behind where we need to be.

18  
19 Taylor Newton provided the following resource in the chat: "Alternative to the double loaded corridor:  
20 <https://slate.com/business/2021/12/staircases-floor-plan-twitter-housing-apartments.html>"

21  
22 Darren Schibler suggested that any movement on building code should be tied to rental/safety. Joss Besse suggested  
23 the need to find someone at the state level who would be interested in moving this forward. Other recommendations  
24 on organizations that might be interested: the Climate Council, DHCD, VPA.

25  
26 Darren Schibler added that they've begun conversations in Essex to get all boards/committees to work together and  
27 move collectively together toward the shared mission.

28  
29 Darren Schibler asked if anyone is starting to look at microtransit options? Katherine Sonnick stated that there is a  
30 TriTown Transportation Committee in looking at rural transit options in Jericho, Underhill and Cambridge  
31 connection. They've looked at the future of rural transit. Ravi Venkataraman added that Richmond is part of that  
32 conversation as well and they are looking to find connections for folks along that whole corridor to the Richmond  
33 Park and Ride connection up to Cambridge through all those towns. The group is in the early stages.

## 34 35 **6. Regional Act 250/Section 248 Projects on the Horizon.**

36 Joss Besse asked the PAC to email Regina and Taylor any Act 250/Section 248 updates.

## 37 38 **7. Other Business**

- 39 a. VLCT issues statewide **Tax Increment Financing assessment**: [Press Release](#) and [Report](#).
- 40 b. The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, the Vermont Department of Health, the  
41 Vermont Community Foundation, and Patronicity are currently accepting placemaking projects for [Better](#)  
42 [Places](#), a statewide community grant program that empowers Vermonters to create vibrant and inclusive  
43 public places in the hearts of Vermont communities. Those who are interested in the Better Places  
44 program can visit the website to [learn more](#) or contact [Richard Amore](#). Or join Patronicity on Instagram Live  
45 on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 12pm EST to learn more about the Better Places program and show how it is  
46 supporting communities across Vermont.
- 47 c. The Department of Housing and Community Development and the Preservation Trust of Vermont is pleased  
48 to present the **Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference on Thursday, June 9, 2022**, in St.  
49 Johnsbury. Please [visit the website](#) for more information on the schedule, sessions, and additional conference  
50 information.
- 51 d. **Invitation to Request Funding through United Way's Prevention Center of Excellence grant** from the  
52 VT Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP). As part of that grant, United Way will make  
53 subgrants of up to \$10,000 to local community organizations working to prevention substance misuse and

1 advance wellbeing of youth and young adults. See the attached invitation for this program\*.

2 e. DEC is now accepting applications for ARPA – Pretreatment grants to fund wastewater pretreatment  
3 projects at VT businesses and municipal wastewater treatment facilities. To apply for an award please  
4 respond to the Department’s [“Pretreatment Grant Funds for Businesses and Municipalities RFP”](#). If you  
5 are a municipality applying for funding, the following projects are eligible:

- 6 • Development of Technically Based Local Limits in accordance with Environmental Protection  
7 Agency’s (EPA) Local Limits Development Guidance (EPA 833-R-04-002A) and State and Federal  
8 Regulations.
- 9 • Industrial User Surveys to identify the industrial users discharging or hauling non-domestic  
10 wastewater to the municipal wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and characterize the quality and  
11 volume of wastewater received by these users.
- 12 • Updates to the Sewer Use Ordinance to support development of Technically Based Local Limits,  
13 Industrial User Survey, and/or control of high strength or toxic discharges to a WWTF.
- 14 • **If you are a business applying for funding, the following projects are eligible:**
- 15 • Design and installation/construction of a pretreatment system to treat the process wastewater  
16 discharge from a business to a VT municipal WWTF. These projects shall be designed and  
17 implemented by a Vermont Professional Engineer with experience in industrial wastewater treatment  
18 design and construction.
- 19 • Equipment/infrastructure to manage/store high-strength waste or concentrated by-products from your  
20 manufacturing process (side streaming, pollution prevention).

21  
22 **9. Adjourn**

23 Regina Mahony noted that she will be on vacation for the next regularly scheduled meeting in July. It isn’t likely that  
24 we will have great attendance if we push the meeting to August. If there is a need to have a meeting sooner than later,  
25 Regina stated that she may hold a meeting in June. She asked the PAC to stay tuned.

26  
27 Meeting adjourned at 3:47pm.

28  
29 Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony