

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

FY 2022 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 Board 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 FY22, the CCRPC invested approximately \$5.9 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$4.5 million in Federal and State investment with \$250,400 in municipal dues and another \$175,000 in local match for specific projects—a more than 10:1 return on local investment.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

RPCs provide 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 energy planning, forest integrity, economic development and flood resiliency planning. Current, clearly written plans and bylaws are essential to enable efficient 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:** Worked with Bolton on the approval process for their Enhanced Energy Plan; and reviewed the Plan with the PAC. Staff began the initial plan reviews for Essex, Jericho and South Burlington (all to be complete in FY23).

- **Town Plan Approvals:** Approved the Town Plan, Enhanced Energy Plan and confirmed the planning process for Underhill; and the Enhanced Energy Plan for Hinesburg.
- **Zoning:** Continued with assistance to South Burlington on zoning-related assistance including revisions to the Official Map, Zoning Map and Natural Resources map, and wetlands and steep slope regulation amendments. CCRPC staff also continued work in Bolton on zoning bylaw amendments from the Bolton Valley Master Plan. CCRPC continued working on a bylaw amendment project in Essex Junction to advance a pedestrian friendly landscape in the Village, along with housing, stormwater, statutory changes, and switching to a DRB review model. Minor zoning assistance was also provided to Essex, Huntington, Milton and Richmond. CCRPC continued work on a Form Based Code project for Williston’s Taft Corners using transportation planning funds. Charlotte was assisted in their transition from a ZBA-PC model to a DRB model. Assisted Hinesburg and Essex with Bylaw Modernization grant applications; and submitted a response to Essex’s RFP to conduct a buildout of their sewer service area.
- **In-house Planning Services:** CCRPC provided development review assistance in St. George (wrapped up in early FY22).
- **Training:** CCRPC worked with Bennington County RPC on a FBC presentation for the NNECAPA conference. Four Land Use Essentials trainings were held for the following audiences: new Milton staff, Essex Planning Commission to kick off a discussion on developing an annual workplan, new Evernorth development staff, and new PC and DRB members training on 5/31 (12 attendees from Charlotte, Jericho, Richmond, Shelburne, Underhill, and Winooski). Two Regional Housing Convenings were held for all municipalities in the region. CCRPC also continued to host the 12-month (CY22) webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals for municipalities and regional partners. CCRPC hosted webinars on electric vehicles, energy storage, heat pumps, and weatherization.

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 (2020 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 2021 ECOS Annual Report summarizes progress toward the goals set in the Chittenden County ECOS Plan, the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and CEDS for Chittenden County. One notable highlight from the 2021 Report is 99.7% of the population growth in Chittenden County over the last 10 years has been Hispanic (of any race), Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or

Native Hawaiian. This equates to 11,746 of the 11,778 people from 2010-2020. This trend in demographics brings additional importance to addressing our numerous equity challenges (<http://www.ecosproject.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2021-ECOS-Annual-Report-1.pdf>). 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: smart growth issues (infrastructure, permit system, housing, climate/energy, transportation); economic recovery issues (workforce, broadband); and governance/funding issues (racial equity, open meeting law, regional dispatch start-up, cannabis, transit revenue options, planning funding). (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>). CCRPC has also participated in numerous legislative initiatives including housing and designated center reform bills.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic growth is supported best when development efforts are partnered with a solid planning foundation. 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/>). The CCRPC also secured sponsorship by Hello Burlington of the Byway's audio stories phone recording and mobile app <https://lakechamplainbyway.com/explore-our-regions/mobile-story-app/>
- 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 continued assisting Westford with program management for a community wastewater system in the Village, including administration of a VCDP planning grant. Under a MPG grant, CCRPC is continued work as a program manager for community wastewater in Huntington including organizing Wastewater Committee meetings and providing the community with feedback on the draft Preliminary Engineering Report. CCRPC was included as the grant administrator in two Northern Border Applications (Hinesburg water project and Winooski Main St. project). CCRPC assisted Underhill and Charlotte with questions regarding village wastewater. Participated in Milton's Community Visit Day with VCRD.
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** With federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration, CCRPC continued 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 been awarded more than 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); 300 Flynn Avenue (Howard Center)
 - 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 (Governor Chittenden Road)
 - 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)
- CCRPC received a \$99,000 pass-thru ACCD grant from Mount Ascutney RPC for brownfields assessment and planning. CCRPC has investigated perceived or real contamination issues at the following properties to accelerate redevelopment.
 - Burlington: 405 Pine Street (Burlington City Arts); 99 Intervale Avenue (planned Intervale Community Food Center)
 - Colchester: 33, 81 & 123 Ethan Allen Drive (former St. Michael's College dorms, planned 10th Cavalry apartments)
 - Milton: 25 Railroad Street (former Milton Creamery, planned mixed use)
 - Shelburne: 3164 Shelburne Road (Econo Lodge motel, planned Bay Ridge apartments):
 - South Burlington: 600 Spear Street (planned 32 apartments)
 - Westford: 1705 VT Route 128 (parcel adjacent to Town Office)

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 is 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. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs is channeled through this planning process. Congress created MPOs 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 9 times in FY22. Seventeen member municipalities have been actively engaged in transportation planning and TAC attendance varied from 12 to 25 members. Nine (9) 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:

- Highway Safety Improvement Program Assessment & Implementation Plan
- Vermont Freight Plan
- Animating Infrastructure Grant Program
- Greenride Bikeshare Updates
- VTrans Presentation and Discussion of Act 145
- Municipal General Roads Permit Updates
- FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program Updates
- CCRPC Energy Program / VCCC Fleet Conversion Analysis
- CCRPC I-89 2050 Study Presentations and Updates
- Transit Finance Study
- Vermont and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Regional Park and Ride Plan Presentations and Updates
- VPSP2 Updates
- Transportation Resilience Planning Tool Update
- Water Quality Updates
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
- FY2023-2026 TIP Presentation

- VT Culverts – Website Walkthrough
- Elders & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Summit

Transportation Coordination Activities with Municipalities and VTrans Provided by CCRPC:

- Way to Go! Coordination (Park Your CARbon in 2022)
- Chittenden County I-89 Study
- Chittenden County Park & Ride Plan Update
- Chittenden County Regional Active Transportation Plan
- VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization (VPSP2)
- MRGP
- Lake Champlain Byway Coordination
- Williston Form-Based Code Project
- Statewide E&D Summit; Regional E&D Committee
- Roadway Safety Audit in Richmond
- Transit Finance Study
- US 2 paving review
- Municipal Project Management sidewalk projects (Underhill and Shelburne).
- 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 in June of 2018 (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/ecos-metropolitan-transportation-plan/>). The CCRPC is currently drafting the 2023 MTP.

Municipal Transportation Plans: 18 municipalities have current municipal plans that include an updated transportation component. In FY22, the CCRPC assisted one (1) municipality (South Burlington) with the transportation element of their municipal plan.

Act-250 and Section 248 Reviews: In FY22, the CCRPC provided transportation related comments for three (3) Act-250 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
- Tri-Town Transportation Study
- Future of Rural Transit Study (VEIC & Clean Cities)
- Transit Finance Study
- TOD RAISE grant application
- ADA, E&D & Medicaid Call Center Feasibility Study

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

- Public Transit Advisory Council (PTAC)
- Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI)

- Rail Advisory Council
- VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization (VPSP2) Core Group
- State Freight Plan Advisory Committee
- Vermont Highway Safety Alliance
- Way to Go! Challenge
- Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) working group
- E&D Summit Planning Committee

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 FY22, 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 Meeting: CCRPC staff planned for and hosted a road foremen’s meeting in April of 2022. Members from Richmond, Jericho, Underhill, Milton, Hinesburg, Westford, and Williston were in attendance.

Assistance with Transportation Grants: Staff assisted municipalities and provided letters of support for nine (9) grant applications including Transportation Alternative grant support (Williston, Shelburne, Hinesburg); Winooski River Bridge RAISE grant (Burlington & Winooski); Bike/Ped grants (Burlington, Essex, Hinesburg, Richmond, Shelburne, Williston); FY23 Better Roads grant support (Milton, Essex, Richmond, Huntington).

Budget Spent on Municipal Assistance: The CCRPC invests approximately 54% of MPO funding for municipal assistance.

CCRPC Data Collection in FY22:

- GIS inventory of on-street parking spaces in the South Burlington City Center
- Colchester sign inventory
- Williston ash tree inventory
- Burlington pavement inventory
- Pavement Condition Inventories in Essex Town and Hinesburg

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:

- Burlington Property Transportation Plan Phase 2
- South Burlington Climate Action Plan Transportation Component
- Winooski Parking Inventory, Analysis, and Management Plan
- Form-Based Code for Williston’s Growth Center

- Burlington South End Intercept Facility and TOD Technical Feasibility Study
- South Burlington Traffic Overlay District Replacement (Phase 2)
- Burlington School District (BSD) School Travel Plan
- Jericho Official Map
- Burlington Impact Fee Study
- Winooski Traffic Calming Policy
- East Charlotte Village Traffic Calming
- Winooski ADA Transition Plan - Transportation Component
- South Burlington Bike/Ped Mapping Phase II
- Shelburne Bicycling and Pedestrian Connectivity Study
- Kimball Ave Path Feasibility Study for Crossing of Potash Brook
- Richmond Road Supplemental Scoping
- Intermodal Connections for Burlington Amtrak Service
- Bridge Street (Richmond) Complete Streets Corridor Study
- Queen City Park Road Bike/Ped Scoping (Burlington & South Burlington)
- Colchester Ave Protected Bike Lanes and East Ave Intersection Analysis
- Essex Tanglewood Drive Scoping
- Jericho Riverside Village Sidewalk Scoping Study
- Williston Route 2A Connector Path Scoping Study
- Richmond Village Sidewalks Scoping Study
- Mary Street Sidewalk Scoping
- Huntington MRGP Implementation Plan
- Colchester MRGP & Outfall Improvement Plan
- Colchester Asset Management Software BMPs
- Westford Village Stormwater Treatment Assessment
- Colchester Phosphorous Control Plan Update.

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

- Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study
- I-89 Interchange Review (Bolton & Milton)
- Richmond Bike/Ped Master Plan - Phase 2
- VT15 Corridor Pedestrian and Road System Study
- Burlington Winooski Avenue Corridor Study - Phase 3

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).
- Provided funding to CATMA, CarShare Vermont, Local Motion, and UVM TRC for TDM projects and technical assistance.
- Chittenden County Park & Ride Plan Update.

Road Erosion Inventories in Support of Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP): Completed road erosion inventories (REI) reviews and updates for all municipalities in Chittenden County with the exception of St. George and Buel's Gore.

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:

- Park and Ride counts were completed in July, October, and February
- 2 bike ped counts were conducted on shared use paths and on-road facilities
- 30 ATRs were set up in Burlington, Charlotte, Essex Town, City of Essex Junction, South Burlington, Richmond, and Shelburne
- 16 turning movement counts were conducted in Burlington, Essex, and South Burlington.
- The Complete Streets inventory was completed
- Phase 2 of MIRE data for Chittenden County intersections was collected

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.
- **All Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Through a minor sub-contract CCRPC assisted IEM, the state's consultant, with the 2022 update to the Chittenden County All Hazard Mitigation Plan. The subcontract ended in FY22. The Plan is anticipated to be approved in the fall of 2022.

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, or dashboards for Bolton, Buel's Gore, Charlotte, Essex, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Shelburne.
- **Regional Web Maps:** Updated the ECOS Map Viewer, River Corridor Planning map viewer, regional bike facilities, broadband status and Permit Review map viewer with more current data. Developed a Housing Dashboard for viewing the location and type of housing in each municipality.
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1b980d3a955a49c09a62c08f7404eb0a>
- **Town Plan Maps:** Updated maps for Bolton's Enhanced Energy Plan.
- **GIS Data:** Developed or updated numerous GIS datasets (ash tree inventories, MUTCD sign inventories, zoning, culverts, housing points, scenic resources, state designations, trails, conserved land, utilities, etc,) for Bolton, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, Shelburne, South Burlington, Westford, and for the region. Utilized ESRI's Business Analyst tool to provide South Burlington with demographic and employment information. Provided Essex Junction with a map for understanding Cannabis Regulation.
- **Colchester Map Service:** Continued to provide updates to the Colchester map service which links to the Town's VueWorks Asset Management system.
- **Regional Conservation Area Project:** Continued to participate in the Champlain Valley Partnership and provide mapping support for defining a focus area for identifying potential conservation projects in South Burlington, Hinesburg, St. George, Shelburne, and Williston.
- **Data available via Vermont Open Data Portal:** Uploaded housing points and municipal zoning and overlay data to the portal to allow public access to the GIS data.
- **VOBCIT:** CCRPC worked with a consultant to update the vtculverts website (<https://vtculverts.org>). Update began in Fall 2021 and was completed prior to the 2022 field season. Offered training of new website at TPI and a road foreman meeting.

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 10 PUC proceedings in FY22.
- **Municipal Energy Plans:** In FY22, the CCRPC board granted affirmative determinations of energy compliance to the enhanced energy plan for Underhill. Thirteen municipalities have adopted enhanced energy plans. CCRPC is assisting South Burlington in development of a Climate Action Plan.
- **Energy Planning Implementation:** The CCRPC hired an energy project manager in September and participated in implementation activities funded through ACCD, which included a Button-Up Vermont event, statewide RPC roundtables, a resource to towns for addressing climate change in land use policy(https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Climate-Change-and-Land-Use_Standard-Resolution_20220427.pdf), energy committee roundtables, technical assistance to energy committees and municipal staff, promotion of CVOEO low-income weatherization program, and electric vehicle, energy storage, heat pump, and weatherization education webinars. Implementation milestones: Williston EV charging capital planning, formation of Williston energy committee and new supporting energy planner role, South Burlington Climate Action Plan, Essex planning for solar expansion on Police Dept., and increased applications for CVOEO weatherization services.
- **State Energy Planning:** CCRPC participated in conversations and gave feedback to assist the Vermont Climate Council committees in their work. CCRPC has provided input into the state Comprehensive Energy Plan update; gave feedback to the PUC on new net metering rules; and assisted in hosting a VECAN local input meeting. 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. In the spring of 2022, the CCRPC helped

establish and facilitate four meetings of the Basin 5 Water Quality Council which will prioritize phosphorus hotspots and approve projects for funding provided by DEC.

- **Block Grants:** Through funding provided by the DEC and administered by the Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission, the CCRPC managed Design Implementation Block Grants to implement the following stormwater projects: in Milton, the design of stormwater infiltration practices adjacent to Allen Drive; in Shelburne, the design of an upgrade to a stormwater pond serving the Boulder Hill neighborhood, and in Burlington, managed a grant to create a new gravel wetland to treat runoff from both the Champlain Housing Trust property and the Market 32/Price Chopper property near Shelburne Road.
- **Water Quality Outreach:** CCRPC is managing, with all RPCs as sub-grantees, a grant provided from 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 Fall 2021 update to the Lamoille River Watershed 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 FY2022, 14 Chittenden County municipalities signed up to participate in the GIA program; an estimated 35 non-compliant segments will be upgraded using the allocated \$253,000. CCRPC staff wrote letters of support and assisted six municipalities (Essex, Milton, Richmond, Williston, and Huntington) with FY23 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 FY22, the CCRPC continued to address issues related to racial

and economic disparities through the following actions:

- Continuing to work with equity consultant, The Creative Discourse Group, to address racial equity within the organization, including staff and Board trainings and reviewing key CCRPC policy documents through an equity lens.
 - Continuing the work of the CCRPC Racial Equity Leadership Team. In FY23 this team evolved into an Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) to be comprised of external equity partners and Board members.
 - 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.
 - Hosted a Planning for Equity Summit with external partners, residents, Board members and staff to examine 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.
 - Advertised for a new Equity and Engagement Manager position to guide the CCRPC's equity work, public outreach and EAC activities.
- **Building Homes Together:** The Building Homes Together campaign was initiated by the CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust, and Housing Vermont (now Evernorth) in 2016 to establish targets for new home construction and affordable housing. The first five-year campaign met its target of developing more than 3,500 homes (just over 3,600) but failed to keep pace on affordable housing targets. In FY22, the Building Homes Together campaign launched its second five-year targets for making Chittenden County's housing market healthier, more equitable, and more affordable. The campaign's goals include creating 5,000 new homes, with 1,250 permanently affordable. This amounts to an annual target of 1,000 total new homes with 250 affordable. Please see <http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together/>.
 - **Chittenden County Public Safety Authority:** CCRPC staff continues to support the CCPSA board by serving as the Acting Secretary. CCRPC also prepared an application for \$750,000 of Congressionally Directed Spending for capital equipment purchase.
 - **Broadband:** CCRPC staff worked with the Vermont Broadband Board staff and our municipalities to examine options for expanding high speed internet service in Chittenden County. By the end of the fiscal year, we had jointly concluded that we should create a Communications Union District to further this work. This is a ballot item for five municipalities (Essex, Essex Junction, Shelburne, South Burlington, and Williston) in November.
 - **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 are referred to as the Prevention Center of Excellence. A strategic plan (https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PCE-NWVT-Strategic_Plan_COMPLETE_09_30_2021.pdf) has been created to lay the groundwork for a regional prevention network in Northwest Vermont. CCRPC staff participated in the UVM Medical Center's 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment process. 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:

- Support of increased broadband coverage in the County.
- 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. Municipal dues constitute a small but very important percentage of our funding. Individual municipalities also contribute match dollars for some federally funded transportation planning projects. For FY22, the CCRPC's total budgeted revenue of over \$5.9 million dollars was derived from about 83% federally funded grants, 12% state funding, and 5% from municipalities and non-profit organizations. Over \$3.5 million, nearly 60% of the total budgeted 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 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 a wide range of issues as described above. 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. We have had clean audits for many years now.

'AT WORK' MAP

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