

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
2 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE - MINUTES  
3

4 DATE: Tuesday, November 8, 2022  
5 TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda  
7

**Members Present:**

Eric Vorwald, PAC Rep from Winooski  
Andrew Watts, Board Rep from Williston  
Abby Bleything, CCRPC Alternate from Winooski  
Bob Henneberger, TAC Rep (at 7:54 pm)

**Staff:**

Taylor Newton, Planning Program Manager  
Melanie Needle, Senior Planner  
Darren Schibler, Senior Planner  
Charlie Baker, Executive Director  
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner  
Marshall Distell, Senior Transportation Planner  
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager

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10 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

11 T. Newton welcomed everyone at 7:02pm.  
12

13 **2. Approve September 20, 2022 Minutes**

14 Due to lack of quorum, the approval of minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

15 **3. Review updated timeline**

16 T. Newton provided an update on the timeline of the ECOS Plan development, review and adoption. Development of  
17 the ECOS Plan has been extended by a year to ensure integration the Equity Advisory Committee into the plan  
18 development process. The LRPC did not have questions or concerns on the updated timeline.  
19

20 **4. Review draft West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

21 Overview and Process

22 E. Vorwald asked T. Newton to clarify the extended timeline for adoption of the CEDS. T. Newton stated that he  
23 anticipates review by CCRPC committees in the fall 2022 and adoption by the CCRPC Board in March 2023.  
24

25  
26 T. Newton presented the major highlights of the draft CEDS and specifically reviewed the Executive Summary, Key  
27 Findings, and Goals and Actions sections. Comments and discussion from LRPC proceeded as follows:  
28

29 Executive Summary and Key Findings

- 30  
31 1. E. Vorwald suggested noting that the CreateVT Plan won both VPA and NNECAPA Plan of the Year. He  
32 also recommended consistency in the acronym BIPOC vs. BIPoC.  
33 2. A. Watts highlighted the issue of broadband and suggested it be emphasized in the Executive Summary.  
34 3. E. Vorwald suggested addressing the impact of the cannabis market on tax base, job creation, and income  
35 streams. T. Newton agreed that this an action that could be added to the CEDS.  
36

37 Goals and Actions

- 38  
39 1. Attract New Workers and Expand Labor Force  
40 a. Housing: E. Vorwald noted that the phrase about agricultural worker housing, though an important  
41 need, doesn't fit with the sentence addressing housing in growth areas. He suggested that an addition  
42 sentence specific to agricultural worker housing be added.  
43 b. A. Bleything asked about an indicator related to child care. She commented that it may be worth  
44 being more specific about the availability of childcare in specific age categories (ages 0-3, pre-K).  
45 T. Newton noted that that information is available and the indicator could be more specific.

- 1 c. Regarding the labor force indicators, E. Vorwald asked if we are looking for the number of people in  
2 the labor force vs. not in the labor force? T. Newton stated that the indicator can be reframed to state  
3 that the indicator is about number of people in the labor force.
- 4 d. E. Vorwald asked if there are target metrics or trends. T. Newton noted that the CEDS could be more  
5 specific about the desired trend of the indicator in a manner similar to the ECOS Scorecard.
- 6 2. Equity
- 7 a. T. Newton noted this was added after the first draft following engagement work by the Vermont  
8 Professionals of Color (VT POC) Network. The CEDS committee wants to ensure that equity  
9 training is provided to all involved parties and staff that will be involved in the future Economic  
10 Development District.
- 11 i. E. Vorwald emphasized that this will be a big lift and should be properly resourced. He  
12 noted that in has been a challenge in equity work at the municipal level. T. Newton noted  
13 that the focus was intended to be within organizations represented on the future EDD.
- 14 b. E. Vorwald compared the actions related to women-owned businesses to actions to support BIPoC  
15 businesses which seem more generic / educational. He asked if there are specific programs that can  
16 support BIPOC businesses?
- 17 i. T. Newton noted that these recommendations came directly from VT POC, but CCRPC  
18 struggled with having a specific action related to women-owned businesses.
- 19 ii. E. Churchill suggested that the [VTrans Disadvantaged Business Enterprise \(DBE\)](#) program  
20 could be added as an action.
- 21 c. D. Schibler suggested it would be useful to have an indicator for employment and business  
22 ownership among immigrants / refugees and will research whether such data exists.
- 23 3. Business Development and Job Creation
- 24 a. E. Vorwald asked what are fossil-fuel based businesses? T. Newton state that the CEDS anticipates  
25 electrification of heating systems leading to negative impacts on fuel dealers and their workers. The  
26 intent is to add a CEDS action so workers in that field can get reskilled into other positions. E.  
27 Vorwald stated that it would be good to have examples and better tied this action to the later action  
28 12 under Goal 4.
- 29 4. Workforce Development and Employee Retention
- 30 a. E. Vorwald asked for clarity and consistency on the terms “justice-involved” vs “incarcerated.”
- 31 b. A. Bleything asked if there is a place to address language barriers in workforce entry. T. Newton  
32 stated that he could work with partners to address that issue in the CEDS.
- 33 c. D. Schibler listed several potential indicators for this section and will work with T. Newton to scope  
34 them out.
- 35 5. Infrastructure and Resilience
- 36 a. Indicators
- 37 i. A. Bleything noted that there is data on the number and location of publicly available EV  
38 charging stations. M. Needle recommended referencing National Electric Vehicle  
39 Infrastructure Plan in the CEDS. B. Henneberger recommended being specific about the  
40 level of charging.
- 41 ii. Water/Wastewater Funding: C. Baker and M. Needle wondered if an indicator could be the  
42 number of housing units / structures / E911 points connected to these systems. CCRPC will  
43 discuss before proposing any ideas to CEDS partners.
- 44 6. Quality of Life
- 45 a. D. Schibler asked if the permit reform action could fit better under a different section. T. Newton  
46 noted that it could be moved to the Infrastructure and Resilience goal.
- 47 b. A. Bleything noted that high quality public schools is a goal, but no action is included in the plan.  
48 She suggested the following:
- 49 i. Include an action about the importance of neighborhood embedded schools that provide  
50 walkability and are a focal point for community. She noted the importance of walkable  
51 neighborhood schools in terms of providing equitable education. B. Henneberger agreed but  
52 noted the need to be sensitive to gentrification in this effort.
- 53 ii. Include an action reiterating the importance of other public facilities (libraries, senior  
54 centers, etc.) that are important to both urban and rural communities.

1 c. Indicators

- 2 i. A. Bleything suggested adding an indicator that better defines a high-quality education.  
3 ii. C. Baker suggested pulling indicators from the Farm to Plate and CreateVT annual reports.  
4

5 T. Newton requested that LRPC members can send additional comments via e-mail.  
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7 **5. Discuss Updates to Regional Enhanced Energy Data & Maps and Update to ECOS Plan – Supplement 6:**  
8 **Energy Analysis, Targets, and Methodology**  
9

10 M. Needle asked whether an Energy Subcommittee should be formed for review of the ECOS Plan. This was done in  
11 2018, pulling from the entire CCRPC board, with at least one LRPC representative. Alternatively, the LRPC could  
12 take on task of reviewing this work. E. Vorwald indicated that his preference would be to have a sub-committee of  
13 municipal energy committee representatives. A. Watts and A. Bleything agreed.  
14

15 **6. Adjourn**  
16

17 A. Bleything made a motion, seconded by B. Henneberger, to adjourn. T. Newton adjourned the meeting at 8:14pm.  
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19 Respectfully submitted, Darren Schibler