

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

5 DATE: Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
6 TIME: 6:00 PM  
7 PLACE: REMOTE ATTENDANCE via ZOOM MEETING VIDEO  
8

9 PRESENT: Bolton: Vacant Buel's Gore: Absent  
10 Burlington: Andy Montroll Charlotte: Dana Hanley  
11 Charlotte: Absent Colchester: Jacki Murphy  
12 Essex Junction Elaine Haney Essex: Andy Watts  
13 Huntington: Barbara Elliot (alt.) Hinesburg: Absent  
14 Jericho: Catherine McMains Milton: Chuck Wilton  
15 Richmond: Bard Hill St. George: Absent  
16 Shelburne: Jeff Carr, Alt So. Burlington: Chris Shaw  
17 Underhill: Absent Westford: Benjamin Bornstein  
18 Williston: Andrew Watts Winooski: Absent  
19 Cons/Env.: Miles Waite VTrans: Matthew Arancio  
20 FHWA: Absent Bus/Ind: Absent  
21 GMT: Absent Socio-Econ/Housing: Bruce Wilson  
22 Agriculture: Absent BIA: Absent  
23

24 Others: CCTV, Scott Moody Matthew Langham, VTrans  
25 Romeo von Hermann, GMT staff  
26

27 CCRPC Staff: Charlie Baker, Executive Director Taylor Newton, Planning Prog. Mgr.  
28 Forest Cohen, Sr. Business Mgr. Melanie Needle, Sr. Planner  
29 Eleni Churchill, Transp. Prog. Mgr. Christine Forde, Sr. Transp. Planner  
30 Marshall Distel, Sr. Transp. Planner Sarah Muskin, Planner  
31 Anne Nelson Stoner, Equity-Engagement Mgr. Mckenzie Spear, Business Office Assoc.  
32 Emma Vaughn, Communications Mgr.  
33

34 1. Call to order; Attendance; Changes to the Agenda. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by  
35 the Chair, Chris Shaw. Chris Shaw asked everyone in the meeting to introduce themselves.  
36

37 2. Public Comment Period on Items NOT on the Agenda. There were none.  
38

39 3. Staff Introductions Marshall Distel and Sarah Muskin

40 Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner, introduced himself to the Board. He joined CCRPC  
41 in 2014 as a summer intern and was then hired full time as a transportation planner in 2015 after  
42 completing his bachelor's degree in geography from UVM. He also has a master's degree in natural  
43 resources with a graduate certificate in global sustainability from Virginia Tech. Marshall has been  
44 involved in a wide array of projects and programs at CCRPC, which includes managing local and  
45 regional transportation studies related to roadways, intersections, park & rides and bike and  
46 pedestrian facilities. Marshall also manages the Unified Planning Work Program process and leads  
47 CCRPC's public transit planning efforts in coordination with GMT. He is passionate about working to  
48 support the growth of walkable communities, especially in our downtowns and village centers.

1 Chris asked about the recent flooding and asked Marshall if he had any work on that.

2  
3 Sarah Muskin introduced herself as the newest CCRPC Planner. She began last week and is very excited  
4 about joining the team. She has a Master of Public Health where she focused her studies on  
5 environmental justice and health equity. She also has a professional background working in  
6 affordable housing, and watershed conservation.

7  
8 4. Action on Consent Agenda. There were none.

9  
10 5. Approve Minutes on June 21,2023, Meeting

11  
12 ANDY MONTROLL MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CATHERINE MCMAINS, TO APPROVE THE JUNE  
13 21, 2023, BOARD MINUTES, WITH ONE EDIT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 14 • Edit page2, Line: 30: Update 20 years of service to 10 years of service.

15  
16 6. FY24 – 27 Transportation Improvement Program.

17  
18 a) **Public Hearing – FY24-27 TIP**

19 ELAINE HANEY MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY ANDY WATTS, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC  
20 HEARING AT 6:03 PM. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21  
22 Chris Shaw checked in with a member of the public. Romeo von Hermann. Romeo said he  
23 was there to listen. He is a supervisor at GMT and is concerned about the streets and the  
24 shape they are in. Chris Shaw thanked him for joining the meeting.

25  
26 Christine Forde referred members to the FY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement  
27 Program (TIP) and provided an overview to members. She explained the TIP is a prioritized,  
28 fiscally constrained, multi-year list of federally funded multimodal transportation projects  
29 and operations within the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission region. As a  
30 federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO), the CCRPC must prepare a  
31 TIP that covers at least a 4-year period, and it must be fiscally constrained. The FY24-27 TIP  
32 included \$326.9 million in federal funds for transportation projects in Chittenden County. It  
33 is updated annually with the assistance of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), the  
34 Vermont Agency of Transportation, (VTrans), Green Mountain Transit (GMT) and Burlington  
35 International Airport (BIA).

36  
37 Christine then explained the importance of project pages and how to read them.

- 38 • Projects must have completed, or nearly completed, the planning process and be  
39 ready for design.
- 40 • Projects must have funding.
- 41 • Projects must be listed in the VTrans Capital Program.

42  
43 Christine reviewed the format of the TIP's three sections:

- 44 • Section I: Introduction
  - 45 ○ What the TIP is
  - 46 ○ Discussion of performance measures
  - 47 ○ Adoption of Resolution
  - 48 ○ Glossary of acronyms

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- Section II: Projects by Municipality
  - Chittenden County projects that CCRPC authorizes for obligation of federal funds.
- Section III: Summary of funding amounts
  - Figures and tables showing Federal funds by CCRPC project use categories and Federal funding sources.

Christine then introduced the following proposed changes:

- Added remaining funds for Burlington-Winooski Main Street Bridge.
- Clarify which projects will be funded with HSIP funds and change the funding sources.
- Correct error in construction amount for Exit 17 in FY24
- Increase design funds for Colchester Avenue/Riverside Avenue/Barrett Street, Burlington project.
- Add design funds for US2 Class 1 Paving, South Burlington. Construction date to be determined.
- Increase PE for US2 Paving Williston. Construction date to be determined.

TIP Funding Levels, the amount of Federal Funds in each year.

- FY2024 - \$96.5 million
- FY2025 - \$89.5 million
- FY2026 - \$85.7 million
- FY2027 - \$55.2 million

TIP Projects by Use Categories

- New Sidewalks and Paths - 17 Projects - \$13.3 Million
- Bridge Preservation - 9 Projects - \$60.3 Million
- Intermodal - 1 Project - \$1.2 Million
- New Facility/Major Roadway Upgrade - 3 Projects - \$53.7 Million
- Interstate Interchange - 3 Projects - \$48.6 Million
- Paving - 10 Projects - \$19.8 Million
- Roadway Corridor Improvements - 5 Projects - \$15 Million
- Safety/Traffic Operations/ITS - 16 Projects - \$39.1 Million
- Transit - \$65.4 Million
- Stormwater/Environmental - 8 Projects - \$4.4 Million

After reviewing the TIP projects by Use Categories, Christine asked members if they had questions. Dana Hanley asked about the Church Street Side Street project. Christine explained there are two projects. The first is improvements to Cherry Street to improve the streetscape. The second is called "Reconnecting Downtown Burlington". This project is to reconnect two streets, St. Paul Street and Pine Street.

Bard Hill asked what a DDI interchange was. Christine said it was a diverging diamond interchange and said it was the same thing that was being done at exit 16 and will also be done on exit 12. He also asked about Richmond's passable roads by one lane and what the focus will be considering the recent flood damage to the roads. He acknowledged the FEMA

1 possibility but is wondering with the urgency of the situation if there was another option.  
 2 Christine responded that resiliency needs to be built into the infrastructure and that USDOT  
 3 emergency funding is likely. Charlie said not to be surprised if we are asked to shift the  
 4 schedules of some projects to help with more urgent transportation projects due to the  
 5 flood damage.

6  
 7 Matthew Arancio from VTrans added that there are funds set aside for repair work but  
 8 there may be limitations of staff and consultant resources. He said it is important to have a  
 9 firm understanding of the damage and what will be needed to repair it.

10  
 11 Charlie said there are limited resources all around, not just financial but also human  
 12 resources, consultant engineers, and contractors. Moving forward there will more than  
 13 likely be shifting in project schedules.

14  
 15 Matthew Langham from VTrans agreed with the previous comments and added it shouldn't  
 16 affect the formula funds to the State if they can get to the project within 200 days. He said  
 17 the question will be if resources are available?

18  
 19 Chris Shaw had questions for Christine and referred to the difference in the total TIP cost in  
 20 the packet compared to today's presentation of \$40 million. Christine said there has been a  
 21 lot added for the Winooski River Bridge and the other items she had previously pointed out  
 22 in her presentation. Chris Shaw also asked about the park in ride at exit 17. Christine said  
 23 that .4% is the actual amount for park and ride.

24  
 25 JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY ANDY MONTROLL, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC  
 26 HEARING AT 6:45 PM. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

27  
 28 **b) Action on the TIP.** JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY ANDY MONTROLL, TO  
 29 APPROVE THE TIP AS PRESENTED. MPO VOTE:

30 Bolton: Absent	Burlington: Yes (4)	Charlotte: Absent
31 Colchester: Yes (2)	Essex: Yes	Essex Jct: Yes
32 Hinesburg: Absent	Huntington: Yes	Jericho: Yes
33 Milton: Yes	Richmond: Yes	St. George: Absent
34 Shelburne: Yes	South Burlington: Yes (2)	Underhill: Absent
35 Westford: Yes	Williston: Yes	Winooski: Absent
36 VTrans: Yes		

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 38 MOTION CARRIED WITH 18 OF 24 VOTES AND 12 OF 18 MUNICIPALITIES VOTING IN THE  
 39 AFFIRMATIVE.

40  
 41 **c) Certification of the Planning Process**

42 Christine said the Certification of the Planning Process lists federal regulations CCRPC must  
 43 comply with. It speaks about federally protected classes that must not be excluded in all  
 44 work paid for with federal funds. She also mentioned that CCRPC tries to go beyond these  
 45 minimum requirements in equity work that is being done in the organization, but this  
 46 Certification reflects the federal requirements we must follow.

47

1 Chris Shaw brought up possibly walking through the plan and Jeff Carr brought up that the  
 2 Certification of the Planning Process is something that is done every year after approving  
 3 the TIP and felt the staff at the CCRPC had giving a lot of information on the specifics on this  
 4 already.

5  
 6 Benjamin Bornstein asked about references about specific federal regulations and statues in  
 7 the document and believes it to be clear. He had just wanted to confirm, which Christine did  
 8 and explained that it means that the CCRPC cannot discriminate in any of the federally  
 9 funded programs. Jeff Carr said that there has been a lot of work done to put these words  
 10 into actions which he applauds the staff and board for doing so.

11  
 12 JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY BARBARA ELLIOT TO APPROVE THE  
 13 CERTIFICATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS. MPO VOTE:

14 Bolton: Absent Burlington: Yes (4) Charlotte: Absent  
 15 Colchester: Yes (2) Essex: Yes Essex Jct: Yes  
 16 Hinesburg: Absent Huntington: Yes Jericho: Yes  
 17 Milton: Yes Richmond: Yes St. George: Absent  
 18 Shelburne: Yes South Burlington: Yes (2) Underhill: Absent  
 19 Westford: Yes Williston: Yes Winooski: Absent  
 20 VTrans: Yes

21  
 22 MOTION CARRIED WITH 18 OF 24 VOTES AND 12 OF 18 MUNICIPALITIES VOTING IN THE  
 23 AFFIRMATIVE.

24  
 25 7. Revised FY24 Budget

26 Charlie explained this is the first time the Board has been asked to amend a budget outside of the  
 27 May adoption or the mid-year adoption in January. He referred members to the budget document  
 28 included with the packet. Charlie said there are two significant items; first, he was conservative  
 29 about the funding the legislative would approve for the CCRPC. We ended up with a \$190K increase,  
 30 whereas he had budgeted \$50K. The second was the CCRPC received the \$2.1 million RAISE grant.  
 31 We initially budgeted \$50K of MPO funds to manage that project thinking they would have a  
 32 consultant to do that. We had put out an RPF but received no response. He would like to shift the  
 33 funds from consultant to the personnel/staff category of the budget so the project can be managed  
 34 by staff. With the expense side of the budget, we want to hire an additional senior staff member  
 35 with a background in transportation and land use who can help manage the RAISE grant. There are  
 36 also funds in the regional planning line for a website consultant and to update state planning  
 37 manuals. Lastly, a formula error for \$240K in the Communication Union District expense line as a  
 38 direct expense. This will pass though us sometime in FY24. He also mentioned there are a few other  
 39 minor amendments now that we have more details than we did in April. This ultimately brings a  
 40 \$403K increase in revenue and a \$379K increase in expenses. The projected change in net revenue  
 41 goes from \$33K to \$57K.

42  
 43 Jeff Carr noted during the recent executive Finance and Executive Committee meeting they had an  
 44 extensive conversation on the pros and cons of hiring additional staff. He feels that another staff  
 45 person is well aligned, and although he would usually oppose, in light of the expenses aligning and  
 46 having the capacity, it makes sense.

47

1 Charlie wanted to let the board know that the RPC is staffing up with the unprecedented surge of  
2 federal funding. He said and with the current disaster that it would exaggerate that even more.  
3 Keeping in mind that while staffing up there will be retirements in a few years.  
4

5 JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CATHERINE MCMAINS, TO REVISE THE FY24 BUDGET.  
6 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
7

8 8. ECOS Plan Schedule Review

9 Chris Shaw turned the floor over to Taylor Newton who shared his screen with the group. Taylor  
10 provided a brief update about where the RPC is currently developing the ECOS Plan. He wanted to  
11 talk about the existing ECOS Plan with having so many new board members. He said the ECOS Plan is  
12 a regional plan, and it talks about health, land use, transportation, energy, the things that affect  
13 people's lives in Chittenden County. Taylor then provided a layout of the document.

- 14 • Main Document
  - 15 ○ Vision
  - 16 ○ 17 Goals
  - 17 ○ 8 Strategies
  - 18 ○ Actions
  - 19
- 20 • Supplements
  - 21 ○ Process
  - 22 ○ Regional Analysis (31 high priority concerns)
  - 23 ○ Regional Plan (Maps, Planning Areas, Act 250/Section 248 Role, Compatibility)
  - 24 ○ Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
  - 25 ○ Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
  - 26 ○ Energy Analysis/Targets/Methodology
  - 27

28 Taylor then explained the 2024 ECOS Plan

- 29 • ECOS Plan drafting began January 2022
  - 30 ○ The Long-Range Planning Committee reviewed 80% of the draft plan.
  - 31 ○ Intent to adopt June 2023
  - 32
- 33 • ECOS Plan drafting stopped fall 2022.
  - 34 ○ Staffing
  - 35 ○ Equity
  - 36 ○ Missing data for Enhanced Energy Plan
  - 37
- 38 • Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Comprehensive Economic Development  
39 Strategy (CEDS)
  - 40 ○ Adopted separately in 2023 to ensure they did not expire.
  - 41
- 42 • Work to date
  - 43 ○ 80% of the draft plan has been reviewed by the Long-range Planning Committee
  - 44 ○ (LRPC) and the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - 45 ○ Combined the main document and supplement 2.
  - 46 ○ Updated Enhanced Energy Plan (Supplement 6)
  - 47
- The second draft includes:

- 1           ○ Data updates
- 2                 ▪ Enhanced Energy Plan
- 3           ○ Address LRPC and PAC comments
- 4           ○ Equity

5 Taylor wanted to also speak about some other considerations for the ECOS Plan. The first being  
6 a website, and to hire a contractor to help with that development. The hope is by taking this  
7 step it will help develop a web-based plan. He also wanted to just reiterate the two supplements  
8 that have already been adopted, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the  
9 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Lastly, he mentioned the HOME Act  
10 that recently passed the legislature. The Act requires RPCs to set housing targets based on the  
11 Statewide Housing Needs Assessment. Since the next Statewide Housing Needs Assessment isn't  
12 updated until 2025 and the 2024 ECOS Plan will not include such targets. Instead, CCRPC intends  
13 to add targets via an ECOS Plan amendment in 2028.

14  
15 Taylor reviewed the timeline for the second draft with the board.

- 16  
17         • September 2023 – Prosperity
  - 18                 ▪ Key Issues: Economy, Household Financial Security, Working Lands, Arts  
19                     and Culture, Education, Infrastructure and Facilities,  
20                     Scenic/Historic/Recreational Resources
- 21         • October 2023 – People
  - 22                 ▪ Key Issues: Health, public Safety and Hazard Mitigation, Social  
23                     Connectedness, Civic Engagement
- 24         • November 2023 – Place
  - 25                 ▪ Key issues: Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Climate Change/Energy,  
26                     Ecological Systems
- 27         • Public Hearing Process
  - 28                 ▪ January 2024 – Full Draft and Warn First Public Hearing
  - 29                 ▪ February 2024 – First Public Hearing
  - 30                 ▪ April 2024 – Review Revised ECOS Plan
  - 31                 ▪ May 2024 – Second Public Hearing (warned by Executive Committee in  
32                     April)
  - 33                 ▪ June 2024 – Plan Adoption

34  
35 Taylor asked questions. Chris Shaw wanted to know about a recap of Building Homes Together and  
36 how Taylor mentioned not setting goals. Initially, Building Homes Together was supposed to target  
37 5,000 homes by 2025 and 1250 of were to be affordable housing. Chris asked if Taylor had any  
38 thoughts on that goal and progress towards it. Taylor said that he won't have data to look at for  
39 2022 until September. The goal is essentially 1,000 homes a year. Chris questioned why CCRPC is  
40 waiting to set a new target until 2028 when the original had been set in 2018. He also mentioned  
41 that he understood that we had to wait for the Housing Needs Assessment before they could set  
42 any hard numbers. Taylor Mentioned that another reason is because they will have to municipalize  
43 those housing targets, so it needs to be a very well thought out methodology.

44  
45 9. Draft Enhanced Energy Plan Initial Review

46 Chris handed the floor over to Melanie who shared her screen with the group. She introduced the  
47 Enhanced Energy Plan Process that was part of the 2024 ECOS Plan update. She wanted to point out  
48 what Enhanced Energy Planning is at both the regional and local level.

1  
2 She explained that the Enhanced Energy Plan came to be with the enactment of Act 174 in 2016  
3 which was born out of public comment and opposition to large wind projects. At that time the  
4 legislature enacted Act 174 to give municipalities and regions the opportunity to do upfront  
5 planning to identify where they wanted to have renewable energy generation projects. The  
6 Department of Public Service established the energy planning standards that a municipality or  
7 region would have to follow for the comprehensive plan to be given substantial deference or greater  
8 weight in the Public Utilities Commission process for permitting renewable energy generation  
9 projects. If there is no Enhanced Energy Plan that follows these standards the Public Utility  
10 Commission only gives the plan due consideration. Melanie then outlined that the Energy Planning  
11 Standards have three components analysis and targets, pathways for implementation, and mapping.  
12

13 Melanie then outlined the first time they adopted the Enhanced Energy Plan in 2018.

- 14 • Energy Sub-committee (2-year process)
- 15 • Key siting and suitability policies
  - 16 ○ Natural resource constraints
  - 17 ○ Preferred sites, infill areas planned for growth.
- 18 • Section 248
- 19 • Use less energy for heating, electricity, and transportation.
- 20 • Plan for new growth in areas planned for growth.
- 21 • 90% of energy is from renewable sources.
- 22 • Transform transportation and heating sectors to be powered by renewable electricity.

23  
24 Melanie then updated the board on the 2024 ECOS Plan-Process.

- 25 • Long Range Planning Committee, Energy Subcommittee
- 26 • Richmond, Milton, Essex, Williston, Underhill, Charlotte, South Burlington
- 27 • March-July 2023
- 28 • LRPC review on August 8, 2023
- 29
- 30 • Proposed 2024 ECOs Plan Changes
  - 31 ○ Mapping
    - 32 ■ LIDAR Rooftop Analysis
    - 33 ■ State Constraints
  - 34 ○ Pathways
    - 35 ■ Net -metering
    - 36 ■ Wind
    - 37 ■ VELCO
  - 38 ○ Equity Assessment
  - 39 ○ Analysis and Targets
    - 40 ■ A single renewable energy generation target.
    - 41 ■ Update LEAP data

42  
43 Chris Shaw mentioned that the decibel levels of the wind sound rules make wind projects  
44 unworkable while in South Burlington people are subjected to significant noise from jets and air  
45 traffic. Chris Shaw asked about a deeper dive in the October board meeting. Melanie agreed that  
46 there would be a deeper discussion.



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## 10. Economic Development District Introduction

Taylor shared his screen with the board members and explained the purpose of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS provides a strategic blueprint for regional economic development. Between February 2023 and March 2023, the RPCs and RDCs of Chittenden County, Addison County, Rutland County, and Central Vermont implemented a public-input driven planning process funded by the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the development of the West Central VT CEDS. The draft CEDS was submitted to the EDA in May and approved on June 2, 2023.

Taylor then noted that now that CEDS has been approved CCRPC can decide whether it wants to create an Economic Development District (EDD) with the other CEDS partners. The rest of Vermont beside our four regions is already a part of EDDs. EDDs are multi-jurisdictional entities, commonly multiple counties and in certain cases even across state borders. They collaborate to implement a locally based, regionally driven CEDS, making the region eligible for additional federal funding through EDA.

- Eligibility Requirements
  - Approved CEDS
  - At least one geographical area within the designated service boundaries meets regional distress criteria.
- Why be an EDD?
  - Provides formal structure to continue regional economic development collaboration, planning, and establishing priorities for federal investment.
  - Potential for non-competitive, priority EDA funding awarded to EDDs only. (e.g. Planning and Technical Assistance, Disaster Assistance)
  - Higher Priority for other Federal funding for projects from within the EDD
  - Completes Vermont statewide development of CEDS and EDD designations.

Jeff Carr asked about the relationship between establishing an EDD and gaining funding from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). Taylor responded that creation of the EDD does not necessarily change access to NBRC funding, but the EDD could help NBRC grant awardees with grant administration.

Dana Hanley wanted to take a minute to thank Taylor for the tremendous amount of work he has done on this and feels he should be commended.

## 11. Legislative Priority mid-year Review

Charlie referred members to the Policy Participation Topics document included with the packet. He explained there were only a few changes. He mentioned one of the items he was working on was to get Northern Borders Regional Commission federal dollars to be considered local funding for the purpose of matching other federal grants. He mentioned that this is something that one or more of the other regional commissions around the country have. Chris Shaw also wanted to point out that Charlie is the secretary of the National Association of Development Organizations. He said we benefit from Charlie's knowledge. Charlie noted that we bring this list to the board every January and July. These are items that the staff is keeping an eye on and some things they are engaging more directly in. Charlie asked members if there were other items they wanted to include or if anything should be removed. There were no proposed changes.

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12. Committee Member Review/Volunteers

Charlie referred members to the draft FY24 Regional Board Member and Committee Appointments document included with the packet. He reviewed the current members of each committee and highlighted vacant positions. Benjamin Bornstein volunteered for the Long-Range Planning Committee. Catherine noted a change should be made to the UPWP Committee chair. Chris Shaw also asked the board members to send the word out for the openings for volunteers in these committees.

13. Equity Update

Anne Nelson greeted members. She said she has been meeting internally with all staff to create and develop a formal equity statement for the CCRPC, which she hopes to bring to the board meeting in September. Meetings are also scheduled to develop a code of conduct, which will come to the board in October. She is working with her intern, Annie Henderson, to weave more equity language and context into the ECOS Regional Plan, and to develop an Equity Action Plan. Anne Nelson continues to have many meetings with community partners. She, alongside the Equity Advisory Committee, is exploring ways to use federal transportation funds to build community capacity for greater engagement. She is still working with The Creative Discourse Group to plan a regional equity workshop. She is also involved in a couple of specific CCRPC projects' engagement efforts. Bruce asked for her to clarify what she means by "equity language" in the ECOS Plan, and she responded by explaining that she means adding some more disaggregated data by race, ethnicity, and class, and adding contextual information around disparities and be more explicit in our strategies to address these disparities.

14. Chair/Executive Director's Updates

a. S.100 Studies

Charlie noted that he is playing a lead facilitator role with the two studies that the RPCs are responsible for and is also coordinating with the Natural Resources Board and Department of Housing Community Development as they work on their related studies. He also mentioned that he planned to give an update to the VLCT board and will make sure they continue to be updated in the process.

b. Brownfields Award

He wanted to let everyone know that the EPA was supposed to do a press conference last week announcing that CCRPC had received a \$500,000 award from the EPA for Brownfields. There is also an additional \$100,000 of state money for Brownfields. He also noted that this is the most money they have ever had for Brownfields.

c. MERP Application Is Now Live

The Municipal Energy Resilience Program can help municipal buildings and their applications are now live. This is a \$44 million program that the legislature approved. Charlie mentioned that if you wanted more info or wanted to get involved to contact Ann Janda.

Benjamin Bornstein was surprised that it seems to be being pitched as converting to alternative fuels sources compared to fossil fuels, but it doesn't seem to be providing funds for implementing solar. Taylor responded that he wished he had a good answer for his question. He mentioned that Ann Janda also noticed that early on. Charlie also noted that this program is focused on the heating sector and not on electricity so that is likely why solar is not much of an emphasis. Benjamin mentioned he had been working with Ann and she was spectacular and appreciates her efforts.

1 15. Committee/Liaison Activities & Reports

2 The minutes for various committees are included with the packet as well as links to the documents  
3 online. The committee minutes include the Executive/Finance Committee with Act 250/Section 248  
4 letters, Transportation Advisory Committee, Board Development Committee, Long Range Planning  
5 Committee, and LRPC Energy Sub-committee.  
6

7 16. Adjournment. CHUCK WILTON MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY BARBARA ELLIOT, TO ADJOURN THE  
8 BOARD MEETING AT 8:06 PM. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
9

10 Respectfully submitted,

11 Mckenzie Spear