

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE - MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, July 11, 2023
TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda

Members Present:	Staff:
Sandy Thibault, TAC Rep	Taylor Newton, Planning Program Manager
Dana Hanley, CCRPC Alt from Charlotte	Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Eric Vorwald, PAC Rep	Darren Schibler, Senior Planner
Annie Costandi, CWAC Rep	Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planner
Bob Henneberger, TAC Rep	Charlie Baker, Executive Director
Andrew Watts, CCRPC Board Rep from Williston	Sarah Muskin, Planner

1. Welcome and Introductions

T. Newton welcomed everyone at 7:04pm. Introduced S. Muskin as new CCRPC Planner and all committee members present introduced themselves.

2. Approve April 11, 2023 Minutes

D. Hanley motioned to approve the April meeting minutes. A. Watts seconded. All in favor.

3. Recap FY23 ECOS Work

- a. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was approved by the board in June.
- b. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was approved by all 8 boards involved in March.
- c. LRPC Energy Subcommittee: seven members met 4 times to work on the energy plan which should be ready for committee review in August. There are minor policy changes as well as data updates and reorganization.

4. Review FY24 Schedule

T. Newton shared the meeting dates and plans for the remainder of the year. The next nine months will have monthly meetings. ECOS People and Place review will happen in the Fall.

5. Review the DRAFT ECOS Plan – Prosperity

T. Newton and CCRPC staff briefly summarized changes to the Prosperity Section of the ECOS plan. Committee members commented after each update summary.

Infrastructure and facilities: The main updates included general data, the CUD and including the Broadband grant that was received last month, the new solid waste recycling district, and medical facility data. E. Vorwald requested that a note be added of where to find data about wastewater capacity for all facilities in the region. Also, referencing the pandemic may be dated regarding Telecommunications/broadband. D. Schibler clarified that in Table 33, 65+ refers to the total population over 65+, not just the population between 65 and 85. E. Vorwald suggested adding the word “total” to clarify.

Economy: Information was added to this section about wages. Income was added to household income and security. Labor force participation was discussed. Staff attempted to include racially disaggregated data, but it was not included because the information doesn’t currently exist at a county or local level. E. Vorwald requested to list both ends of the wage spectrum on page 50 (first bullet). S. Thibault noted links to scorecards were broken, so requested a link functionality check. CCRPC staff will do so and think about how to update links efficiently going forward.

Household Financial Security: Changes included a lot of reframing household security as a social determinant of health. Discussion of data revealing large racial disparities was also added. Data from 2011 and 2021 was compared.

1 Other updates included data for basic needs budget, SNAP benefits, and making school meals free for all. B.
2 Henneberger requested to disaggregate data for those who rely solely on social security income in this section, given
3 they are an increasing percentage of the population. CCRPC staff will look into addressing this.
4

5 Working Lands & Land Based Industries: Switched language to regenerative economies. Equity issues were also
6 added to this section, regarding the dairy industry workforce in particular. E. Vorwald noted incorrect numbers in
7 Figure 28. CCRPC staff will address this.
8

9 Scenic Recreation and Historic Resources: Changes mostly included minor reframing and data updates. Updated info
10 about bike and ped infrastructure was included. Also was updated language about what we hope municipalities do in
11 their plan when they want to regulate these resources. No board comments.
12

13 Arts and Culture: Minor updates. Added info about jobs in the creative arts in Chittenden County. No board
14 comments.
15

16 Education Knowledge and Skills: Changes to this section mostly included data updates such as childcare costs, and
17 standardized test scores. Test score data was disaggregated to explore equity concerns. A discussion about the new
18 childcare bill that just passed was just added, although we will need to follow this policy as its impacts occur. A
19 discussion of the ramifications COVID-19 for teacher retention and hiring was included. E. Vorwald discussed why
20 in Figure 17 the number of school aged children increased, but school enrollment decreased. Staff conjecture that
21 students are being homeschooled/going to private schools (this data is only available for public schools). E. Vorwald
22 suggests it should be made clear that this data is only for public schools.
23

24 Economic Infrastructure Strategy- Including CEDS was the major change in this section. Before, CEDS was only
25 half enforced, and now the updates are included. No board comments.
26

27 Working Lands: The main changes in this section were to streamline and tighten language. Otherwise, language was
28 pulled from CEDS around Farm to Table, etc. May need to add some updates in the coming months to the biomass
29 section due to new information about the industry and resources. This may be added in August.
30

31 Governance: No big changes. Housing finance is being moved to housing strategy so was deleted. S. Thibault
32 confirmed that multijurisdictional services should reference Green Mountain Transit, not Chittenden County
33 Transportation Authority. C. Baker noted that the plan should reference recent legislative studies on transit financing.
34

35 The next meeting will be longer because Energy Planning information will be new for the Board. Packets should be
36 dispersed a week in advance. T. Newton will be on vacation. The subcommittee members may attend to discuss what
37 they have been working on with M. Needle and D.Schibler. The plan will have few major policy updates, but lots of
38 new data.

39 **6. Adjourn**

40 *E. Vorwald made a motion, seconded by S. Thibault to adjourn. The motion passed at 7:46 pm.*
41

42 Respectfully submitted, Sarah Muskin