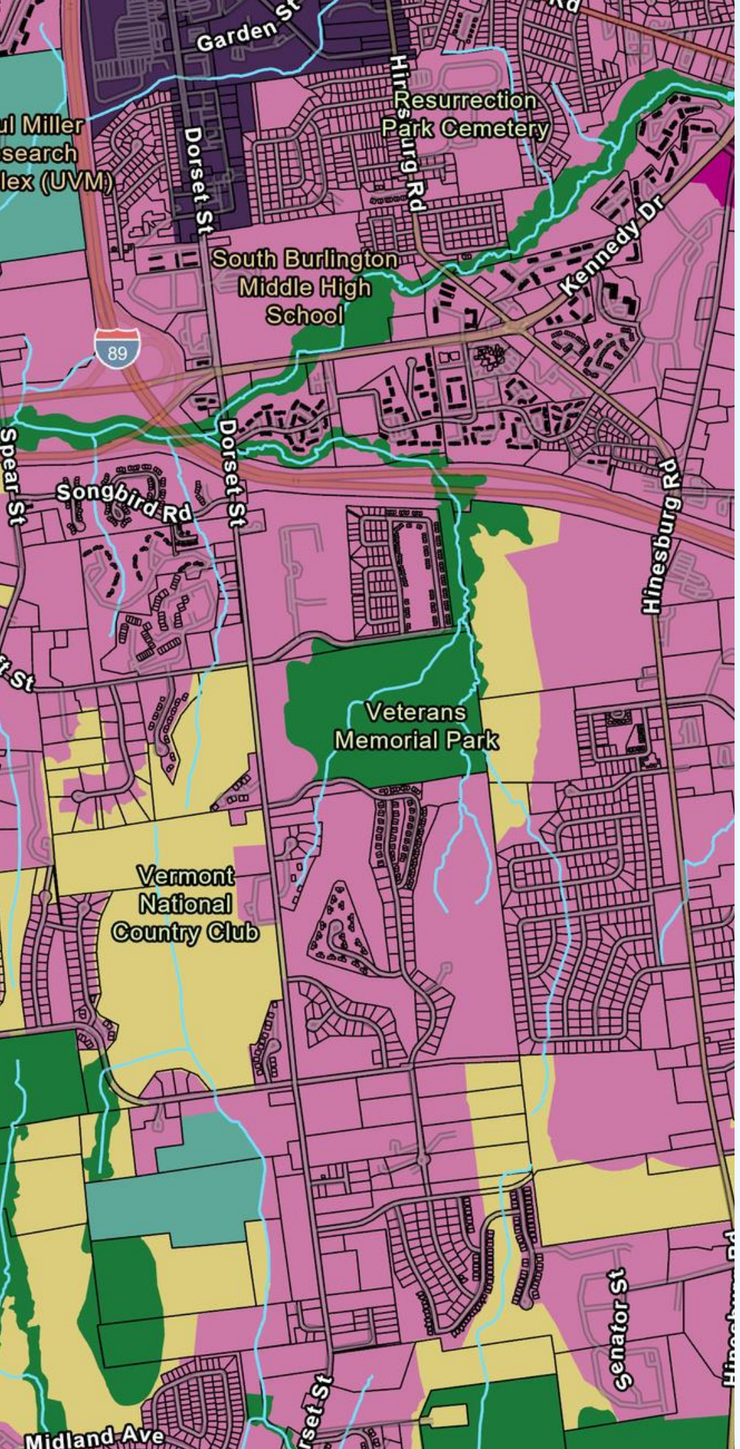


CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC

ACT 181 Update

Transportation Advisory Committee

September 2, 2025

ccrpcvt.org/ecos-regional-plan

2026 ECOS Plan

DEVELOPMENT

Started as a minor amendment

- Project began in 2021 – adoption originally anticipated in 2023
- Delay #1 – Fall 2022 - staff changes
- Delay #2 – Fall 2023 - need for additional engagement with underrepresented communities
- Delay #3 – Summer 2024 - passage of Act 181

Project delays led to an evolution to a major amendment

- "Meaningful participation"
- Plan structure
- New key themes: climate and inclusion
- New future land use map
- Municipal housing targets

Work lead by Long-range Planning Committee

- 11 members with Board, TAC, PAC, CWAC, and CEAC representation
- TAC Reps: Sandy Thibault and Bob Henneberger

2026 ECOS Plan

ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Round #1 – Focus on Underrepresented Communities

- 20+ Events - 328+ people
  - Municipalities: Burlington, Huntington, Bolton, Richmond, Underhill, Milton, St. George
- 6 Focus Groups - 91 people
  - Languages: Swahili, Somali, Nepali, Arabic, Lingala
- County-Wide Survey - 365 survey respondents

Engagement Round #2 – Act 181

- 140+ overall outreach activities ~ 1700 attendees
  - 11 focus groups – 3 language-specific with translation
- Interactive map viewer – 58 people commented (238 comments)
- Housing target feedback form and email – 44 people
- Mobile home park survey – 72 survey responses

All engagement reports located on [ECOS Engagement webpage](#).

2026 ECOS Plan

ENGAGEMENT

What did CCRPC hear?

- A LOT!
- Transportation-related:
  - Accessible, reliable, affordable, & sustainable public transit system in both urban and rural parts of the county
  - Design for walking & biking

All engagement reports located on [ECOS Engagement webpage](#).

2026 ECOS Plan

PLAN STRUCTURE

Current Structure

- 8 Strategies
  - Actions
- 17 Goals
  - Indicators

New Structure

- 2 Themes - Climate Change and Equity/Inclusion
- 17 Goals
  - Actions
  - Indicators

2026 ECOS Plan

PLAN STRUCTURE

Plan Supplements

- #1 – Process
- #2 – Crosswalk
- #3 – Environmental Benefits and Burdens Analysis - **NEW**
- #4 – Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDS)
- #5 – Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- #6 – Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP)
- #7 – Regional Housing Data - **NEW**

2026 ECOS Plan

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES

Added

- Planning Practices chapter
- Regional Future Land Use Map
- Municipal Housing Targets
- Supplement #3 - Environmental Benefits and Burdens
- Supplement #7 – Regional Housing Data
- Actions from 2023 MTP and CEDS

Deleted

- Removed Education chapter - integrated into other chapters
- Regional Context Supplement - integrated into plan
- Duplicate actions across chapters

CCRPC Draft Future Land Use Map

Act 181 Regional Future Land Use (FLU) Area Descriptions

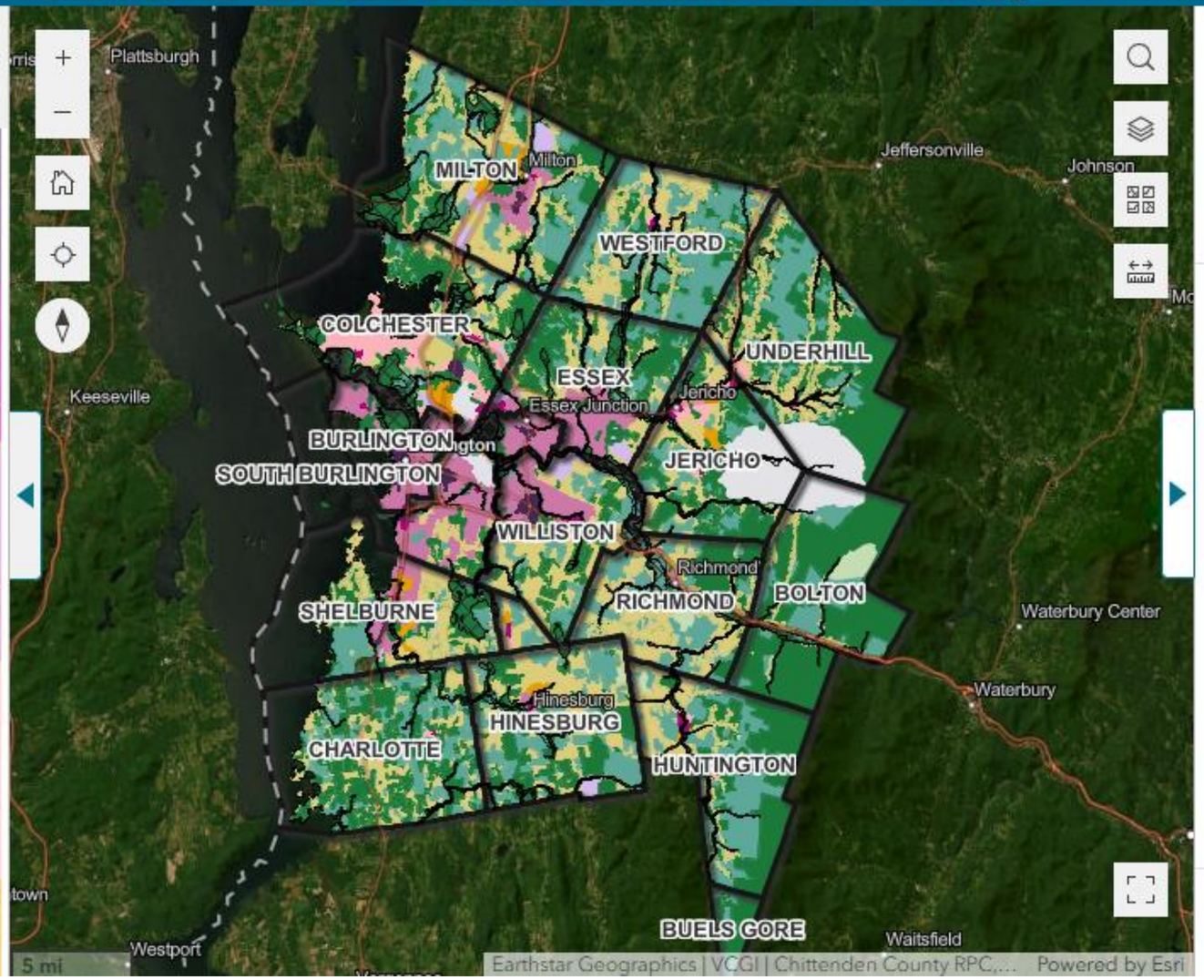
Downtown Center
Town and city centers with a mix of residential, business, and civic uses including schools, parks, and town offices. Will become the State Designated Center and eligible for Act 250 exemption.

Village Center
Town and city centers with a mix of residential, business, and civic uses including schools, parks, and town offices. Will become the State Designated Center and eligible for Act 250 exemption.

Planned Growth Area
Existing mixed-use neighborhoods and adjacent open lands near Centers that have local planning, zoning and infrastructure necessary to support substantial growth and become economic and cultural hubs for surrounding towns. Will become State Designated Neighborhood and eligible for Act 250 exemption.

Village Area
Existing neighborhoods and adjacent open lands generally within walking distance of a Center with local planning and zoning that support neighborhood residential and mixed-use. Will become State Designated Neighborhood and eligible for Act 250 exemption.

Transition or Infill Area
Areas that are regionally planned for growth but don't qualify for other FLU areas due to lack of infrastructure



- [x] River Corridor or Special Flood Hazard Area
- [x] Water Bodies
- [x] River or Stream
- [ ] Sewer and Water Service Areas
  - [x] Water Service Area
  - [x] Existing Wastewater Service Area
- [x] Municipal Boundaries
- [x] Property Boundary
- [ ] Draft Future Land Use

[CCRPC Draft Future Land Use Map – Map Viewer]

	EXISTING HOUSING UNITS (2023)	2050 HOUSING TARGET RANGES						ANNUAL HISTORIC GROWTH (2000-23)	2050 ANNUAL #S		
		LOW # and %		MID # and %		HIGH # and %			LOW	MID	HIGH
BOLTON	550	**59**	11%	**118**	21%	**177**	32%	6	**2**	**5**	**7**
BUEL'S GORE	12	**1**	11%	**3**	21%	**4**	32%	0	**0**	**0**	**0**
BURLINGTON	18,245	**3,557**	19%	**7,120**	39%	**10,683**	59%	77	**142**	**285**	**427**
CHARLOTTE	1,643	**176**	11%	**353**	21%	**530**	32%	6	**7**	**14**	**21**
COLCHESTER	7,673	**848**	11%	**1,697**	22%	**2,546**	33%	39	**34**	**68**	**102**
ESSEX	4,889	**1,233**	25%	**2,467**	50%	**3,702**	76%	51	**49**	**99**	**148**
ESSEX JUNCTION	4,955	**1,462**	30%	**2,927**	59%	**4,392**	89%	52	**58**	**117**	**176**
HINESBURG	2,071	**375**	18%	**752**	36%	**1,128**	54%	16	**15**	**30**	**45**
HUNTINGTON	876	**94**	11%	**188**	21%	**282**	32%	6	**4**	**8**	**11**
JERICHO	2,014	**210**	10%	**419**	21%	**629**	31%	10	**8**	**17**	**25**
MILTON	4,515	**640**	14%	**1,282**	28%	**1,923**	43%	42	**26**	**51**	**77**
RICHMOND	1,729	**202**	12%	**404**	23%	**606**	35%	8	**8**	**16**	**24**
SHELBURNE	3,529	**802**	23%	**1,605**	45%	**2,409**	68%	33	**32**	**64**	**96**
SOUTH BURLINGTON	9,921	**3,788**	38%	**7,583**	76%	**11,378**	115%	142	**152**	**303**	**455**
ST. GEORGE	314	**34**	11%	**67**	21%	**101**	32%	2	**1**	**3**	**4**
UNDERHILL	1,313	**141**	11%	**282**	21%	**423**	32%	9	**6**	**11**	**17**
WESTFORD	899	**96**	11%	**193**	21%	**290**	32%	6	**4**	**8**	**12**
WILLISTON	4,725	**1,402**	30%	**2,807**	59%	**4,212**	89%	70	**56**	**112**	**168**
WINOOSKI	3,665	**663**	18%	**1,327**	36%	**1,991**	54%	27	**27**	**53**	**80**
COUNTY TOTAL	*73,538*	***15,783***	*21%*	***31,595***	*43%*	***47,407***	*64%*	*602*	***631***	***1,264***	***1,896***

What about transportation?

ECOS Transportation Chapter

- Directly aligned to 2023 MTP – no change in regional policy
- Supported by actions in Land Use, Housing, Energy, Economic Development, and Infrastructure & Facilities chapters

2028 MTP

- Update Regional Transportation Model
  - Regional Future Land Use Plan
  - Housing Targets
- Will incorporate into an amended 2026 ECOS Plan in spring 2028

Long-Range Planning Committee –**September 2025**

Fall 2025

- LRPC begin review on entire ECOS Plan at August 12th meeting. Review will continue during September meetings. Review will focus on:
  - Land Use Chapter
  - Housing Chapter
  - Goals and Actions

- Will meet in late fall to discuss adding priority actions to the plan

February – April 2026

- Will meet to edit plan in response to public comment and LURB pre-application review

ECOS Plan – **Board Schedule**

September 2025

- Review draft ECOS Plan. Focus will be on goals and actions.

October 2025

- Compete review of draft ECOS Plan.
- Seek recommendation to submit plan to the Land Use Review Board (LURB) for preapplication review.

January 2026

- Hold first public hearing

May 2026

- Hold second public hearing
- Adopt plan
- Submit the plan to the Land Use Review Board (LURB) for formal review

Looking **Ahead**

Future Land Use Map

- Board and/or LURB may seek, or require, changes to the draft FLU map between now and June 2026.
- Need to reiterate to municipal partners that map is iterative through adoption – there may be 2 or 3 additional versions of the map.

Housing Targets

- Targets for mix urban & rural municipalities are based on FLU map. Therefore, there will be changes to targets based on FLU map changes.
- Housing targets in urban municipalities and rural municipalities are unlikely to change.

Thank you! | Questions?

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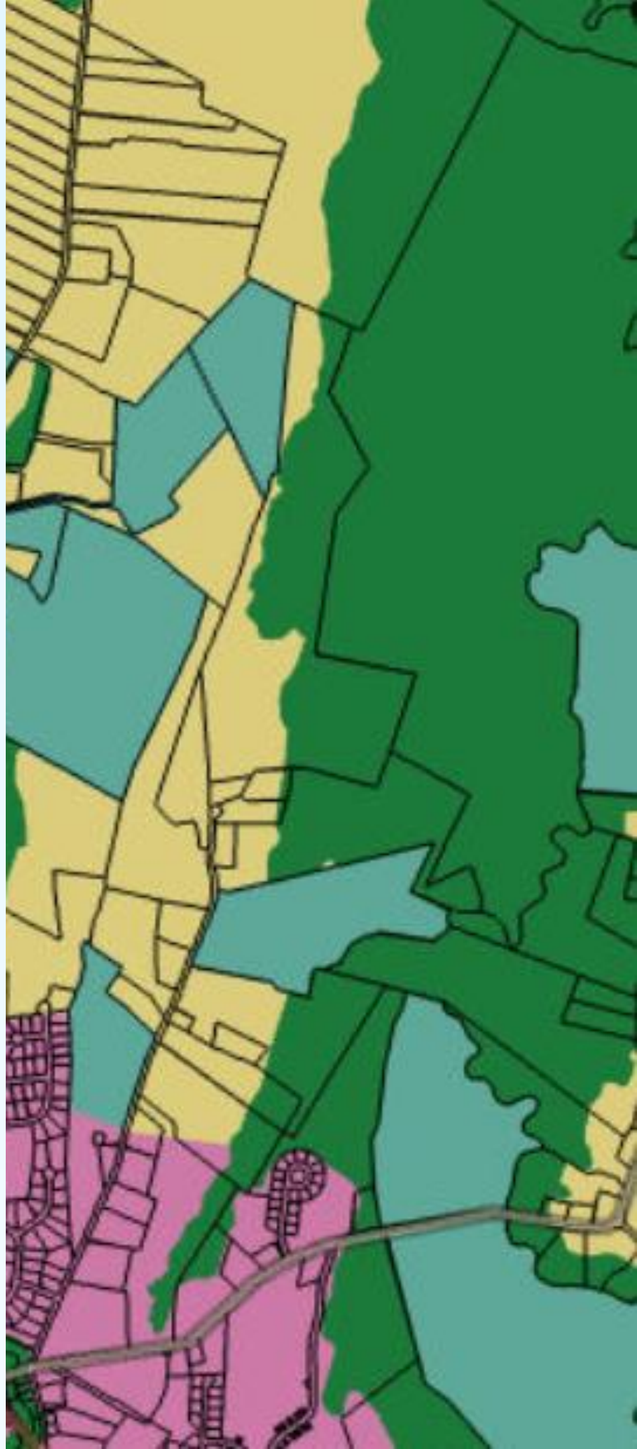
LEARN MORE:

General Information: ccrpcvt.org/ecos-regional-plan
Engagement Opportunities: ccrpcvt.org/ecos-engagement

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