

FY2015 ANNUAL REPORT TOWN of CHARLOTTE

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a cooperative regional forum 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 to all citizens of the region to ensure the implementation of the best regional and transportation plan for Chittenden County. The CCRPC also 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, Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the 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 Commission selects the at-large representatives.

The CCRPC appreciates the opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County. In FY15, the CCRPC invested about \$5 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages \$4.7 million in Federal and State investment with \$245,000 in municipal dues and another \$300,000 in local match for specific projects—a **9:1 return on investment**.

Town of Charlotte representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY15 were:

- CCRPC representative – Jim Donovan
- CCRPC alternate – Marty Illick
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Dean Bloch
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Jeannine McCrumb

Specific activities the CCRPC is engaged in with the Town of Charlotte, as well as some of CCRPC's regional activities, are discussed in the following sections.

TOWN of CHARLOTTE ACTIVITIES

In FY2015, the CCRPC provided assistance to Charlotte on the following projects and initiatives:

- Town plan assistance and mapping
- Ferry Road—US7 to Village Center Pedestrian and Stormwater Feasibility Study—this feasibility study examined alternatives for pedestrian uses, stormwater control and paved parking along Ferry Road in the West Charlotte village.
- US7/Ferry Rd./Church Hill Rd. Scoping Study – This project evaluated the potential of installing a pedestrian crossing signal and crosswalk markings at the existing signalized intersection.
- Park and Ride Scoping Study – This project identified potential impacts, conceptual designs, and development costs for a park and ride in Charlotte.
- Staff assisted with information and details regarding new rules for Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) and flood resiliency planning requirements.
- Assisted with culvert inventory updates both in the field, as well as updating VTCulverts (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>) with information for replaced culverts.

Charlotte Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Sequin Covered Bridge Improvements (Roscoe Road over Lewis Creek)
 - \$875,000 for improvements to Sequin Covered Bridge (BR28) on Roscoe Road (TH36)
- US 7 Reconstruction (Ferrisburgh line north 2.9 miles)
 - \$20 million project for road reconstruction

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Legislative Forum** – Hosted a Legislative Forum in December to discuss priority issues of jobs & the economy; smart growth; state & municipal budgets; and water quality. Developed positions on integrated permitting reform and water quality (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/aboutus/policies/>)
- **ECOS Plan Annual Report** – The [2014 Annual Report](#) is a summary that highlights a number of regional accomplishments, trends, and high priority actions. The ECOS Plan is the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. The ECOS Scorecard is our new online platform that hosts the ECOS Partners' shared measurement system that monitors how Chittenden County is doing with regard to achieving our shared ECOS goals. (<https://app.resultsscorecard.com/Scorecard/Embed/8502>)
- **Emergency Management** – CCRPC, with Local Emergency Planning Committee 1 (LEPC 1 <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/em/lepc/>), served as a key conduit between the City and the State in sharing damage assessment information after disasters, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, hosted workshops on a wide array of emergency preparedness topics, and facilitated Incident Command System training.
- **Transportation Demand Management** – The CCRPC, along with regional and state partners,

continued hosting **Go! Chittenden County**, a one-stop-shop for information and advice about our region's transportation resources (www.gochittendencounty.org). The CCRPC promoted the 12th annual **Way to Go! Smart Trips Challenge** (www.waytogovt.org) the week of May 4-15 to encourage sustainable transportation (non-single occupant vehicle travel) and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits.

- The **Intelligent Transportation System Plan** was drafted which describes how to best use telecommunications and computing technology to boost the efficiency of the transportation system for passenger cars, trucks, busses, emergency and maintenance vehicles, and provide timely information on travel options.
- **Diversity & Equity** – The CCRPC updated the **Public Participation Plan** (PPP), which focused on diversity and equity. We are currently soliciting assistance from outside organizations to help with implementing the PPP for specific projects. (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/aboutus/public/>)
- **Regional Technical Assistance** – Includes GIS mapping, model municipal plans, bylaw and ordinance revisions, Act 250 application reviews, grant administration, build-out analyses, orthoimagery acquisition, and improving the VT Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>). We also provide Transportation Technical Assistance, Scoping and Corridor Study programs to help individual communities address their transportation needs.
- **Education & Training** – The CCRPC held the Development Review Board Summit, and hosted a Regional Highway Safety Forum with VTrans. We surveyed municipal interest in shared services and explored opportunities to implement. We continued hosting meetings and online webinars open to municipalities and regional partners covering topics such as Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide, Emerald Ash Borer, Modeling a Carbon Tax's Impact on State Economies, New Tools for Estimating Walking and Bicycling Demand, Putting Equity on the Map: Innovative Tools to Measure Access to Opportunity, VOBCIT/VTCulverts (<http://www.vtculverts.org/>) and more.
- **Byways** - Assisted with implementation of Lake Champlain Byway program and facilities (<http://www.lakechamplainbyway.com/>)
- **Neighbor Rides** – Since Spring 2013, CCRPC has been investing in Neighbor Rides to integrate volunteer drivers into human services transportation in order to increase access to transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by offering a lower-cost mode of transport. (<http://www.unitedwaycc.org/volunteer/neighbor-rides-2/>)
- **Traffic Count Program** – <http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>

For further information about the CCRPC please visit <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/> or contact CCRPC Executive Director, Charlie Baker, cbaker@ccrpcvt.org, 802-846-4490 x23.