

## 3.0 Corridor Issues And Assessment

### 3.1 Previous Studies & Plans

Numerous planning efforts have been undertaken by regional and local organizations that aim to address issues that affect the VT 15 corridor. Table 3.1 lists studies that have been prepared, which include both region-wide studies that provide regional recommendations and targeted studies which address specific issues and opportunities in the corridor. A full description of the goals, objectives and recommendations developed from these studies is included in Appendix B. Information and findings from these studies was incorporated, where appropriate, into the recommendations of the VT 15 Corridor Plan.

In addition to the studies listed above, the four municipalities within the study area identify transportation and land use policies in their municipal plans. These policies will provide a foundation and direction for the recommendations of this corridor study. An overview of the municipal goals of each municipality, in terms of transportation along VT 15, is briefly described below. The specific goals, objectives and recommendations of the municipalities are included in the appendix.

The Essex Community Development Department prepared the Essex Town Plan in 2006. The plan's transportation policy

encourages multimodal transportation opportunities, including bicycle and pedestrian paths, increased public transit, and public transit connections to park-and-ride facilities. Strengthening these opportunities, in conjunction with the completion of the Circumferential Highway and selected intersection improvements will improve the conditions on the town's roadways. The plan also recognizes the interrelation between transportation and land use. It states that development should occur in growth centers, with access to transit opportunities to both alleviate traffic conditions and improve and expand economic centers within the community.

The Village of Essex Junction adopted its Comprehensive Plan Update in October 2002. The plan supports the completion of the Circumferential Highway and calls for implementation of a Transportation Management Plan for the entire village network. It also recognizes the need to improve the levels of service at Five Corners. In terms of land use, the plan notes that densities in the village should be increased and that there should be sufficient locations within the village to accommodate a mix of uses.

The City of Winooski Municipal Development Plan was adopted by the Winooski City Council in January 2003. The Plan aligns Winooski's goals with the Chittenden County Regional Plan. In general, the plan supports mass transit, including commuter rail, to link the urban core and the suburbs; streetscape improvements; traffic calming measures; and the provision of a citywide system of bicycle ways, with bicycle lanes and shared paths. Under this plan, a shared Class I path is planned for VT 15. The plan also supports the development of a roadway to parallel VT 15/East Allen Street to serve commuter trips and provide access to Winooski Valley Park District facilities and the St. Michael's-Fort Ethan Allen area.

In terms of land use policy, the plan describes a vision for the upper Main Street and East Allen Street mixed use corridors and proposes the development of high density housing within and around the downtown growth center.

The Town of Colchester's 2002 Master Plan was an update to the Town's 1996 Master Plan. Incorporated into the 2002 Plan is the Town's Open Space Plan, the Exit 17 Growth Center Plan and the 1993 Alternative Transportation Path Plan (ATPP). Relevant policies in the plan include: (a) appropriate sidewalks in residential developments and Class 1 bike paths throughout town, as per the ATPP; (b) a full interchange at Exit 15 or connection between Exit 16 and Route 15; (c) a Route 15 Corridor Study and plan to consider the relationship between the various institutional/campus uses,

including the recommendation that future development should include intersection improvements, sidewalks/transportation paths and landscaping to enhance the character of the Fort Ethan Allen/ Camp Johnson area; and (d) working with the City of Winooski to ensure that the city's expansion plans do not adversely affect Colchester's ability to develop.

The Colchester Planning Commission adopted the updated Town Plan for Colchester in July of 2007.

**Table 3.1: Existing Studies Relevant to VT 15**

No.	Date	Report Title	Author	Sponsor
1	May 2000	SWR Capacity & Access Management Study	Lamoureux & Dickinson	Town of Essex
2	August 2001	Burlington-Essex Corridor Alternatives Analysis: Phase 1A Report and Appendix	DMJM+ Harris	CCMPO and VTrans
3	June 2002	Draft Environmental Assessment for the Burlington-Essex Rail Project	DMJM+ Harris	CCMPO, VTrans and the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Transit Administration
4	June 2002	Blue Ridge Scoping Study (Winooski West of 2 & 7)	McFarland-Johnson, Inc. (MJ)	CCMPO
5	July 2002	Financial & Institutional Strategy Route 15 Corridor Improvement Plan-Burlington-Essex Rail Project	DMJM+ Harris	CCMPO and VTrans
6	October 2002	Countywide Signal Optimization Plan	Resource Systems Group	CCMPO
7	October 2002	Five Corners Traffic Operations Evaluation	DMJM+ Harris	CCMPO and VTrans
8	March 2003	Transit-Oriented Development Planning-Market Analysis, Development Opportunities and Fiscal/Economic Impact	DMJM+Harris	CCMPO and VTrans
9	November 2003	Analysis of Opportunities and Constraints for Transit-Friendly Development	DMJM+ Harris	CCMPO and VTrans
10	November 2003	Transit-Oriented Development Opportunities for the Route 15 Corridor	DMJM+ Harris	CCMPO, VTrans, and the CCRPC
11	February 2004	Chittenden County Park and Ride Facility Prioritization	CCMPO	CCMPO
12	February 2004	Essex Town Center Committee Report	Essex Town Center Committee	Town of Essex
13	February 2004	Susie Wilson Road Committee Report	Susie Wilson Road Committee	Town of Essex
14	July 2004	VT Route 15-Modeling of Existing Conditions and Optimized Signal Operations	Dufresne-Henry	CCMPO
15	November 2004	Roland Court-VT15: EXIT 15 Alternatives Analysis	Resource Systems Group	CCMPO
16	January 2005	CCMPO Transportation Plan	CCMPO & Wilbur Smith Associates	CCMPO
17	May 2005	Final Report on the Susie Wilson-VT 15 Jughandle	Smart Mobility	CCMPO and Village of Essex Junction
18	June 2005	Final Scoping Report: Campus Connector Road	McFarland-Johnson, Inc. (MJ)	CCMPO
19	June 2005	Pearl Street Corridor Enhancement Plan	Saratoga Associates	Village of Essex Junction
20	June 2005	SWR Corridor Improvement Plan+plans, designs	Lamoureux & Dickinson	Town of Essex
21	August 2005	Regional Bicycle Transportation Plan	Wilbur Smith Associates	CCMPO
22	August 2005	Downtown Streetscape Plan for Essex Junction	LandWorks	Village of Essex Junction
23	October 2005	Airport Dr/ Parkway Improvements - Scoping Study	Dufresne-Henry	CCMPO
24	December 2005	Chittenden County TDM Education, Outreach, and Support Plan	URS	CCMPO
25	January 2006	Transit Oriented Design Master Plan for the Susie Wilson Corridor	ORW+RSG	Town of Essex, CCMPO and VTrans