



**Chittenden County
Metropolitan Planning
Organization**



MAR/APR '04

TRANSPORTATION NEWS FROM THE CCMPO

VOL 6, NO 4

SPOTLIGHT

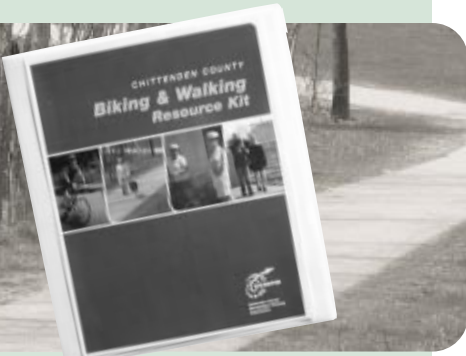
**CCMPO Web Site to Offer
Interactive Traffic Data**

The CCMPO is finalizing an interactive traffic data system for its Web site, with completion anticipated by the end of February. The new feature will enable users to retrieve traffic count data for roadway segments and intersections by clicking on the highlighted areas of online highway maps. (A sample map is now available at www.ccmpto.org/data/counts.html)

Designed primarily for transportation and land use planners, the system will be useful for traffic impact studies and the development of scoping study alternatives. In addition, data

collected over time can yield expected trends in traffic volume. Finally, the data offers one way to check the accuracy of transportation planners' regional model.

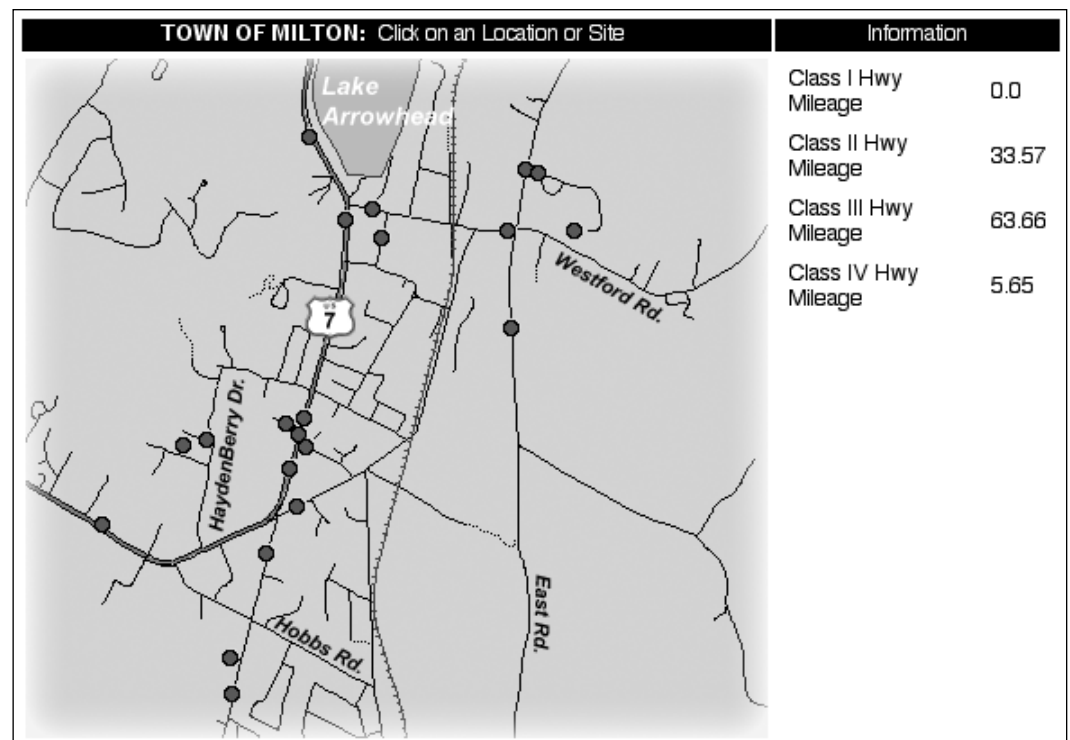
Although the CCMPO has collected traffic data since 1994, traffic counts actually began long ago. One example is a 1912 study in Wayne County, Michigan that summarized the numbers of horse-drawn vehicles, automobiles, and trucks traveling on the county's roads in a 24-hour period. □



The CCMPO's Biking and Walking Resource Kit, now in development, will be made available to the public through town offices and libraries.

IN THIS ISSUE

- A Look at So. Burlington, VT... p. 2*
- Jeff McDonald, CCMPO Vice Chair and Charlotte Rep. p. 2*
- Hinesburg Route 116 Scoping Study Nears Completion p. 3*
- Scoping Study Begins for Shelburne Road Crossing p. 3*
- FY '03 Federal Transportation Spending to Exceed \$34 Million in Chittenden County . . . p. 4*



▲ Clicking on a dot reveals traffic count data for a specific roadway segment or intersection.

Visit the CCMPO at www.ccmpto.org

A Look at South Burlington, VT

With a population of approximately 16,000, South Burlington is one of Chittenden County's largest communities. Located on its 15 square miles are Burlington International Airport, half of UVM's properties, and the state's largest shopping mall. The city includes a mix of suburban areas, high intensity commercial areas, two dairy farms, and industrial development associated with the airport.

Among South Burlington's most attractive features are numerous recreational facilities. These include 16 miles of bike/ped paths, 2 skating rinks, parks, and a strong, city-sponsored recreation program.

In order to accommodate the high volume of traffic moving within and through South Burlington, the city strongly supported the current reconstruction of Shelburne Road. Efforts are now under-way to launch scoping and design studies for a similar reconstruction of Williston Road.

Additional transportation improvements are now planned or under consideration in South Burlington. For example, capacity expansion of Kennedy Drive is expected to begin this summer, and reconstruction of Lime Kiln Bridge should be out to bid by October. Possible future projects include construction of an I-89 interchange at Hinesburg Road, and an extension of Airport Parkway to provide better access to the airport. □



▲ Dorset Street, South Burlington



▲ Williston Road, South Burlington



New Phone Extensions

The CCMPO telephone number remains at 660-4071. Individual staff members may be reached at the following new extensions:

<i>Daryle Benoit</i>12
<i>Paul Craven</i>11
<i>Bernie Ferenc</i>10
<i>Christine Forde</i>13
<i>Peter Keating</i>14
<i>Bill Knight</i>15
<i>Dave Roberts</i>16
<i>Susan Smichenko</i>17

A CONVERSATION WITH...

Jeff McDonald, CCMPO Vice Chair and Charlotte Representative

How have you been involved in transportation issues?

I have served on the Metropolitan Planning Organization board for 8 or 9 years, starting when it consisted of only urban communities and there was a separate Rural Planning Organization. When I moved to Charlotte, town officials learned that I'm an engineer, so they asked me to serve on the RPO. Soon after that, I helped with the merger of the RPO and MPO. I also was appointed to the Charlotte Planning Commission.

What are your current roles?

I'm now the Chair of the Planning Commission and the Vice Chair of the CCMPO. As Vice Chair, I back up the Chair, serve on the Executive Board, and represent the CCMPO on the Regional Planning Commission.

What are your thoughts on the CCMPO?

As the organization has matured, it's become much more effective in allocating Federal funds. For example, I've seen it make great strides in bringing money to rural towns, improving the



corridors that bring people to the urban area, and responding to public input on facilities like park and ride lots.

Which transportation issues are especially important to you?

First, I think there isn't enough infrastructure for commuter traffic and trucks going into the urban core. Without adequate roadways, people tend to seek alternate routes through residential areas.

Second, alternative modes of transportation need to be available wherever affordable housing is built. That should start to improve as the CCTA evolves into a countywide organization. Also, if we take a

holistic, long-term view of transportation costs and needs, investments in commuter rail start to make sense.

What's your vision for the county's transportation future?

I'd like to see a truly multimodal, countywide transportation system, as well as innovative ways to alleviate congestion downtown. □

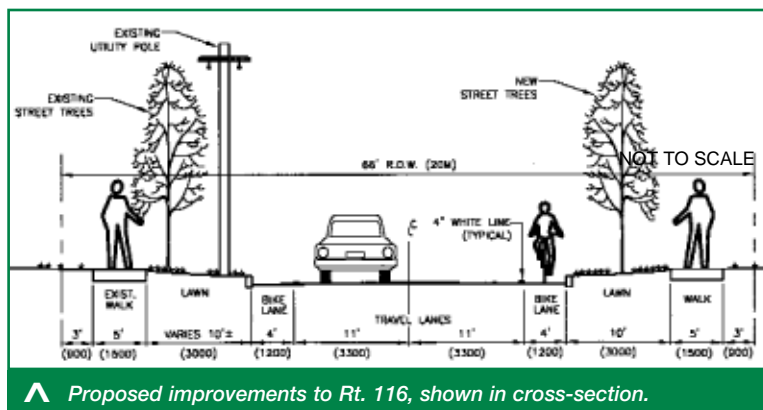
Hinesburg Route 116 Scoping Study Nears Completion

CCMPO, working with the town of Hinesburg and consultant DuBois & King, Inc., is finalizing a scoping study of the Route 116 corridor through Hinesburg Village. The study is intended to develop and evaluate ways to enhance mobility within the corridor and from side streets; improve safety within the village and elementary school zone; enhance the corridor streetscape; and improve bicycle and pedestrian access, mobility, and safety.

The past 20 years have seen an annual increase of more than 3 percent per year in the traffic volumes on Route 116 in Hinesburg Village. This traffic increase has exacerbated other deficiencies through the corridor, including the following:

- Poor intersection capacity from side streets
- Inadequate sight distances at business entrances, driveways, and side streets
- Vehicle speeds in excess of posted speed limits
- Insufficient pedestrian links
- Vague village boundaries and indistinguishable streetscape
- Wide business driveways where vehicle lanes are not well defined and vehicle conflicts may be problematic

Improvement alternatives were developed to address deficiencies. Specific goals were to achieve more of a balance between arterial



Proposed improvements to Rt. 116, shown in cross-section.

and local road functions, maintain reasonable levels of service, improve aesthetics, and encourage use of alternative modes of transportation such as walking and biking.

Strategies for addressing these concerns included road improvements, access management, intersection improvements, additional pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and traffic calming. Specific recommendations included the following:

- Reduce the roadway width to provide 11-foot lanes and four-foot shoulders on either side for bike lanes
- Construct missing sidewalk links
- Install street trees and improve roadway lighting
- Implement intersection sight and visibility improvements at CVU Road
- Upgrade lanes at Mechanicsville Road
- Install signalization at Charlotte Road
- Construct a “T” intersection at Silver Street

Once the scoping study is completed and approved by VTrans, the project will be prioritized with other Chittenden County projects and added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) when funds become available. □

Scoping Study Begins for Shelburne Road Crossing

CCMPO is beginning a study of improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian crossing of Shelburne Road at Queen City Park Road in South Burlington. The Spear Street Path makes possible a connection from the South Burlington recreational path system to Red Rocks Park, Oakledge Park, and the Burlington Bike Path. However, the crossing of Shelburne Road remains an obstacle, particularly for families with small children.

This study will look at the existing placement of the crossing, as well as a variety of possible intersection improvements such as raised islands and crosswalks and improved signage and signalization. It will take approximately nine months to complete and public input will be welcomed. □



Delays End, Construction Begins for Major Transportation Projects

Transportation improvement is on the fast track in Chittenden County, with many large-scale projects now underway or soon to begin. Among these are the reconstruction of Shelburne Road and the construction of Circumferential Highway Segments A and B.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2003, the federal government obligated over \$34 million to cover implementation costs for Chittenden County transportation projects. This is \$2.5 million higher than FY02 and over \$10 million higher than FY01. An additional \$3 million was obligated for transit projects, and nearly \$2 million for interstate paving.

“Obligation,” the first step in the federal government’s spending process, sets aside funds for specific projects. More information on the Federal obligation can be found at:

<http://www.ccmpto.org/activities/Projects/obligation03.html>

Project	FY03 Obligation (in \$ millions)
Circumferential Highway	\$5.8
Shelburne Road Reconstruction	\$4.8
CCTA Funding	\$3.2
Route 127 Bike Path, Burlington	\$2.0
I-89 Paving	\$1.9
Williston Road Bridge over I-89, South Burlington	\$1.8
Champlain Parkway, Burlington	\$1.6
North Street Revitalization, Burlington	\$1.5
Burlington/Colchester Bike/Ped Bridge over the Winooski River	\$1.5
VT15/Old Stage Road Intersection, Essex	\$1.0

The preparation of this document was financed jointly by the eighteen municipalities in Chittenden County and the Chittenden County Transportation Authority; the Vermont Agency of Transportation; and the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration.

Communities working together to meet Chittenden County's transportation needs
 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206
 South Burlington, VT 05403-6825
www.ccmpto.org
info@ccmpto.org

Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization

