

TransActions



January/February 2006

Your Transportation News From the CCMPO • Volume 9 Number 1

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Route 2 Study Underway

In response to concerns about increasing traffic congestion, CCMPO has initiated a Route 2 Corridor Study. The study area is between S. Willard Street in Burlington and the Williston Village Center (intersection with N. Williston Road). The purpose of the study is to identify existing and future transportation system deficiencies and recommend solutions.

Route 2 Public Meetings

- January 10**
Williston Central School, 7:15 p.m.
- January 24**
S. Burlington City Office, 7:30 p.m.
- January 25**
Burlington City Hall, 7:00 p.m.

The outcome of the study will be a system-wide approach that addresses all transportation needs in the corridor including pedestrian, bicycle, bus, light rail/busway, and highway. According to South Burlington Planner Juli Beth Hinds, "this study is a great opportunity to look at some very neglected areas of South Burlington and determine how they could benefit from enhancements to Route 2."

A kickoff meeting of the Stakeholders was held over the summer to discuss issues and concerns. The group agreed that the study will use the *Vermont Corridor Management Handbook* as a guide (see box below). The *Handbook* offers a set of best practices for this type of planning that ensures a comprehensive and collaborative approach.



The intersection of Route 2 and Airport Drive will be part of the study.

After a competitive process, the Stakeholders hired Resource Systems Group, Inc. (RSG) to undertake the study. The first public meetings in Burlington, South Burlington, and Williston will be held in January 2006. Check the CCMPO website (www.ccmpto.org) for project updates.

Corridor Management Plan Process

- Step 1: Get Organized
- Step 2: Analyze Existing and Future Conditions
- Step 3: Develop Vision and Strategies
- Step 4: Develop Implementation Plan
- Step 5: Finalize Corridor Plan Document
- Step 6: Implement and Monitor Corridor Plan

From *Vermont Corridor Management Handbook*, <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/planning/vtcorridor.htm>

COMMUNITY PROFILE: Burlington International Airport

With the post September 11th troubles in the airline industry, one would think the picture at the Burlington International Airport (BIA) would be bleak. To the contrary, the future of the airport is quite bright. Next spring, BIA will begin a terminal expansion featuring at least four new passenger gates. The airport benefits from having a stable customer base and northwestern Vermont's destination locale. BIA has seen an increase in travelers from Quebec, so much so that they will launch a bilingual website in the near future.

BIA is owned by the City of Burlington and resides in South Burlington. Although over 1,000 people work at the airport, only about 30 are City employees.

BIA participates in a unique partnership with Burlington City Arts. This partnership reflects the current trend that transportation centers should offer a pleasant and interesting environment for those who spend time there. Evidence of this abounds in the terminal where local artists exhibit paintings, drawings, and photos and intriguing architectural elements prevail. City Arts is actively involved in terminal expansions to insure a lively environment for community art.



Artwork is an integral part of the airport's atmosphere.



The terminal offers comfortable places to wait.

Of course, there are still challenges. Brian Searles, Director of Aviation, notes a series of challenges: accommodating airport growth, changes in the airline industry, high fuel costs, changes in airline

Did you know? Amelia Erhardt, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, was an investor in the first commercial air service at the Burlington International Airport.

fleet preferences to small/mid-size aircraft, airfield maintenance, changing market demographics (more corporate flying, less discretionary flying), and competition from area airports. Although passenger boardings have been increasing approximately 15 percent per year, this year will see about an 11 percent increase, due to many of the challenges Brian

identified. Growth is expected to increase at a greater rate after the construction of new gates in the spring.

Brian finds the work rewarding, "I love watching people coming and going. I'm a witness to our success every day."

BIA Fast Facts

Flights per day: 120

Annual passengers: 1.4 million

People living in a 90-mile radius: 4 million

Annual budget: \$13 million

Number of gates: 10

Longest runway: 8,200 feet



Winooski Downtown Celebration



The new Spinner Place will offer housing and retail.

On November 18th, Winooski celebrated with a ribbon cutting for its new traffic circle and parking garage. Workers scrambled to complete the finishing touches as luminaries and citizens gathered to congratulate the City and partners on the project. In addition to the transportation projects, the project includes the new Vermont Student Assistance Corporation's (VSAC) headquarters, housing, and retail. CCMPO Executive Director Scott Johnstone joined the celebration: "Winooski has a history of building strong partnerships to improve the City. The downtown project is a perfect example of those partnerships."



Transportation Secretary Dawn Terrill.



Governor Douglas was on hand for the ribbon cutting.



CCMPO Representatives George Gerecke (Williston) and Mike O'Brien (Winooski).

Interview with C. Marc Landry, CCMPO Colchester Representative

Q: How did you find yourself on the CCMPO Board?

A: I've been on the Colchester Selectboard for 7 years. Chris Conant, also on the Selectboard (and our CCMPO Representative) needed some time away from the job. Being the alternate, I was tapped. While I am enjoying the assignment and learning a lot about transportation, the plan is to keep the seat warm until Chris is ready to return.

Q: What do you see as the challenges for transportation?

A: There are two challenges: money and politics. There is never enough money, and politics often makes transportation projects more expensive. For example, the bike bridge over the Winooski River. The result is great; however, politics required us to raise the height of the bridge and build a 1/3 of a mile concrete path. This significantly increased the cost of the project.

Q: What do you like most about living in this area?

A: We love the location. There are not many places where we can sit on our porch and enjoy sunsets over the Lake and the Adirondacks, go biking or walking and within 5 minutes be either on the Burlington Waterfront, or in the middle of Malletts Bay headed to South Hero; I can walk to my boat, or walk to work. Colchester and Chittenden County has provided my family with a great small town atmosphere and a matchless quality of life.



C. Marc Landry lives in Colchester with his wife, Pam.

Muddy Brook Path Connection Under Study

The CCMPO, Town of Williston, and the City of South Burlington are working to connect the bicycle/pedestrian paths in both towns and ultimately provide a crucial link to the regional path system between Williston and Burlington.



The existing path along S. Brownell Road in Williston (above) will connect to S. Burlington's path system (right).

The crossing of the Muddy Brook is the focus of the study underway by Dufresne-Henry. Stay tuned for more information about potential improvements and alternatives. For more information, contact Christine Forde, cforde@ccmpo.org.



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.

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Communities working together
to meet Chittenden County's
transportation needs

**Chittenden County
Metropolitan Planning
Organization**

