

# TransActions



March/April 2006

Your Transportation News From the CCMPO • Volume 9 Number 2

**In This Issue** you'll find a community profile of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission



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### Save the Date!

Route 2 Design Workshop  
March 30, 2006, 6:30 p.m.  
Doubletree Hotel  
South Burlington

## CCMPO Prepares Work Program for Next Year

This spring the CCMPO staff and board is hard at work crafting next year's (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007) work program, fondly dubbed the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This document summarizes the transportation planning activities of the CCMPO staff and other transportation players working in Chittenden County.



The Route 2 Corridor Study will continue into next fiscal year.

The new transportation law, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), authorized a substantial increase in CCMPO planning funds. The activities related to these new funds will be spelled out in the UPWP.

The CCMPO held a special work session at its February 15th board meeting to review planning projects for inclusion in the UPWP. Projects that are continuing from last year include: 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) grant program, Route 2 Corridor Study, Route 15 Corridor Study, Safe Routes to

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Fiscal Year 2007 will feature a Route 15 Corridor Study.

Schools, and data collection and management. The CCMPO expects to consider new program ideas too, such as an air quality education program and an enhanced signal timing program.

The UPWP is currently in draft form and will soon be available at [www.ccmpto.org/UPWP](http://www.ccmpto.org/UPWP). It is expected to be finalized in May.

### Work Program Committee

**MPO Board**  
Executive Committee Member *Jeff Carr*  
Finance Committee Member *Jim Dudley*  
At Large *George Gerecke*  
VTrans *Matthew Langham*

**Technical Advisory Committee**  
Chair *George Gerecke*  
At Large *Andy Legg*  
TDM/TSM *Meredith Schuft*  
Bike & Pedestrian *Chapin Spencer*

**Environment** *Richard Watts*  
Ex-Officio (non-voting)  
CCRPC *Greg Brown*  
CCTA *Chris Cole/Aaron Frank*  
Resource FHWA *Chris Jolly*

# COMMUNITY PROFILE: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

This month, we walked down the hall and checked in with CCRPC. Staff is busy drafting the 2006 *Regional Plan*. The new Plan provides a forum for guiding the future of life in the County. People from a broad range of interests come together, articulate the County's future, seek common themes, negotiate differences, and agree on a vision. The process will culminate in Plan adoption by the Commission's Board and approval by the eighteen municipal members this fall.

In an area where productive land is hard to come by, CCRPC is undertaking a Brownfields Initiative to put land currently unavailable due to possible or actual contamination back on the market. Brownfields are areas where soil has been contaminated with hazardous chemicals or petroleum products. CCRPC hopes to work with landowners to assess potential brownfields to determine the nature of the contamination and methods for remediation.

One of the Commission's most basic services is the provision of technical assistance to its member municipalities. A new effort is underway to



Greg Brown at a public forum.



Julie Potter of CCRPC at a public forum.

determine what kind of hi-tech, value-added services can be offered. At one time, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was the cutting edge and municipalities did not have this technology. Now, many of the larger municipalities have their own GIS systems. CCRPC will be surveying members

to determine what new technology would be most helpful. This might include new forecasting tools for land use and development or more sophisticated GIS applications.

Greg Brown, CCRPC's Executive Director, looks forward to a busy and productive year with the help of the CCMPO partnership. Greg's enthusiasm shows through: "I welcome Scott Johnstone to the CCMPO and appreciate the new energy and political savvy that he brings." Scott noted that he and Greg worked together in State government, "I look forward to continuing my relationship with Greg and making our organizations even stronger."

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"I look forward to continuing my relationship with Greg and making our organizations even stronger."

— Scott Johnstone

## Chittenden County Fast Facts (2000)

Total Population: 146,571

Median Age: 34.2

Population Density: 271.91

Average Household Size: 2.47

Median Household Income: \$47,673

People in Poverty: 12,267

(from US Census, <http://maps.vcgi.org/>)



## Safe Routes to School (SR2S) - Be a "Local Champion"

The CCMPO invites parents, teachers, and school staff to help make school travel safer and more active for students in the County. "Local Champions" -- who will encourage increased walking, biking, and carpooling -- are needed at each of the County's elementary and middle schools. Potential Safe Routes to School "Champions" will help to devise school travel plans and identify needed sidewalks and bike paths.

Free training will be provided to anyone interested in serving as a Local Champion on **Monday March 27, 2006 at the Richmond Free Library from 9AM to 3PM.** The training will introduce the comprehensive Safe Routes to School approach and discuss a new federal program that provides funding for both encouragement activities and infrastructure improvements. The training is free and open to all, but advance registration is required.

The CCMPO has been conducting a two-year pilot project in anticipation of new federal funding to demonstrate the effectiveness of various techniques and to develop a toolkit that can be used by schools to jump start a Safe Routes to School program. The training is sponsored by the CCMPO and the Vermont Safe Routes to School Partner Organizations.



Volunteer "walking school bus drivers" in Richmond and CCMPO Rep. Virginia Clarke demonstrate their love of walking.

For more information, contact Karen Akins, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, at 802.793.1481 or <http://www.ccmppo.org/SR2S/index.html>.

## Interview with Penrose Jackson CCRPC Representative

**Q: Tell us about the relationship between CCRPC and CCMPO.**

A: We consider ourselves sister organizations. There is a strong and growing commitment on behalf of our Commissioners and the CCMPO Board to better coordinate land use and transportation. The challenge has been how to do it well. For instance, we had imagined that the Regional Plan and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) would be issued at the same time. However, due to logistical issues, that can't happen.

**Q: How did you become interested in the CCRPC?**

A: It became clear to me during my time at the Champlain Initiative that we all needed to think more regionally. I needed to not just "talk the talk" but "walk the walk" as well. My background is in community involvement, not planning, and I think it's important to bring that perspective to the regional level. When I saw the vacancy for a Hinesburg CCRPC representative, I

applied for the position. Five years later, I'm the Chair of the Commission.

**Q: What do you see as your role with both organizations?**

A: I think it's important for both organizations to be aware of each others' activities and to be more intentional about the relationship. The executive committees of both organizations meet quarterly and Bob Penniman and I are working to make these meetings as valuable as possible.



*Penrose Jackson lives in Hinesburg with her husband and dog.*

# Route 2 Corridor Study Public Meetings

In January, the CCMPO and its municipal partners sponsored three meetings featuring the Route 2 Corridor Study. Almost 100 participants learned about existing conditions and shared their thoughts and concerns about the corridor.



*Joe Segale of RSG chats with a participant in South Burlington.*



*The Williston meeting was well attended.*



*Mr. & Mrs. Carl Anderson attend the meeting in South Burlington.*

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.

**Chittenden County  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization**



Communities working together  
to meet Chittenden County's  
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