

Summary – Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Work Plan (Unified Planning Work Program)

Each year the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), which serves as the region's federally mandated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), adopts its Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which defines the regionally agreed upon transportation planning priorities and the roles and responsibilities of various participants in the transportation planning process for Chittenden County. The UPWP guides the CCRPC and summarizes transportation planning activities and priorities for the member agencies in Chittenden County. It shows which agencies will do planning studies, when the work will be completed, and what the final products and benefits will be. The UPWP also serves as a management tool, a program budget, and includes anticipated financial resources and expenditure information for the fiscal year covered. Note that the budget is not included with this summary but is available with the entire UPWP at <http://www.ccrpc.org/workplan>.

The UPWP is developed annually through a careful consideration of critical transportation issues facing the region and the analytical capabilities necessary to address them. The public is invited to offer project ideas and suggestions through a public forum held in January or February of each year, and opportunities for public comment on the draft UPWP are typically available between April and May of each year at a final public hearing. The CCRPC Board adoption of the UPWP typically occurs in May.

This year the public is invited to attend a public forum on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the CCRPC offices, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski. Project ideas and suggestions may be offered at the forum, by email to bdavis@ccrpcvt.org, by phone to 802-660-4071 x17, or in writing to our office: CCRPC, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, Vermont 05404. Comments will be accepted until January 31, 2011.

This document is a selective, brief summary of the *Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Work Plan (Unified Planning Work Program)* which describes the work elements to be accomplished during the period between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. This summary is intended to help the public better understand the current CCRPC program areas and associated projects. We believe that this will encourage the public to offer new ideas and project suggestions. For more detail and a complete project list, download the entire document at <http://www.ccrpc.org/workplan>.

Safety programs and initiatives

Enhance safety in Chittenden County by implementing low cost safety solutions for roadway sections and intersections; assist municipalities with informal safety reviews at problem locations; develop criteria for incorporating safety into project prioritization; continue coordination with Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) in their ongoing safety initiatives.

Planning Assistance and Coordination

Provide technical planning assistance to CCRPC member agencies, local municipalities, VTrans, and other entities seeking guidance on transportation issues, project development, and/or coordination. These projects include:

- ▶ Small area transportation studies (schools and intersections, for example)
- ▶ Traffic control device recommendations (signs and signals)
- ▶ Speed limit recommendations

- ▶ Bicycle and pedestrian planning assistance
- ▶ Parking management studies
- ▶ Highway facility capacity analyses
- ▶ Access management analyses
- ▶ Infrastructure management software assistance (Asset Management)
- ▶ Coordination with municipalities on local planning studies
- ▶ Review Traffic Impact Studies submitted by developers to municipalities

Transportation Systems Management (TSM) & Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

TSM programs that improve the safety and efficiency of existing roadway networks with low cost solutions include Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects, intersection improvements, traffic calming and traffic signal optimization. The CCRPC will continue its active role in evaluating and providing recommendations to improve the safe and efficient flow of traffic including private and commercial vehicles, buses, pedestrians and bicycles. The signal optimization program will continue under this work task with an emphasis on selecting corridors and/or isolated intersections which will result in the greatest benefit for the region.

Transportation Land Use Planning & Review

Proactively collaborate with municipalities regarding transportation land use planning and project development issues and to provide objective reviews of transportation issues in both local development proposals, as requested, and Act 250 permit applications; ensure that transportation is viewed in a multi-modal context in development proposals—including highways, railways, public transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities—and to review the cumulative impacts of development proposals on the transportation system.

Transportation Environmental Planning

Work with local, regional, state and federal organizations to address a variety of transportation environmental issues and impacts including air quality, water quality, wildlife and associated habitat, energy issues, climate change and others.

Corridor and Circulation Studies – Local and Regional

Conduct studies of local and regional corridors within Chittenden County that experience significant congestion and safety issues as well as increasing developmental pressures. Studies assess corridor issues and future needs (all modes of transportation, land use, demographics, etc.) and develop short and long term solutions for the corridor. Studies review and analyze current and future corridor conditions; develop corridor vision and goals; and develop as well as evaluate strategies to address congestion, safety and other issues within the corridor and area of influence. Circulation studies will address critical congestion and safety needs for all modes along a segment of a regional corridor.

Create and Improve Transit

Effectively conduct, coordinate, communicate, and participate in transit-related planning activity in the region. Coordinate with the Chittenden County Transportation Authority on improving regional public transportation.

Freight Transportation Planning

Advance appropriate and balanced utilization of the rail and highway transportation systems in Chittenden County for freight movements.

Pedestrian/ Bicycle Transportation Planning

Advance and monitor the 2008 Regional Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan implementation efforts; document pedestrian and bicycle planning efforts and position Chittenden County as a possible candidate recipient for non-motorized transportation funds in the next federal transportation authorization; coordinate the planning and provision of bicycle/pedestrian facilities both within Chittenden County and with neighboring regions; educate and inform the public on the benefits of bicycle/pedestrian and other non-single occupant vehicle (SOV) travel modes.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

In coordination with CarShare Vermont, Local Motion, CATMA, CCTA, Go Vermont and other regional partners, work to advance low-cost programs that focus on decreasing travel and the use of SOVs, and increasing the use of other modes; continue park and ride planning and coordination with VTrans; coordinate efforts with CarShare Vermont to educate the public about car-sharing and promote its role in a transportation system.

Project Definition/Scoping Studies

Advance prioritized projects through the planning process by providing project definition and scoping services. The scoping process evaluates alternatives at a concept level and does a screening level review of environmental constraints. Scoping typically concludes with the acceptance of a locally preferred alternative. The project definition process includes some or all of the following steps: identifying transportation problems to be solved, obtaining early public and elected officials' participation, studying alternatives, evaluating environmental and engineering constraints, selecting a preferred alternative for design, and developing a conceptual design for that alternative. Project examples include bridges, interstate exits, road segments, pathways, bicycle/pedestrian projects, intermodal facilities and more.

Small Community Service Program

Assist rural Chittenden County communities in analyzing and addressing their local transportation challenges.

Data Collection and Maintenance

Collect, maintain, and distribute transportation-related data for planning needs and public inquiry.

Transportation Program Management Services

Many communities in Chittenden County do not have an adequate number of trained staff members to effectively undertake the administration and project management components of Local Transportation Facilities (LTF) and other project implementation programs. The CCRPC would provide contract services to undertake Municipal Project Management in support of local municipalities to assist them in advancing local transportation projects and provide contract technical assistance.