

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's meeting was held on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Monkton Fire Station with Don Shall presiding.

---

### ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	Louise Giovannella
<i>Bristol:</i>	William Sayre Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Don Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Neil Kamman
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Jonathan Heppell
<i>New Haven:</i>			

### CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

*AC Chamber of Commerce:*  
*AC Community Action Group:*  
*AC Economic Development Corp:*  
*Otter Creek Audubon Society:* Judy Kowalczyk

**OTHER:** Rep. David Sharpe

### STAFF:

Adam Lougee  
Kevin Behm

---

## Public Program

The public program this evening began at 7:40 pm and focused on the interrelationship between Chittenden and Addison Counties. Invited guests Greg Brown, Executive Director of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), and Mark Lords, the Chair of the CCRPC, were on hand to discuss planning initiatives and issues in Chittenden County, in particular those impacting Addison County and the northwest region of Vermont as a whole.

Greg Brown addressed the forum, noting that the occasion was a good opportunity to talk Aas neighbors. He remarked that this kind of communication is particularly important for our region of Vermont, where we see that planning issues are no longer limited by county boundaries. As many people live and work in different counties, the

issues of transportation, energy, housing, etc. (issues addressed by regional planning commissions) can no longer be dealt with solely on the county level.

Greg began with the three major issues he has identified in Chittenden County: housing, transportation, and energy. Greg described the housing market as poor. There is a shortfall in the number of units available, and those available for rent or purchase are very expensive. This impacts other areas of the county. Greg recalled his personal experience, in which a qualified and interested job candidate from West Virginia whom he was recruiting had to turn down the job after unsuccessful attempts to find suitable housing in Vermont.

The shortfall is not restricted to affordable housing; there is a shortage across the range of size and price. Greg referred to a housing study by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission: given a 20 year population forecast, if all 18 municipalities in the county maximized the units on properties currently zoned for housing, the shortage of units would number in the thousands.

There have been a number of studies, and the problem is understood. What remains is to do something about it. The CCRPC, which is comprised of volunteers, is trying to develop ways to make housing available in each of the municipalities; it does not advocate equal sharing or division of the units. Each municipality must determine where housing should be made available. The next step is creating housing, or at least not erecting barriers to the creation of housing. The Commission sees its work as initiating a dialogue, not making mandates.

Transportation planning in Chittenden County is carried out by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, a federally funded planning organization. As a result, the transportation planning process is different in Chittenden than in other counties. The county contracts with the MPO, which funds the projects and analysis that the CCRPC does. The CCRPC and the MPO are interested in and currently discussing a closer relationship. Seven years ago the MPO was part of the CCRPC, but they split off. Now the two are trying to reintegrate. Both boards tend to agree on importance of the relationship, largely because the potential for disagreement and subsequently compromised service to municipalities is high. They two boards are lucky to have good personal relationships among themselves, but it is important to formalize the relationship. They are discussing how to consolidate the two into one organization, which Greg suggests should evolve in the next 12-18 months.

Greg noted that energy issues in Chittenden seem similar to Addison, primarily the supply and the rates of power. They are mostly focusing on the VELCO lines coming up from Rutland. The Commission will most likely participate with the Act 248 process in order to sort this out.

Storm water is another major priority in Chittenden County. The Commission is working with group of 7 municipalities and a number of institutions, IBM, UVM, etc., to help organizations sort through their obligations relating to their storm water permits. These institutions acknowledged their responsibility and created what Greg informally calls the Storm Water Club. Each contributes money to, for example, contract a consultant to perform analysis. Greg commends these institutions for developing what is in effect a volunteer organization, one that came together on its own for goal setting and problem solving. The Commission is supporting them. Another area of the Commission's work is to assist the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), an economic development organization, to create a long-range strategic plan for developing key growth industries.

Another CCRPC project is the Lake Champlain Byways Partnership. A group of towns with lakeshore, including Charlotte, Shelbourne, Winnooski, Essex, South Burlington, Burlington, etc. are involved in this project to create directional and interpretive signage for trails along the Lake Champlain shore. Tourist development is an aspect of this project. The planning commissions have worked cooperatively on this project and are also working closely with marketing groups in the region.

These projects are in addition to the core work of the Commission, including technical assistance to the county's municipalities; work with the city councils, zoning boards, etc. Greg noted that the requests for work keep pouring in, and that the Commission would like to work together with the neighboring counties of Franklin, Addison, etc. on these and other projects.

Ed Payne asked the guests from CCRPC about the commercial development on Route 2 at Taft Corners, which he finds to be quite boxy in appearance, with the Wal-Mart, etc., despite the mixed-use concept that he had thought

would be implemented. Mark Lords responded that it is indeed intended as mixed-use project, and that there is housing nearby, east of Route 2. There is a housing development adjacent to the commercial buildings that has been in place for about two years. It is typical for the commercial properties to be constructed first, the idea being that the commercial properties support the subsequent development of the housing properties. Mark suggested that when more housing is constructed it might look more like what Mr. Payne and others were expecting. Ed also remarked on an incident in which one of these commercial retailers had constructed a sign that was too high. Mark confirmed that the sign had been taken down right away.

Fred Dunnington asked the panel guests for comment on what he sees as a fairly transparent trend of the long, slow departure of IBM, which is clearly not in a growth mode, and seems to be moving parts manufacturing operations elsewhere. Greg Brown replied that the GBIC has for this reason, among others, focused on the issue of long-term growth industries. GBIC and all the regional organizations in Chittenden County recognize that IBM is crucial to the state and region. However, IBM makes its decisions based on the international scale. Greg says that IBM could shrink, but it could grow. The CCRPC is acutely aware of the issue and the fact that Chittenden County is out of balance due to the large dependence on IBM as a single entity. Diversification is a goal. Efficiency is also a consideration for the GBIC in considering what business it can effectively and efficiently recruit to the Chittenden area.

Mark Lords commented that IBM has identified three difficult factors pertaining to its operations in the region: transportation, the cost of energy, and the cost of permits. The CCRPC Aweighed in on the Circ Highway specifically and continues to address each of these issues, although to a somewhat lesser extent in permit reform.

Rep. David Sharpe asked whether working with VELCO on the Northwest Reliability Project would affect the rates. Would it lower them? Secondly, does the Chittenden Commission support the new line planned to run through the Route 7 corridor, as was discussed at the VELCO meeting at the Sheraton today? Greg replied that this topic has been very prevalent in the CCRPC 's discussions, but there has been no Commission opinion yet as to whether they support it. The Commission is assessing the viewpoints of its municipalities and looking at the impacts of the project. Mark Lords noted that although they are not sure whether it will lower the rates, it is certain that the project will impact the county, so their goal is to ensure that whatever is done is done properly. VELCO 's presentation of the project has *not* been to say that it will directly lower the rates, but to emphasize the reliability offered by new lines. They suggest that we were only lucky to have been spared by recent regional blackouts, and that the new lines will guarantee against future blackouts. He said that the Commission is also trying to support IBM as a major energy user. Mark also noted that John McCain has offered support of the project.

Jeremy Grip asked what the municipalities in Chittenden think about the Northwest Reliability Project. Greg replied that the Commission had attended a public meeting the Public Service Board held in Charlotte. Concerns ranged from aesthetics to health issues, etc., similar to the residents of Addison County. No town has taken an official stance, but the views among the public vary. Those in support of the project are those organizations that are concerned about reliability, typically those who are heavy users and dependent on the power.

Bob McNary returned to the problematic themes in Chittenden County raised by Mark and Greg, noting that these are problems found in the whole Northwest of Vermont. In his town of Ferrisburg people have been impacted, for example, having to relocate to find affordable housing. The region is being bled of the educated, qualified people who can ' t afford to move back here after going away to school. Bob offered that it boils down to the fact that there is a laundry list of special interest groups who will try to fight every thing we do. He suggests that all commissions try to develop a plan. Otherwise it will come to a point where industry will not come here. Our neighboring states, or other countries, in contrast, roll out the red carpet for these corporations. We as a region cannot afford to continue such resistance without anticipating the negative consequences of doing so.

Greg Brown agreed that the northwestern part of the state is affected as a whole. The regional planning commissions are aware of this and are exploring cooperative efforts to deal with these issues that impact the whole, such as by collaborating on transportation projects. The tradition of cooperation among planning commissions is strong but not as robust as it could be. We need to target and expand upon these common issues.

Kevin Behm pointed out two of the GIS maps he brought to the forum. The first used lines drawn from city to city to represent the number of people commuting to Chittenden county for work from the neighboring counties of Washington, Grand Isle, Franklin, Lamoille, and Addison. The map shows that not only are there large numbers of commuters, but also that they distribute throughout the county, not just to Burlington. A second map depicted the residents of Chittenden County commuting to other counties for work. This illustrates, for example, the need for a bus network from Barre to Chittenden County.

Greg remarked that the maps provided a wonderful illustration of the transportation process. He noted that this commuter pattern is directly affected by the housing market: it is often less expensive to live outside of Chittenden County for the thousands of people who commute in every day. A related factor is the fact that it is sometimes easier to get to Chittenden 's municipalities from outside the county than it is from rural areas within the county. That is a problem that could be addressed by new bus lines, etc. The commuter traffic also points to the issue of the road networks. The major corridors, Routes 2, 7, 15 and even the Hinesburg Road, are huge arteries of people and goods. Route 116 is designated to get an interchange and its traffic is projected to grow as well. The CCRPC is aware of these issues, as is the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Peter Grant returned to the issue of 'Big Box' stores. In Bristol, merchants were nervous that these would draw business away from their stores. He noted that studies have shown that these commercial chains tend to move in to a town, the tax rates skyrocket, and local merchants can no longer afford their business space. Peter asked if the guests from CCRPC had made note of such trends and if there is a way to avoid this impact on small businesses. Greg affirmed that research shows that large retailers can have serious impact on small businesses. In Chittenden, however, it is an unusual market. The presence of large institutions like Fletcher Allen and the University of Vermont give Church Street, downtown Burlington, an unusually large local base. The proximity of college students, who can readily ride their bike or walk downtown, for example, can mask the effect that large retailers have, making the impact less severe than in a community without such institutions.

Greg remarked that it must be recognized as well that people make decisions about where to shop based on a number of factors. In his 6 months with the Commission, he has resolved that is important to help the municipalities get the tools they need to make the decisions they want within their domain. Some may want to bring in a large retailer, while others may not. What the CCRPC aims to do is make the municipality and merchants aware of existing programs for technical and financial assistance, providing them with applications and assistance. There are, for example, programs administered by the state designed to help downtown business areas, as well as businesses in villages and small towns. The goal is to create and maintain healthy businesses. CCRPC wants to make these options available to Chittenden municipalities. There are also federal grants available. The CCRPC looks to GBIC to assist and manage the larger companies.

Peter Grant commented that Middlebury lost two department stores, Ames and Abrahams. He asked how Addison County could attract other business without it being a Wal-Mart. Mark Lords said that in Chittenden many of these abandoned commercial buildings are being converted to housing, because that is where the demand lies. He was not sure how one would or wouldn 't attract the Wal-Mart, but he noted that the Taft corners stores were definitely impacting what happens in Essex.

Bob McNary suggested that another acting force is the Internet, which can make it difficult for conventional brick and mortar businesses to compete. Cole 's, Wal-Mart, and such large retailers may be more resilient to the Internet because of their size, but small stores have to compete. Mark agreed about the rise of Internet shopping.

Greg noted that successful small businesses are those that can identify a market niche. Judy Kowalczyk brought up the example of specialty shops, which sell goods you may not find on the Internet, as opposed to the many Wal-Mart items that could be bought online instead. Bob McNary concurred; you have to avoid direct competition. Greg gave the example that a store selling specialty items rather than Levi 's jeans would have better success, and he suggested that ultimately a small business survives because the owner is a good businessperson.

Mark suggested that smaller stores compete by using their service orientation, their attention to the customer. Bob McNary gave the counterpoint that young people aren 't as attuned to good customer service, and it is difficult to get such customers to understand and appreciate the more personalized customer service. Neil Kamman noted a converse effect of Big Box stores, which is that some shoppers will refuse to shop there. It seems to Neil that the small stores and restaurants in Vergennes and Bristol are actually drawing in more people.

Rep. David Sharpe returned to the theme of housing and retail space, offering Essex Junction as an example of a town that has lost a number of hardware, department, and grocery stores. This has left vacant areas into which housing developments have come; he asked if the guests from CCRPC further anticipate that trend. Mark commented that he is a developer and actually lives in Essex Junction. He pointed to a study done in Essex Junction that suggested to the town that being a destination shopping area would no longer be feasible. Rather, they would do best to develop as a bedroom community, and Mark feels that they are working toward that end.

Bill Sayre asked Greg Brown about the study he mentioned in his opening remarks. In that study, what assumptions were made in terms of average household size, location of the population, job growth (i.e. factoring in IBM) and the commuting patterns? Greg answered that the study did not account for all of those factors. It simply took the existing zoning in the municipalities, took a straight-line population projection (based on the previous 20 years' growth) and maximized housing. It only pertained to Chittenden County, and did not look at transportation or commuting patterns. Greg noted, however, that CCRPC is now testing more sophisticated software that will simulate some more complex factors like that. The program would account for the regional housing build-out, but also for employment projection. Bill Sayre suggested that the economy would adjust; if housing does not develop in one place, it will go elsewhere.

Mark noted that the study did not consider redevelopment. The study was basic but was a good indication that we are headed for a big problem. Greg commented that Jeff Carr's housing study for the Northwest made 4 years ago was redone with 2000 Census data and found the IBM layoffs statistically insignificant. Fred Dunnington noted that it is interesting how IBM make their growth projections seem exponential but don't note that the loss of jobs has a similar effect.

Fred also remarked on the concept of impact fees, and wondered if residents in Addison County, for example, would use that concept to argue that the benefits to the Chittenden electric grid, failing to account for the negative impact of new power lines on Addison properties, might be cause for charging an impact fee (someone joked about the possibility of a toll booth on Route 7 for that purpose, possibly manned by Fred). Fred noted that as of yet it is impossible to assess the regional effect of such projects in these terms.

Bob McNary, on the subject of housing, asked if the CCRPC had noted that large tracts of land in Ferrisburg, up to 30% of the land, is turning into conservation areas. Greg said the Commission is aware of it, but that it was not part of the computer models in the study, which was only based within the county. He continued to say that they would prefer to resolve the situation by creating more housing within Chittenden County; no one is attempting to solve the housing problem by pushing it into other counties. No one is in favor of having people drive further to work, and furthermore, they are interested in being able to move more easily within Chittenden County. Bob asked for population figures cited in the study, which Greg said projected an increase of 40,000 people in the county in 20 years.

Mark and Greg thanked the ACRPC for the invitation and reiterated the fact that Chittenden County is definitely impacting Addison County, making it imperative to continue to work together in this way. The public program ended at 8:50 pm.

---

---

## **Business Meeting**

The business meeting began at 9:05 pm.

Don Shall thanked the Monkton Fire Station for hosting the event. Charlie Huizenga was asked to speak to the group about the station. He gave a recap of the organization and founding of the department in 1972 and their extensive fundraising efforts over the years. With FEMA grant money, provided with the assistance of ACRPC in order to provide the station with emergency capabilities, they bought a stove, other kitchen appliances, tables and chairs, a television, a generator, and bedding and mattresses for 40 people during emergencies.

## **Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2003**

**Thea moved to approve the minutes. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

---

---

## **Executive Board Minutes:**

There were no questions and no discussion.

---

---

## **Treasurer's Report**

Adam apologized for the handwritten report, noted that Pauline's computer is operational again, but Pauline is out of town until next week. He added that the figures indicate the Commission is in good shape for the year.

**Peter moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

---

---

## **Committee Reports**

**TAC:** The TAC will be meeting with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission on October 23<sup>rd</sup> (note: no longer on the 15<sup>th</sup>) with Secretary Pat McDonald, who will address the role of public transit in supporting economic development in Rutland and Addison counties.

**Local Government:** Thea reported that the committee had not met since last meeting. .

**Act 250:** Fred reported that the committee met on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the VELCO application for a certificate of Public Good. Kevin's maps were provided, using GIS to show the 760+ structures adjacent to the proposed power lines. The committee discussed the items in the regional plan relevant to the Northwest Reliability project, which the committee decided does meet the criteria of having an impact on our region. The concerns included health, aesthetics, etc. Fred explained that ACRPC is statutory party to the process. The towns of Middlebury, New Haven, Vergennes, Ferrisburg, the Vergennes planning commission, and others also applied for Intervener status. VELCO will hold hearings and are now in a more detailed review phase. Certain parties like the Conservation Law Foundation are discussing alternatives. The multitude of questions posed by the public and organizations were answered in detail, in written form. There is a large box full of answers, data, and information given in response, so there is plenty of detail for those interested in pursuing it. The Public Service Board is sifting through this information and will try to hold hearings in February.

Fred noted that the committee is pursuing two tracks. Judy Kowalczyk will develop a general statement on the issue. Adam and Fred will develop a process for communities to work with VELCO on the actual impact as it occurs, if it does, i.e. mitigating measures like tree planting. The Northern Loop Project did a similar process, a follow-up procedure. The committee will report their work to the Executive Board and then to the Full Commission.

Bob McNary noted that at the Ferrisburg select board meeting there was significant discussion on this matter, and wondered if anyone knows VELCO's desired timeline? Fred answered VELCO's timeline is as soon as possible, but they are realistic. They want to have it online by 2006 or 2007. He noted what a significant process this is for VELCO. One question is how much redundancy in reliability there would be. Judy further noted that VELCO want the decision to be made by the Public service board by June 2004. They want to push the project through before the NEPOOL money falls through, making the project unfeasible.

Bob commented that legal groups in opposition might stall it out. Fred noted that Vermonters would pay a small portion of this project given the scope of New England and NEPOOL's current allocation system. Kevin and Judy brought attention to the case brought against NEPOOL in Maine, where they argue that the projects are unfair, and that the regions gaining the most from the project should pay the lion's share. If the Maine case wins, Vermont

would have to pay a much larger sum of the total \$130 million project cost. Judy listed 3 ways to achieve more power: creating more transmission lines from existing poles, greater efficiency, and using renewables. The basis for the case against NEPOOL is that they only consider certain options for generating more power. Judy suggested that as ratepayers we should be able to contribute to the decision on how this money is spent.

Bob McNary noted that in Florida there is only one power company and one rate. Bob argued for efficiency, saying that we waste a great deal of power, and also suggested that we could do a lot of good with solar panels. The problem is that no one is doing the Research and Development. Judy gave the perspective that there is a lot of R&D but a lack of funds to carry out projects. Our current energy sources are subsidized, while the actual cost, including environmental costs, are hidden.

Don shall urged everyone to attend VELCO hearings and offered that there are more solutions to be found outside of the agenda we as citizens are generally being given.

**Natural Resources:** Judy reported that the committee created a mission statement. She joked that it was surprising for all to agree on it, given the diverse membership of the committee. It reads: "To encourage community involvement and cooperation in seeking strategies to maintain and improve water quality in the Otter Creek Basin, in accord with sound science and considering economic balance."

**Economic Development:** Bob reported that the committee met two weeks ago. Brandy distributed a binder of information. The committee is being reconstituted and trying to identify things that need to be done. Bob suggested that the committee do more hands-on work regarding development projects, rather than simply generate paper and make policies. Linda Stearns cited in that meeting that transportation is the major hurdle, including roads and bridges, the electric grid, water lines, and cell phone system (literally one of the worst in the world, says Bob). The committee will meet again on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Utilities and Facilities:** Andrew reported that the committee is working on its plan; there were not many members at the last meeting but topics of wind energy and biomass generation were addressed. Adam noted that in rewriting the Utilities and Facilities portion of the plan, we are looking at a lot of issues pertaining to energy, so there is a lot of duplication. Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Chair of the Committee, asked Executive Board if there is a way to rewrite the Energy section of the plan as well. The board felt the committee could do so if they efficiently could. **Don made the motion that the Utilities and Facilities Committee be entrusted to rewrite the energy section of the ACRPC plan. Judy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Judy suggested that the committee contact the Burlington Energy Department, who are using 5% less energy now than in 1989 because of their efficiency plans.

---

---

## Joint Partners' Report

Adam reports that the Economic Development Corporation, with assistance of ACRPC, has been developing CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) over the past year. The draft is out and we will have copies next week. The Economic Development Corporation suggested that we look at our development plan and compare it to theirs, and hash out any differences.

---

---

## Staff/Delegate Recognition

Don Shall welcomed Joe Langerfeld, who will be taking minutes at the full Commission meetings, and Louise Giovanella, a new delegate from Panton.

---

---

## Old Business

**Municipal Planning Grant Update:** Adam presented a handout summarizing the grants. Eleven of fifteen eligible towns applied, the grant proposals totaling \$130,000, which exceeds the funds actually available. There are a number of good projects proposed; it remains to be seen where the money will go. Adam finds it encouraging that a number of towns are participating in this way in the planning process.

**Update on Staff Projects:** Adam updated the group on new projects. Kevin's excellent GIS maps were on display tonight at the meeting. Watershed planning continues, staff met with people in Rutland from the Upper Otter Creek watershed. A memo was passed out concerning the White River Plan, which discussed the impact of the plan on the municipalities and therefore gives an idea what the Basin Planning project might entail for the Addison County region.

On the Weatherwax project, Adam noted that the Division for Historic Preservation had returned the funding to the Agency of Transportation, effectively terminating the project. Adam noted that ACRPC had offered to oversee the project if the Division for Historic Preservation chose not to and chose to sub-contract with ACRPC, but the Division For Historic Preservation still chose to return the money.

Project impact is funding the purchase of a mobile command post for the region. It is also helping to relocate the Ripton Fire Department out of the floodplain.

In transportation, staff completed several studies this past year. All are available at ACRPC's office.

ACRPC recently completed a transportation flow survey of hazardous materials for first responders. The study provides information concerning what hazardous materials flow through the county. First responders will know what to train and prepare for in terms of response to emergencies involving hazardous materials.

Brandy is working on a number of town plans, in addition to her work with Utilities and Facilities and the Economic Development Committees.

**New Members Orientation for 6:45 pm, November 12<sup>th</sup>:** Adam reported that a number of new members had requested an orientation. He has planned a meeting to address questions of who the Commission is and what it does. The New Members Orientation will be 45 minutes before the next meeting, on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Don Shall asked whether we can or are working to attract delegates from areas of the county where representation is lacking and where disputes have come up. Adam reported that he is working on it.

---

## **New Business**

**Visit of Secretary of Transportation McDonald to the region Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6-8 pm at Otter Valley Union High School:** Secretary McDonald will host an open public meeting at the Otter Valley Union High School to discuss public transportation and economic development. The Addison and Rutland County TACs will attend, and any others interested are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2003 at 6 p.m.

**Visit of Secretary Dorn to the region late November:** The date is tentatively set for the 21<sup>st</sup>. Secretary Dorn will meet with ACRPC, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation in the morning to discuss the future of the joint partners (There are issues regarding the role and function of Regional Marketing Organizations, a part of the Economic Development Corporation). There will also be a public forum in which to speak with Sec. Dorn. Lastly the chairs of the Committees will get the chance to sit and converse with Sec. Dorn.

**Cooperative Transportation Project with other regional planning commissions in northwestern Vermont and the Chittenden County RMO:** This project may come out of the Circ highway. Vtrans and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed to perform studies on secondary corridors affected by the Circ highway. This Friday Adam will meet with the MPO, Vtrans and other Regional Planning Commissions in Northwest Vermont to discuss a collaborative plan to address secondary growth issues stemming from the circ highway. Adam anticipates there will be \$350,000 made available over three years to do studies and make suggestions to the municipalities in terms



of how to treat the impacts of growth

**Other:** Bob McNary asked if we have opinion on International Paper 's project to burn tires as energy source. Don asked which committee should treat this? Natural Resources seems the most logical, and Don suggests that if interested you should read the proposal and let Harvey Smith, the chair of the committee know what you think.

Adam noted that the Department of Homeland Security would be allocating \$1.4 million to the State and \$200,000 in Addison County for emergency planning money in the next 6 months. LEPCs (Local Emergency Planning Committees) and State Emergency Planning Committees will be involved. The meeting tomorrow at Middlebury College will be to discuss the best way to distribute the money in a way that will benefit the most people. One should call Tim Bouton with opinions concerning how this generous sum of money could be spent.

---

---

## **Member Concerns/Information**

There was no discussion.

---

---

## **Adjournment**

**Judy moved to adjourn. Thea seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.**

*Submitted by Joe Langerfeld*