

# ACRPC

## News



December 2001

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## ACRPC to Hold Hearings on Plan Amendments

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission has completed several updates to the Regional Plan and is initiating the process to adopt those amendments and then readopt the entire plan.

Three sections of the plan have been amended. The Population and Housing section of the plan has been completely revised. The Introduction has been updated to reflect the work of the commission since 1994. The Consistency section has undergone slight editing to reflect changes in the plan since 1994 and to keep the plan internally consistent.

Some of the major revisions to the population section were:

1. Many of the goals and policies in the 1994 section were more directly related to issues such as housing, employment or public facilities than to population. The goals and policies of this section were reworked to relate more directly to population.

2. A 1994 recommendation was for ACRPC to develop more accurate methods of projecting population change. The new Goal A Policy 4 outlines the data to be collected and analyzed as a start to achieving this.

Some of the major revisions to the housing section were:

1. Several new policy statements including support for redeveloping upper floors of downtown buildings for residential use and for transportation alternatives that make affordable housing in outlying communities more viable.

2. Some areas of special concern were highlighted including the need to identify and rehabilitate substandard housing, preserve existing mobile home parks and the need for larger rental units in affordable price ranges.

The updates to the Introduction and Consistency sections were technical in nature, making the introductory information current and updating several of the consistency statements to match sections of the plans amended since 1994.

State statute outlines the process for amendment or adoption of a regional plan. Two public hearings are required. **These hearings are scheduled for 7:15 p.m., prior to the Full Commission meetings, on December 12 and January 9.** The December 12 meeting will be held at Kirk Alumni Center.

A vote is tentatively scheduled for the January 9 Full Commission meeting, pending any comments received at the hearings. The plan or amendments must be adopted by not less than a **60 percent vote** of the commissioners representing municipalities, of which there are currently 37. A vote to readopt would extend the life of the plan through 2006.

If it is approved, the plan is then immediately submitted to the municipal legislative bodies of the region. The plan or amendment takes effect within 35 days of adoption unless a majority of the region's municipal legislative bodies veto it.

The plan was mailed out to all commission members and to municipalities last month. The plan sections are also available for review at the ACRPC office or online at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org) (click on the regional plan link).

Please feel free to contact either Brandy Saxton ([bsaxton@sover.net](mailto:bsaxton@sover.net)) or Adam Lougee ([alougee@sover.net](mailto:alougee@sover.net)) with any questions or concerns (388-3141).

December	Calendar		January
12 7:15 p.m. Regional Plan Amendment Public Hearing. Kirk Alumni Center.	9	7:15 p.m. Regional Plan Amendment Public Hearing. Location TBA.	9
12 7:45 p.m. Full Commission Meeting. Kirk Alumni Center.	9	7:45 p.m. Full Commission Meeting. Location TBA.	9
19 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.	16	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.	16
26 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.	30	7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.	30

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# VTrans Winter Outreach 2001

Vermont Agency of Transportation Deputy Secretary Micque Glitman's annual visit to Addison County is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 12:00**. The secretary tours the state each year to hear about local concerns and receive feedback on transportation issues.

Like last year, another tour of selected municipalities and transportation projects is being arranged with stops in Bristol, Middlebury, Cornwall, New Haven and Vergennes.

In Bristol, the group will discuss the upcoming downtown parking and pedestrian/bicycle access study.

The Middlebury stop will focus on Route 7 signalization and corridor improvements.

The group will also examine safety concerns at two intersections: Cider Mill Road and Route 125 in Cornwall; and Hallock Road and Route 17 in New Haven.

The final stop before returning to Bristol will be in Vergennes, where the group will discuss the findings of the bypass workshop that was held in September.

A notice will appear in the Addison Independent and Addison Eagle with a final schedule of locations and times.

Anyone interested in participating is welcome to join the tour at any of the stops or come along for the whole trip. For more information, contact Garrett Dague ([gdague@sover.net](mailto:gdague@sover.net)) at 388-3141.

## [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org) Continues to Grow

The ACRPC website has been expanding to include more resources for and about the region and its municipalities.

The site is organized into five categories: Activities, Communities, Regional Plan, Publications and the Commission.

Following the Commission link, users can find a list of delegates and alternates, the ACRPC bylaws, committee membership, Full Commission Meeting roll call, and our office location and contact information.

From Publications, meeting agendas, minutes and this monthly newsletter are available.

The Regional Plan category currently has the three draft sections of the plan available in several formats. More sections will be added over time.

The Communities link offers users information about the region's municipalities. Currently, there is a page for each municipality with contact information and hours for the clerk, as well as a list of municipal officers.

A road map can be downloaded for each community, with more maps to be added in the future. Demographic and socio-economic data in the form of tables and graphs is being developed for each municipality, some of which is online now.

We would like to provide town plans and bylaws and have done so for a couple of municipalities. Any town that would like their plan or bylaws made available and that has a copy on disk, please contact Brandy Saxton ([bsaxton@sover.net](mailto:bsaxton@sover.net)), 388-3141.

The website will continue to grow over the upcoming months. So point your browser to [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org) and take a look.

## Grant Deadlines in Early 2002

While winter has yet to really make its first appearance, the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is already thinking of next summer. There are three programs to keep in mind with deadlines in February.

**Recreation Trails Grants are due February 1.** These grants will be awarded to municipalities and nonprofits and require a minimum 20% local match. There will also be a mini-grant option that requires no match.

The Recreational Trails Grant monies can be used for maintenance on existing trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, providing trail access to people with disabilities, construction of new trails, trail-related maps and educational materials, and the purchase of hand tools for trail work.

Communities and organizations undertaking projects on public land can request the assistance of the **VT Youth Conser-**

**vation Corps.** Applications must be in by **February 1.** The VYCC works in crews of 10 to 12 young people ages 16 to 24. The VYCC is funded through the state and federal government, but also requests matching funds from sponsors.

**Trees for Local Communities** grants will be due in mid-February. In past years there have been four grant options available. Planting grants for the purchase and installation of trees, maintenance grants for pruning, cabling and fertilizing, and community planning/educational grants for projects like a street and park inventory, streetscape designs, forest resource planning, management of town forests and educational programs. These grants typically range from \$500 to \$4,000 and require a 50/50 match. There is also a mini-grant option with no required match.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact Brandy Saxton ([bsaxton@sover.net](mailto:bsaxton@sover.net)) at 388.3141.