



# ACRPC

*update*

December 2014

## 2015 Municipal Planning Grants

Congratulations to Addison, Waltham and Middlebury for receiving 2015 MPG's. Addison will be focusing on community outreach for updating their landuse plan. Waltham will be working on a minor plan update and Middlebury has been funded for a local transportation feasibility study.

## New Crash Map Available

ACRPC and an intern from Middlebury College have recently developed an interactive web application to identify road crash locations in the region.

The source of this data was the VTrans Ad-hoc Report Generator from the Vermont Agency of Transportation Crash Listing, compiled by the Highway Research Unit of the Agency's Technical Services Division. The compilation is based on accidents reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The interactive map contains a subset of the total dataset for the Addison County RPC region because not all of the records have spatial coordinates available. Attribute information is shown below.

- Town
- Crash type – Fatal, Injury, Property Damage Only
- Gender
- Parties Involved
- Restraint
- Weather
- Contributing Factors – Fatigue, Alcohol, Drugs
- Contributing Factors – Speed, Ignored signs, Followed too close,
- Improper turn, Defective vehicle, Distraction
- Road Alignment

A user may query the map for any or all of the attributes. The initial map displays clusters of all the crash locations that could be assigned a valid geographic location. Typical web map tools are available for zooming and panning. Zooming in on a cluster will display the individual crash locations. Clicking on each location will display basic information about the crash.

The crash map is accessible from our website here: <http://acrpc.org/programs-services/transportation/trandata/crash-data/>

Please contact Kevin Behm [kbehm@acrpc.org](mailto:kbehm@acrpc.org) for

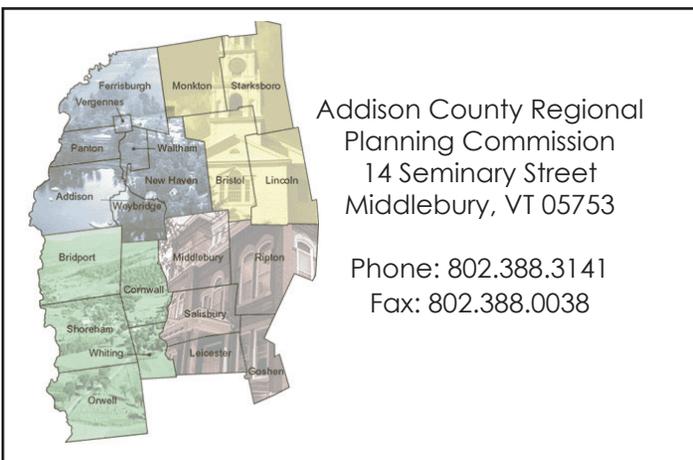
*This newsletter is financed through the State of Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the State of Vermont. All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are handicapped accessible.*

## Commission Calendar

DEC. 2014

9	6-8pm	VT On-Road Bicycle Plan mtg. - (VIT site - Hannafords Career Ct.)
10	7:30pm	Full Commission mtg.
18	6pm	ACSWMD Mtg
25		OFFICE CLOSED
Jan 14	5:30pm	Natural Resource Committee

Meetings are held at ACRPC, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, and are open to the public.



Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
14 Seminary Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802.388.3141  
Fax: 802.388.0038

more information.

## **Hazard Mitigation Plans Available for Review**

Hazard mitigation plan drafts for the towns of Bridport, Leicester and Cornwall are currently available at the ACRPC offices 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury. These plans are the result of work completed over the past year with designated hazard mitigation committees in each of those communities. Previously plans for the towns of Ripton, Lincoln, Bristol, Orwell and New Haven were adopted and approved by FEMA. ACRPC has a request in to receive funding to work with an additional seven of the region's communities. We expect to hear about this additional funding by the end of January.

The work to create these plans includes a lot of local input. Initially the committees identified the hazards that could be expected in their community. These hazards were then ranked by four criteria; Probability (how often would this disaster strike?), Extent (how much of the community will be impacted?), Warning (how much warning will you have in advance?) and Impact (how bad will the damages be?).

When rolled all together, this risk assessment prioritized the hazards to show the town's vulnerabilities. Widespread/prolonged power outages and winter storm/ice storm often rose to the top of the list due to the region-wide nature of the hazard and the frequency of occurrence. In our more mountainous communities flooding is of major concern but for these three towns in the Champlain lowlands, flooding was not even near the top.

The next task was to brainstorm and identify what actions the town could take to mitigate these hazards. Mitigation is any action that can be taken to lessen the impact of or avoid the hazard. For each hazard, committee members were tasked with coming up with at least two projects that would help mitigate future damages. Town projects range from culvert replacements (flooding) to funding the local mosquito district (Insect-borne diseases) and everything in between. Some of these projects come with a hefty price tag

but adoption of these local plans allows a town to apply for 75% funding to complete the project. Others are almost cost free such as providing homeowners with information that would allow them to make their homes more disaster resistant.

Finally, the results of the committee work are combined with a lot of research, maps and tables that result in a draft hazard mitigation plan. The public is invited to come to the ACRPC offices to review the plans and make recommendations and/or corrections. A public meeting will be held later this month where committee members will be present to speak about the process and the projects they came up with. Watch for time/date information.

Draft plans will also be available for viewing on the ACRPC website at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org). Call Tim for more information 388-3141 or [tbouton@acrpc.org](mailto:tbouton@acrpc.org).

## **Submitting Electronic Copies of Plans and Bylaws**

Vermont municipalities are required to provide DHCD with copies of the first hearing notice and any proposed municipal plan or bylaw and also to send the final adopted versions. The Department of Housing and Community Development has provided straightforward directions for required submissions of proposed and adopted plans and bylaws.

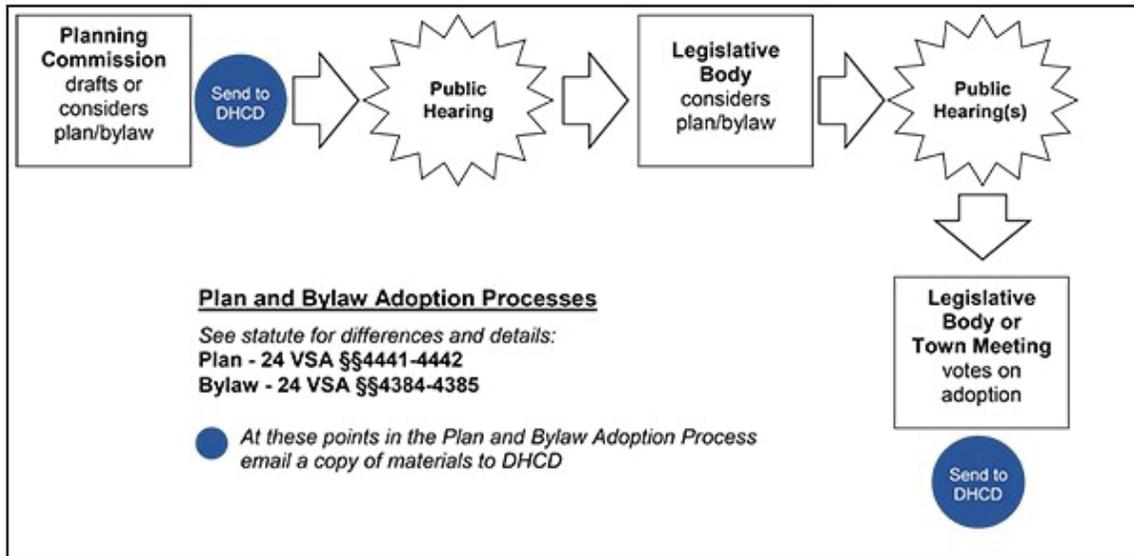
By submitting the documents in a searchable digital format, DHCD can build a useful database for plan and bylaw research.

1. Go to [www.vpic.info](http://www.vpic.info) to access the Plan and Bylaw Adoption Tools.
2. Complete the reporting form if required and complete all the steps as detailed in the Town Clerk's Certification
3. For the required submission to the DHCD:
  - a. create a searchable PDF of the proposed plan, bylaw or amendment (instructions)
  - b. email it to Annina Seiler with the hearing notice and report

# News

- When the plan, bylaw or amendment is adopted, create a searchable PDF and email it to Annina Seiler
- Per 24 V.S.A. § 4445, a copy of the adopted version should also be sent to the ACRPC.

website.



## Vermont 2020 CEDS

In June, 2014, Vermont became one of the few states in the nation to complete a statewide comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS). The Vermont 2020 CEDS was completed with a great deal of help and input from stakeholders around the state and with guidance and funding from the U.S. Economic Development Authority. It was approved by Governor Shumlin and accepted by the EDA in July 2014.

Designed to help Vermont build become more resilient in the face of economic and natural challenges, Vermont 2020 is a strategic document that lays out goals the state hopes to achieve over the next few years and some initial projects and initiatives that will help achieve them.

The CEDS is an iterative document that will be continually revised and added to. It will be updated annually and comments, additional initiatives, and projects will be considered.

You can view the CEDS and contact the Agency of Commerce and Community Development with your ideas at the Department of Economic Development

## Shoreland Protection Act Jurisdiction

Vermont's Watershed Management Division has provided some clarification regarding the jurisdiction of the Shoreland Protection Act, particularly as it pertains to impoundments on rivers.

The official list of lakes greater than 10 acres in size includes a number of reservoirs throughout the state. It is expected that those that were identified on the list will continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Act and that the initial list may have inadvertently omitted some smaller lakes/ponds over 10 acres in size which should have been included. The Lakes & Ponds Management and Protection Program will continue to make every effort to provide accurate information on their web-site and make corrections when errors or omissions come to their attention.

At this time, and pending further review by the Department of Environmental Conservation, it should not be assumed that the Act regulates creation of impervious surfaces and cleared areas along streams/rivers. The jurisdiction of the Act is limited to the protected shoreland area along Vermont's lakes, ponds

# Grants

and reservoirs with a surface area of greater than 10 acres (see graphic below).

## Recreational Trails Grants

A Federal program administered by the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, provides grant funding to help develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities,

Grant applications will be due February 2. For more information, go to:

<http://www.vtfpr.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm> or call:  
Sherry Winnie 802.760. 8450

## Solar Development Grants for Nonprofits

Green Mountain Power (GMP) is looking to help eight non-profit groups lower their energy costs while generating clean, renewable energy. The Vermont Public Service Board approved a GMP proposal to award eight matching grants of up to \$20,000 each to non-profit groups all across Vermont, and GMP is encouraging organizations to apply. For an application or more information about applying, non-profits should email David Dunn at the GMP Energy Innovation Center: 802. 353.1456.

