



ACRPC

update

July/August 2010

Way to Go! Addison County Winners

Congratulations to the National Bank of Middlebury and Middlebury College for winning 2010 Business Awards for this years *Way To Go!* Challenge. *Way to Go!* is an annual event promoting economical, environmentally-friendly, safe alternatives to driving solo. Individuals, schools, businesses and towns throughout the state participated in the May program. Three thousand folks pledged online to use cheaper, healthier, and more earth-friendly transportation alternatives to driving alone. Together, commuters saved at

least 220,000 miles for the week, 9,758 gallons of fuel, nearly \$30,000 in total transportation cost savings, and about 200,000 pounds of transportation pollutants (including 191,000 pounds of carbon emissions). For more information about *Way to Go!* Commuter Challenge visit www.waytogovt.org

Proposal for a Bi-State Park at the New Lake Champlain Bridge

An ad-hoc New York/Vermont working group have put forth a proposal for a cycling and pedestrian-safe park that would better link existing recreational and historical sites in the Champlain Bridge vicinity. This proposal acknowledges the rich recreational and historic heritage of this area and recognizes a great opportunity for economic development for communities and businesses in this unique part of the Champlain Valley.

As the new design of the Champlain Bridge encourages cyclists and pedestrians to cross safety from one State to another, it is the vision of the working group to extend this experience, creating increased access and visibility to adjacent points of interest. Crown Point State Historic Site Museum, Chimney Point State Historic Site, the Champlain Monument and Pier, and the Mucuen Slang Fishing Area name a few such sites.

The cost of the project would be relatively minimal as many of the park elements already exist - historic sites, museums, visitor centers, campgrounds, day use areas, and boat launches. Park improvements would include physical connections, overlook/interpretive sites, maps and guides for visitors. Potential funding sources include Transportation Enhancement Grants, the National Scenic Byways Program and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership.

The working group, made up of both New York and Vermont stakeholders, have prepared an MOU and are currently building support from local governments, state agencies and local organizations. For further information please contact: Bill Johnston, Chair, Bi-State Park Ad-Hoc Working group, (518) 962-4590 johnst@westelcom.com

Commission Calendar

July	7	8-12am	ACRWC
		7-9	Energy Committee
	9	8:15-10am	ACTR
	13	6:30-8:30pm	Public Info. Officer Training
	14	7:30pm	Full Commission
	15	7:00pm	ACSWMD
	26	7:00pm	EMD Round Table
	28	6:30pm	Executive Board
	29	7:30pm	Local Gov't Com. Hearing for Regional Approval (in Whiting)
August	4	8-12am	ACRWC
		7-9pm	Energy Committee
	5	7:00pm	Local Gov't Com. Hearing for Regional Approval (in Lincoln)
	11	8:15-10am	Full Commission
	13	7:30pm	ACTR
	19	7:00pm	ACSWMD
	25	5:00pm	LEPC (VSP in New Haven)
		6:30pm	Executive Board

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

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.

Events/Grants

3rd Annual Rooftop to River Rain Garden Contest: “Gardening to Absorb the Storm”

Registration is FREE and open until August 15th. Register early to attend rain garden workshops and receive free technical assistance! Gardens will be judged in early September. To enter, your rain garden must be located in the Lake Champlain Basin (http://www.lcbp.org/Atlas/PD-Fmaps/nat_political.pdf). Six winners will be chosen based on predetermined categories.

For more information contact: Ashley Lidman at Ashley.Lidman@vt.nacdnet.net or (802) 865-7895 x104.

Strong Community Competition

This is a competition sponsored in part by CommunityMatters, a project of the Orton Family Foundation.

The scope of the competition is to identify innovative projects and ideas that engage citizens to steer change and build strong communities across the United States and Canada.

Submit your entry by the early entry deadline, 5PM EDT on July 14, 2010, and be eligible to win the USD \$500 Early Entry Prize. Enter before the competition deadline of August 11, 2010 and you may be one of three winners that receive USD \$5,000 to advance your project. Eight of the competition finalists will be invited to attend the CommunityMatters '10 Conference in Denver, October 5-8, 2010 to scale-up their work and collaborate with other leaders in the field. For more information on this competition please go to:

<http://www.changemakers.com/en-us/strongcommunities>

Save the Date:

2010 Vermont Statewide Housing Conference

Thursday November 18th

Hilton Burlington

60 battery Street, Burlington Vermont

Online registration available soon at:

www.vhfa.org/conference

Fall Round of Municipal Planning Grants

There will be a second round of Municipal Planning Grants this fall. Online applications will be available in early July. If your town is interested in applying and/or needs assistance with this process, please contact:

Claire Tebbs at ACRPC

388-3141 ctebbs@sover.net

Visit the programs website at:

<http://www.dhca.state.vt.us/Planning/MPG.htm>