



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC

update

november 2003

commission calendar

NOVEMBER	5	8:30 a.m. MOMS Conference Location: Holiday Inn, Rutland
	7	9:00 a.m. Planning Celebration Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier
	11	7:00 p.m. Economic Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	12	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: Kirk Alumni, Middlebury Coll.
	17	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Energy
	19	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
DECEMBER	20	7:00 p.m. Local Government Committee Location: Starksboro Town Office Agenda: Hearing on Starksboro Plan
	26	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office
	9	5:00 p.m. Economic Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	10	7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting Location: TBA
	11	6:00 p.m. Planning and Zoning Workshop Location: Hannaford Center, Middlebury Agenda: Agricultural Structures
	15	7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities & Services Comm. Location: ACRPC Office Agenda: Telecommunications
	17	7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Location: ACRPC Office
	31	7:00 p.m. ACRPC Executive Board Meeting Location: ACRPC Office

Meetings are open to the public.

Minutes are available on-line at www.acrpc.org.
For further information, contact ACRPC at 388-3141.

Planning Celebration

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) and the Vermont Planners Association (VPA) are hosting the 2003 Planning Celebration to highlight excellence in community planning throughout the state.

The theme of this year's event is looking at change and community development over the long term. Jan Albers, Weybridge resident and author of *Hands on the Land*, will be the featured speaker.



For more information look on-line at www.vpic.info or contact Sue Minter at 828-3119.

Recreation Trails Grants

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has announced its 2004 Recreation Trails Grant Program. Approximately \$375,000 is available.

Municipalities, schools and non-profits organizations are eligible to apply. There is a 20 percent match requirement, which can be cash or in-kind.

There are three categories of grants: construction, education and publication, and planning. Eligible projects include:

- Maintenance on existing trails.
- Development of trail-side and trailhead facilities.
- Provision of features which facilitate access by people with disabilities.
- Construction of new trails.
- Purchase of hand tools for trail work.
- Pre-implementation planning including inventories, route analysis, exploration of permitting and clearances, and landowner contact.

Mini-grants for up to \$500 are also available for small-scale projects. Applications are due by Friday, January 30, 2004. For more information go to www.state.vt.us/anr/fpr/recreation or contact Brandy at the ACRPC Office, 388-3141.

New VTrans Publications

The Vermont Agency of Transportation has conducted a study to evaluate the economic impact of the state's 17 airports.

The Economic Impact of Vermont's Public-Use Airports: Final Technical Report provides an in-depth analysis of both the economic and "quality of life" benefits that local airports provide.

The study also examines important current issues in the aviation industry, such as the events of September 11, skyrocketing aviation insurance costs and the impacts of air transportation on our surface transportation system.

The document is available in paper or CD format. An Executive Summary of the report and an eight-minute video summarizing the study are also available. To request copies, contact: Rich Turner, Aviations Program Manager at (802) 828-2833 or rich.turner@state.vt.us; or Scott Bascom, Planning Coordinator, (802) 828-5748 or scott.bascom@state.vt.us.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation Traffic Calming Study and Approval Process for State Highways provides a planning process for evaluating and implementing traffic calming projects on state highways and Class 1 town highways in Vermont. Municipalities and Regional Planning Commissions are required to follow this process when using federal or state funds for such projects.

The document will assist in evaluating whether traffic calming is appropriate, where it may be appropriately used, and how to implement a project. It explains the goals and objectives of traffic calming, provides a list of potential traffic calming devices, and provides a matrix that shows the applicability of each device for specific highway settings and traffic volumes.

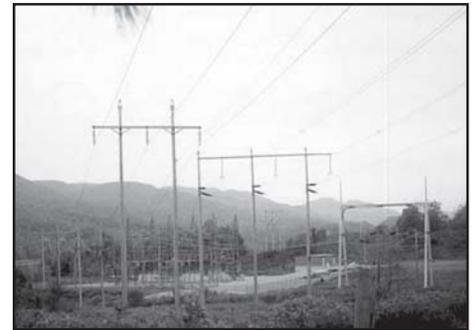
This document is available on the VTrans website under publications at <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/NewsPub.htm>. Copies can also be requested by contacting Garrett Dague at 388-3141.

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.

VELCO's Transmission Corridor Project

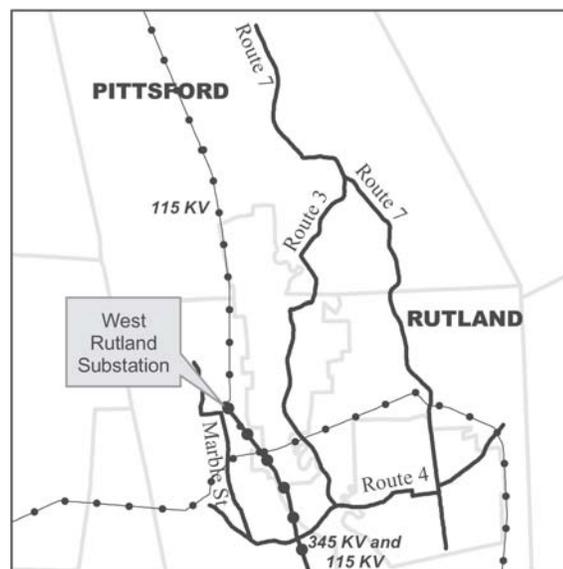
Last week, representatives from VELCO, town officials, property owners and other interested people went on a bus tour of the VELCO transmission corridor from West Rutland to New Haven and then north through Vergennes to South Burlington. One of the important issues raised during that trip was the aesthetic impacts of the proposed expansion of the transmission corridor.

VELCO is proposing an additional 345 kV line to the corridor from West Rutland to New Haven. That corridor comes into Addison County in Leicester and runs through Salisbury and Middlebury to New Haven. It would be constructed on the west side of the existing 115 kV line from West Rutland



to the Middlebury substation. From Middlebury to the New Haven substation it would be to the east of the existing line.

The double wooden poles will be approximately 70 feet tall and require an additional 100 feet of cleared corridor.



A similar set of lines comes into the West Rutland substation from the south (see photo). For those interested in seeing the lines, the West Rutland substation is located off Marble Street, which can be accessed from Route 4 (see map).

The New Haven substation will be upgraded to a facility similar in size to the West Rutland substation, which is approximately four acres in size.

A 115 kV line will replace the existing transmission line going north from New Haven through Waltham, Vergennes and Ferrisburgh to South Burlington.

Mobile Command Post

With funding from a variety of sources and generous donors in place, Addison County's Mobile Command Post has moved one step closer to becoming a reality. Delivery of the vehicle is expected within six months.

The Mobile Command Post will be outfitted with all supplies and space needed for those in charge of a major fire, disaster or search and rescue to be able to coordinate the efforts of all involved agencies.

The command post will be available and able to set up anywhere in the county and will be outfitted with a complete set of communications equipment from base radios to telephone capability.

New Haven River Study

A Phase I geomorphic assessment of the New Haven River in the towns of Lincoln, Starksboro, Bristol, and New Haven has been completed.

The assessment evaluates the existing stability and quality of a river. The Project Impact funded effort is concentrating on unstable and artificially constricted portions of the watercourse in order to predict and hopefully mitigate future flooding issues.

Locally, members of the New Haven River Anglers Association have agreed to assist in the Phase II assessment in hopes of identifying future projects that would not only protect residents from flooding but provide better fish habitat as well.