



# ACRPC

*update*

November 2012

## RPC'S Complete Statewide Broadband Telecommunications Plan

ACRPC, together with other regional planning commissions around the state, recently completed work on a broadband technology plan. The RPCs each developed a network of contacts in communities and local sectors to assess where promising opportunities are available to further develop broadband technology adoption and use. These Regional Technology Planning Teams used the Vermont Telecommunications Plan and other ongoing state-level efforts combined with local and regional knowledge to develop strategies and actions for integrated use of broadband technology. The Broadband Technology project also led to the creation of new cross sector partnerships, the identification of broadband technology gaps, and the creation of regional and statewide strategies and actions. Common goals and strategies emerging from the study included:

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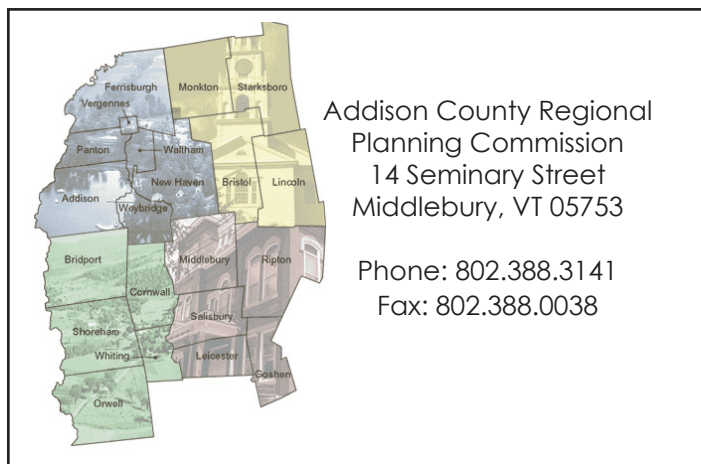
- Broadband will be available and affordable to all Vermonters.
- Technology will be used to provide transparency, increase efficiency and allow greater access to local government.
- More Vermonters will be able to telework/telecommute while maintaining strong connections to colleagues, clients and the public.
- Fluency in and literacy about broadband, the internet and the accompanying technological devices will increase.
- Broadband will increase economic opportunity and support economic diversity.

## Commission Calendar

NOV. 2012

14	7:30	Full Commission Meeting
15	7:00	Addison County Solid Waste Management District
22		Thanksgiving Day - office closed
28	6:30	ACRPC Executive Board
29	7:00	Energy Committee
Dec 3	8:00	Local Govn't Committee - Leicester Town Office
Dec 5	7:00	Transportation Advisory 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

The Broadband Technology Plan can be reviewed at: <http://acrpc.org>. ACRPC discussed the report at its monthly meeting in October and the report is on ACRPC's November Agenda for ratification by ACRPC's membership. For more information, contact Kevin Lehman at [kevinl@acrpc.org](mailto:kevinl@acrpc.org).

*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.*

## **Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies Receives 2012 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from NADO**

The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies has been awarded a 2012 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the involvement of its members (the state's regional planning commissions, or RPCs) in the Recovery of Vermont's Transportation Network following Tropical Storm Irene. According to NADO President Russ Cowley, "The Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards highlight the important results of programs and projects like the RPC Involvement in the Recovery of Vermont's transportation network. Such initiatives are central to fostering quality of place and facilitating economic vitality in our nation's communities by promoting effective transportation networks."

## **Vermont Home Weatherization Campaign**

Beginning in January 2013, Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN), Addison County Regional Planning Commission and other organizations, will spearhead a year-long effort to increase the number of homes completing comprehensive energy efficiency improvements. Under the Campaign, town energy committees and other local partners will participate in an "Energy Challenge" to compete with other towns within their region. Each local partner will have a target of weatherizing 5% of the homes within their community in a one-year period. Community prizes will be awarded for the top town in each region, as well as statewide prizes for the top region and town. The Campaign is designed to help Vermont reach its statewide goal of 25% energy savings in 80,000 homes by the year 2020.

Campaign sign-up is expected to begin in November 2012 with the launch in January 2013.

More information will be posted at [www.efficiencyvermont.com/community](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com/community), or contact Paul Markowitz, Community Energy Program Manager at

[pmarkowitz@veic.org](mailto:pmarkowitz@veic.org) or 802 540 7608 for more information.

## **Input Sought on Updated Vermont Outdoor Recreation Plan**

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation seeks public comment on updates to the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2005-2009, which has expired. The document is a component of the National Park Service (NPS) planning process known as "SCORP," which stands for Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The new document provides a vision, goals, and actions in support of outdoor recreation endeavors throughout the State for 2013 through 2017. The draft SCORP is available for review at <http://www.vtfpr.org/recreation/scorp/info.cfm>, or contact the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for a printed copy. Any suggested changes, additions, or corrections should be submitted to:

Ed O'Leary at the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation ([Ed.oleary@state.vt.us](mailto:Ed.oleary@state.vt.us); 802-241-3683) before November 30, 2012.

Ed will also answer any questions you have about the plan. In addition, a webinar will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. that will include a review of the plan development process. Please follow the link above to login to the webinar 10 minutes before it starts. The public will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

This SCORP is required for the State to receive Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars. Applicants to the LWCF will be asked to refer to the SCORP in their proposals. Since 1965 the LWCF, administered by the NPS, has provided Vermont communities and State agencies with more than \$27 million towards acquisition, conservation, and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Hundreds of recreational facilities have been developed in Vermont with more than 500 projects using funding from the LWCF. These projects include public parks, town greens, ball fields, tennis and basketball courts, skate

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parks, picnic areas, and playgrounds.

## **VTRANS Announces Changes to the 2014 Better Back Roads Program**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation's (VTrans) and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' (VANR) Vermont Better Back Roads Program will commence providing municipal grants to address gravel road related erosion issues and improve water quality starting in the summer of 2013. Better Back Roads grants that are underway will be completed under the auspices of the Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council.

VTrans and VANR determined earlier this year that changes to the Better Back Roads Program were necessary due to new federal funding requirements and the need to grow and improve the program. Further details on the FY-2014 (starting 1 Jul 2013) Vermont Better Back Roads Program are outlined in the following Agency of Transportation press release:

*Future of the Better Back Roads Program Announced ~ November 2012*

## **VTRANS Holds Public Hearing on Transportation Infrastructure Financing**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation recently held their annual public hearing on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on 30 Oct 2012 at the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury. The STIP outlines all the statewide transportation projects and their budgets programmed to take place from FY-2013 through FY-2016.

Some of the projects in Addison County include:

- VT Route 125 ~ Replacement of Bridge #13 (Sand Hill Bridge) in Middlebury
- VT Route 116 ~ Replacement of Bridge #8 (over the New Haven River) in Bristol
- VT Route 116 ~ Replacement of Bridge #6 (over an unnamed brook) in Bristol
- South St. ~ Replacement of Bridge #31 in Bristol (to include the relocation of the truss bridge for limited highway or alternative transportation use.)
- East River Rd. ~ Replacement of Bridge #19 (over

the New Haven River) in Lincoln

- Rehabilitation of the Pulp Mill Covered Bridge in Middlebury-Weybridge
- River Rd. ~ Rehabilitation or Replacement of Bridge #10 (over the New Haven River) in New Haven
- Repaving/Resurfacing of VT Route 116 in Starksboro-Hinesburg

For further information on the STIP, please visit the Agency of Transportation's STIP information page at: <http://www.aot.state.vt.us/STIP.htm>

## **The Red Cross announces its Local Disaster Shelter Initiative.**

The Local Disaster Shelter Initiative offers communities in Vermont and New Hampshire's Upper Valley the training and equipment to open and sustain a disaster shelter for up to 72 hours when assistance is either unavailable or delayed.

The American Red Cross will:

1. Provide each participating community the cots, blankets, water, emergency radio, lighting, signage, volunteer vests, and training materials necessary to open a community shelter and be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours.
2. Train local volunteers to open, staff and manage the shelter.
3. Review existing shelter agreements and facility surveys and establish new ones where appropriate.

Participating communities will:

1. Provide an accessible site to store the materials and identify a shelter site, if one does not already exist.
2. Identify the 10-20 volunteers necessary to open and staff their local shelter and help to schedule a date for Red Cross staff to provide a half day training.
3. Commit to "drill" their shelter once annually and report in their town or city annual report that the initial training and annual drills are successfully completed. A community that receives the training and mate-

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rial resources (estimated at \$3,500.00) being offered by the Red Cross will be taking an invaluable step toward a level of preparedness that meets today's realities. Communities interested in the program should contact:

Jon-Michael Muise at 802-254-9766 x106  
Or

E-mail [jon.muise@vt.usda.gov](mailto:jon.muise@vt.usda.gov)  
By November 20, 2012

Larry Kupferman, Shelter Coordinator  
American Red Cross  
Vermont & the New Hampshire Upper Valley  
(802) 660-9130, ext. 113  
[larry.kupferman@redcross.org](mailto:larry.kupferman@redcross.org)

## **Community Programs Application Workshop For Not For Profits And Municipalities**

December 5, 2012  
9:30 AM to 11:00 AM  
USDA Service Center Rutland, VT

Are you planning for Capital Improvements or Equipment Purchases in the next year? Will you be looking for funding options?

If so, or you just want to plan for your next large project, Rural Development will be presenting information about our Guarantees, Loans, and in some cases Grants to municipalities and non-profits for capital expenditures.

We will also discuss the new census data and its impact on your community. You will learn about our application process and much, much, more! Please join us and learn more about Rural Development's Community, Business, and Housing programs that can help your organization and your Community. Note: Rutland USDA Service Center is handicap accessible, however If you require a special accommodation, please let us know.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Space is limited so please RSVP to