



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission

155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

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## Inside This Issue



Economic Development  
Strategy 1



Park & Ride Study 2



School Safety Exercise 2



The Emergency  
Planning & Right-to-  
Know Act 3



Public Service Board  
Proceedings and the  
Municipal Role 3



NRPC Staff 3



NRPC Calendar 4



MVRT Meeting 4



NRPC Mailing  
List Updates 4



List of Commissioners 4

## Economic Development Strategy

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Council of Northern Vermont, Northwest Regional Planning Commission is soliciting input regarding development projects that should be listed on the 2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Conceptual Project List.

The Economic Development Council of Northern Vermont is an organization established to oversee a federally designated economic development district covering the 87 municipalities of the Counties of Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Caledonia, Essex and Orleans. This organization no longer has staff or an operating budget but the Board of Directors remains in place. The regional planning commissions and regional development corporations are working together with the Board of Directors to complete the 2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) brings together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. It also provides a useful benchmark by which a regional economy can evaluate opportunities with other regions in the national economy. In order to retain the federal District Designation, the district must have a CEDS approved annually. This approval comes from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and allows this area to remain eligible for grants from EDA. Previous grants have funded projects such as infrastructure in industrial parks and the Vermont Food Venture Center.

**Municipalities in the District have been asked to provide feedback and suggestions for CEDS priorities by March 18, 2011.** If you have questions on the CEDS planning process, please contact Catherine Dimitruk [cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com](mailto:cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com).





## Park and Ride Study

The rural nature of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties pose a challenge for residents to reduce the costs and environmental impacts associated with driving far distances in private vehicles. Utilizing park and ride lots can minimize time and miles that people spend driving alone. Carpooling or using public transit from park and ride locations allows motorists to share the cost of gas, minimize the number of cars on the road and reduce carbon emissions.

As a component of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Department of Public Service, the NRPC will be conducting a Park and Ride Study in the Spring of 2011. The project will include an inventory of current formal and informal lots throughout the region in which other amenities such as connectivity to bicycle/pedestrian paths or public transit will also be documented. The study will collect data on the average occupancy of current lots by determining the percent of available spaces being used. Through a mail survey, the study will assess the current travel behavior, needs and interests of area residents to determine if additional park and ride lots would be useful.

With more park and ride lots available in convenient locations residents can begin to save money and increase their energy efficiency by carpooling or using other modes of transit from the lots. To connect with others interested in carpooling, Vermonters can go to [www.connectingcommuters.org](http://www.connectingcommuters.org).

For more information on the project contact Bethany at 524-5958 or [bethany@nrpcvt.com](mailto:bethany@nrpcvt.com).



## School Safety Exercise

The Local Emergency Planning Committee #4 in cooperation with Vermont Homeland Security and the Missisquoi Valley Union High School Safety Team conducted a school safety exercise on February 8, 2011 at the Swanton Municipal Complex. A tabletop exercise provides a simulation of an emergency situation in a stress free environment. The purpose of the exercise was to enable school officials and local and state response organizations to gain an understanding of problems they might face during an incident at the High School. The tabletop is designed to bring together key agencies with the goal of understanding, coordinating, and improving the operational response to a critical incident. The MVU High School Planning Committee identified the purpose of this tabletop exercise as a way to improve current response agencies and prepare agencies for a full scale exercise. Participants included MVU School officials, Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union, Vermont State Police, Swanton Village Police Department, Missisquoi Valley Rescue, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, Vermont Emergency Management, American Red Cross, LEPC#4, Northwest RPC, Vermont Department of Health, Northwest Counseling and Support Services and the Vermont School Crisis Team. For more information, contact Shaun Coleman at 524-5958 or [scoleman@nrpcvt.com](mailto:scoleman@nrpcvt.com).



# The Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act



On February 16th, the EPA led an Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) workshop for facility owners who use hazardous and toxic chemicals. Approximately 25 area businesses attended. Vermont Emergency Management and Local Emergency Planning Committee's 4 and 13 co-sponsored the workshop.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 establishes requirements for Federal, State and local governments, Indian Tribes, and industry regarding emergency planning and "Community Right-to-Know" reporting on Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS). EPCRA provisions help increase the public's knowledge and access to information on chemicals at individual facilities, their uses, and releases into the environment. The State and community stakeholders, working with facilities, can use the information to improve chemical safety and protect public health and the environment. Private and publicly owned facilities that have Extremely Hazardous Substance(s) (EHS) that are equal to or greater than the Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ) are required by law to submit CRTK Tier II reports to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and local fire department annually. Reports for the current year are due by March 31st. For general information, contact Shaun Coleman at 524-5958 or for specific reporting requirements, please contact Randy Bronson, State Hazmat Compliance Officer at 1-800.347.0488 or visit <http://vem.vermont.gov/programs/epcra>.

## Public Service Board Proceedings and the Municipal Role

Presented by: Vermont League of Cities and Towns &  
Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions



Thursday, March 10, 2011

*Delivered via Vermont Interactive Television*



### *Who Should Attend and Why:*

This workshop is designed for all local officials involved in land use planning, regulation, and development review. All are welcome, though it is particularly relevant for planning commissioners, planners, zoning administrators, development review board members, selectboard members, town managers and administrators, and conservation commissioners.

### *Registration Information:*

\$45.00 VLCT PACIF members, \$55.00 VLCT members, \$75.00 Non-members.

Visit [www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/](http://www.vlct.org/eventscalendar/) to register online, or fax your registration to (802) 229-2211. If you need registration materials please call 1-800-649-7915.

## NRPC Staff

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Northwest Regional  
Board of Commissioners

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Barbara Baker  
Alburgh Village: Andrea Beaderstadt  
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Bakersfield: Nancy Hunt  
Dennis DeBevec  
Berkshire: Claude Charron  
Richard Ross  
Enosburg Falls: Richard Roberge  
Michael Manahan  
Enosburgh: Ronald Duso  
Lloyd Touchette  
Fairfax: Randy Devine  
Colleen Steen  
Fairfield: Marilyn Savoy  
Jason Booth  
Fletcher: Bruce Douglas  
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Franklin: Doug Clark  
Clark Hubbard  
Georgia: Jerry Baitz  
Kirk Waite  
Grand Isle: Edwin Gelinax  
David Borthwick-Leslie  
Highgate: Pete Paquette  
One Vacant Seat  
Isle La Motte: Sylvia Jensen  
Robin Gutierrez  
Montgomery: Barry Kade  
Darlene Marrier  
North Hero: John Lambert  
One Vacant Seat  
Richford: Melissa Wells  
Harold Foote  
St Albans City: Joseph Luneau  
Lazarus Scangas  
St Albans Town: John Gray  
Paul Larner  
Sheldon: Patrick Howrigan  
Greg Stebbins  
South Hero: Michael Guernsey  
Bob Buermann  
Swanton Town: Harold Garrett  
Robert Manning  
Swanton Village: Christopher Leach  
Neal Speer

## NRPC MARCH CALENDAR

Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, Policy/Project Review Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Mar. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm, Brownfields Steering Committee Mtg., NRPC Conference Room

Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, NRPC Board Mtg., WIB Training Facility, Precision Lane, Swanton

## Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council Meeting

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council will hold its next business meeting and Annual Meeting to elect members-at-large and officers for 2011 on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m. at the Northwest Regional Planning Commission office, 155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT. All are welcome. For more information, contact Cynthia at 933-8851 or at [cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net).



## NRPC Mailing List Updates!

Please help us keep our mailing list up to date. Let us know if: your address needs to be updated, your name is misspelled, or if you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email.

Call us at the office 524-5958 or send us your updates by:

**Fax:** 802-527-2948, **Email:** [aadams@nrpcvt.com](mailto:aadams@nrpcvt.com)

**Mail:** Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Attn: Amy Adams  
155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

As always, you can check out our website: [www.nrpcvt.com](http://www.nrpcvt.com).

Thanks for your assistance in helping us keep our information up to date!



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