



Northwest Regional Planning Commission

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Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions Win National and State Awards

Vermont's eleven regional planning commissions have 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. The state's RPCs also received Project of the Year awards from Vermont Planners Association and the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) requested assistance from the RPCs beyond the normal scope of their work, training, and funding. There were no advance plans or procedures in place for this type of response and recovery effort. Within days after the storm hit on August 28, 2011, RPCs assisted local towns with recovery efforts while VTrans focused on repairing damage to the state highway network. The RPCs set up a Regional Coordination Center (RCC) at the Chittenden County RPC (CCRPC) office – the state's sole Metropolitan Planning Organization – to coordinate, collate and share information between various partners and agencies. RPCs in severely impacted areas focused on initiating regular contact with towns to collect detailed damage assessments, gather updates on recovery progress and unmet needs, and provide other transportation-related assistance. RPC staff in less impacted areas provided support staffing at the RCC and State Emergency Operations Center.

"We're honored to be recognized at the national level for the efforts of RPC staff statewide," said Charlie Baker, CCRPC Executive Director, "but more importantly we're proud to be able to help Vermonters recover after such a devastating event." Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC Executive Director added, "because our region was spared from serious damage, we were able to use our staff to assist in the state emergency operations center and with the local road coordination project. This helped the regions in the worst hit areas of the state and gave our staff valuable experience that will be helpful in future disasters."



According to NADO President Russ Cowley, Executive Director of the Six County Association of Governments in Richfield, Utah: "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."

NADO is a Washington, DC based association that promotes programs and policies to strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies.

Richford is Designated a Trail Town by the Northern Forest Canoe Trail

The Town of Richford and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) are thrilled to announce Richford's designation as one of NFCT's pilot Trail Towns. NFCT Trail Towns are trailside and gateway communities that leverage their recreational assets as drivers for both economic and broader community well being linked to active relationships between people and place. NFCT's Trail Town Initiative is not a new program but rather a version of the successful community-based program the organization has been implementing for a number of years. NFCT is launching four pilot Trail Towns along its 740 mile route in 2012-13: Old Forge, New York; Richford, Vermont; Errol, New Hampshire; and Stratton/Eustis, Maine.

In Richford, a local committee including representation from the Select Board, the Richford Economic Advancement Corporation (REAC), the Richford Planning Commission, the Richford Conservation Commission, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the Missisquoi River Basin Association, and the business community has been meeting monthly since June to identify recreational assets and services, to coordinate with existing projects, and to prioritize projects that can help Richford become a vibrant recreational hub. "Richford has so much to offer, from paddling to biking to hiking," says Linda Collins, chair of the Select Board and member of the Trail Town Committee. "It's exciting to bring partners together to coordinate efforts to really put this area on the map as a recreation destination."

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a 740-mile inland paddling trail tracing historic travel routes across New York, Vermont, Québec, New Hampshire, and Maine. Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Inc. is internationally regarded as the preeminent water trail organization in North America, and connects people to the Trail's natural environment, human heritage, and contemporary communities by stewarding, promoting, and providing access to canoe and kayak experiences along this route. To learn more visit <http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org>, call 802-496-2285 or contact Kevin at NRPC by kevin@nrpcvt.com or 802-524-5958.

Vermont Home Weatherization Campaign

The Vermont Home Weatherization Campaign is coming!

Beginning in January 2013, Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) and other organizations, will spearhead a year-long effort to increase the number of homes completing comprehensive energy efficiency improvements. Under the Campaign, 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.

Projects include, among others:

- ↪ **Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project:** Volunteers will conduct home energy visits of their neighbors' homes to identify energy saving opportunities focused on reducing heating and cooling needs.
- ↪ **Door-to-Door Community Outreach:** Volunteers will canvass door-to-door in order to reach a large number of people in a relatively short timeframe.
- ↪ **Button Up Vermont Workshops:** Efficiency Vermont will support home energy saving workshops that are led by certified energy professionals.
- ↪ **Home Energy Parties:** Built on the Tupperware party model, homeowners who have recently completed comprehensive efficiency improvements will invite neighbors and friends to their homes to share their experiences.
- ↪ **Home Efficiency Kits:** Efficiency Vermont will make available free Home Efficiency Kits that include a range of energy efficient products.
- ↪ **Energy Contractor Partnerships:** Local groups will identify homeowners who are ready to move ahead with efficiency improvements, and in exchange, certified energy professionals will offer discounted energy audits.

Efficiency Vermont will work with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to coordinate efforts at the regional level. Local partners will have overall responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Campaign in their communities.

Campaign sign-up is expected to begin in November 2012, with the launch in January 2013. More information will be posted at www.encyvermont.com/community, or contact Allison Stori, Regional Planner at astori@nrpcvt.com for more information.

Brownfields Reuse Initiative

Vermont Brownfields Forum

November 29, 2012, 9:00am-4:15pm

*Avoid the pitfalls.....unlock the opportunities
Tips from the experts on developing brownfields
in Vermont*

This one day Brownfields Forum is intended to provide guidance and real world applications to the development of Brownfield sites in Vermont.

The forum is geared toward meeting the education and training needs of Lenders, Developers, Realtor/Brokers, Environmental Consultants, Attorneys and Municipalities.

If you develop or market property in Vermont's Downtowns, provide lending to conduct this work and want to understand your liability this is the event for you.

Continuing Education Credits available for Attorneys (6 MCLE), Real Estate Professionals, and Planners (APA/AICP Pending).

Luncheon: Join the DEC Commissioner and the Deputy Secretary for lunch to provide input on public policy.

Location: Stoweflake Resort & Conference Center,
1746 Mountain Road, Stowe, VT 05672
Phone: 1-800-253-2232 Website: www.stoweflake.com

To learn more and register visit:

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/sms/RCPP/Brownfields_Conference.html

Pricing is as follows: VBA Attorney Members: \$120,
Non-Member Attorneys: \$240, Clerk/Student Members: \$80,
Paralegal Members: \$80, General Public: \$90

Questions: Patricia.Coppolino@state.vt.us



Waypoint Visitor's Center - Bellows Falls

NRPC Staff

*Executive Director
Catherine Dimitruk*

*Assistant Director
Bethany Remmers*

*Office Administrator
Amy Adams*

*Senior Planner
Shaun Coleman*

*Senior Planner
Greta Brunswick*

*Regional Planner
Allison Stori*

*Regional Planner
Kathelin Brewer-Colie*

*Regional Planner
Kevin Schwenzfeier*

*GIS Technician
Emily Hubbard*

Fall Forum Scheduled on "Improving Efficiency in Municipal Buildings"

Date & Time: November 13, 6:00pm Refreshments; 6:30pm Forum

Place: Northwest Regional Planning Commission Office
155 Lake Street, Saint Albans, VT

Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, will be holding a forum to review towns' existing energy audits to improve energy efficiency in public buildings. The forum will address implementing the recommendations of those audits and cover the process to get started on completing energy efficiency retrofits. In addition, the forum will focus on ways to help finance recommended improvements. The forum will also include a presentation from a professional building energy efficiency company to provide information and answer any questions. Although specifically addressed to municipal buildings that have completed energy audits or similar assessments, this workshop will be helpful to any local official interested in learning about energy audits, efficiency improvements, and ways to finance those improvements.

Please mark this date on your calendars now and we look forward to seeing you there! For more information, or to find out which of your buildings has had a certified energy audit contact: Allison Stori, Regional Planner, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 155 Lake Street, St. Albans, at 802-524-5958 or astori@nrpcvt.com. **Please RSVP.**

Join Us! Refreshments Provided!

- ☞ Regional Energy Committee Members
- ☞ Regional Commissioners
- ☞ Selectboard Members
- ☞ Local Energy Advocates
- ☞ Trustees
- ☞ Town Treasurers
- ☞ Town Managers
- ☞ Local Auditors and Contractors

Northwest Regional Board of Commissioners

Alburgh Town:	Terry Tatro Vacant Seat
Alburgh Village:	Andrea Beaderstadt Vacant Seat
Bakersfield:	Dennis DeBevec Bill Irwin
Berkshire:	Claude Charron Richard Ross
Enosburg Falls:	Michael Manahan Richard Roberge
Enosburgh:	Ronald Duso Lloyd Touchette
Fairfax:	Randy Devine Colleen Steen
Fairfield:	Jason Booth Marilyn Savoy
Fletcher:	Lynn Douglas Mary Jane Featherstone
Franklin:	Yvon Dandurand Clark Hubbard
Georgia:	Jerry Baitz Kirk Waite
Grand Isle:	Edvin Gelinis David Borthwick-Leslie
Highgate:	Richard Noel Tom Racine
Isle La Motte:	Paul Hinman Sylvia Jensen
Montgomery:	Carol McGregor Vacant Seat
North Hero:	Vacant Seat Vacant Seat
Richford:	Harold Foote Melissa Wells
Saint Albans City:	Lazarus Scangas Jeff Young
Saint Albans Town:	Robert Hughes William Nihan
Sheldon:	Patrick Howrigan Greg Stebbins
South Hero:	Bob Buermann Michael Guernsey
Swanton Town:	Harold Garrett Robert Manning
Swanton Village:	Christopher Leach Neal Speer

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; 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 14th from 6:30-7:30 p.m., which will include a review of the plan development process. Please follow the link above and follow the instructions 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 through more than 500 projects of the LWCF. These projects include public parks, town greens, ball fields, tennis and basketball courts, skate parks, picnic areas, and playgrounds.



Rail Trail Council Business Meeting

The Northwest Vermont Rail Trail Council will hold its next regular business meeting on Monday, November 19, 6:00pm at the Sheldon Elementary School, Poor Farm Road, Sheldon Springs, VT. All are welcome. Contact Cynthia at 933-8851 or by e-mail cynthiascott@myfairpoint.net for more information.



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