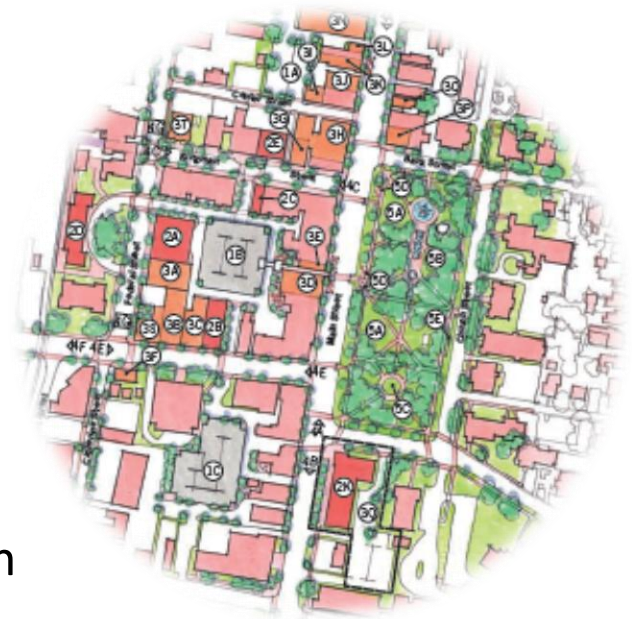


What is a Municipal Plan? Why have one?

What: A guide for accomplishing community aspirations and intentions through public investments, land use regulations and actions the town can take to achieve its vision.

Why:

- Inclusive process develops community-wide vision
- Empowers communities to respond to change in ways that reflect their own goals, needs, priorities and values.
- Allows communities to designate areas to maintain as is, evolve over time or to transform more quickly into a better place.



With a current plan you can...

- Adopt Zoning, Subdivision and Flood Hazard Regulations
- Act 250 Applications must conform to your Town Plan
- Your Town Plan will be considered in Section 248 Certificate of Public Good Applications
- More competitive grant applications





Vermont Planning Process Goals

Planning Process (§4302, §4381-§4387)

- Coordinated comprehensive process to guide decision
- Citizen participation at all levels
- Consider use of resources and consequences of growth and development locally and beyond
- Work with neighboring municipalities and region to implement plans

Engaging People in Planning



Talk to people

**Food, fun and
celebration**



**Meet people
where they are**

**A culture of
communication**



It's Your Municipal Plan (But there are requirements [§4382])

1. Objectives, Policies and Programs
2. Land Use (Map and Statement), including any state designation
3. Transportation (Map and Statement)
4. Utilities and Facilities (Map and Statement)
5. Education (Map and Statement)
6. Energy (Option for Enhanced Energy Plan)
7. Economic Development
8. Housing (Including Data and a Recommended Program of Action)
9. Flood Resilience
10. Policies on Preserving Rare Natural Areas
11. Compatibility with Adjacent Municipalities and Region
12. Implementation Program

VERMONT PLANNING GOALS (§4302)



Create a plan for tomorrow,
not yesterday or today.

Municipal Plan Adoption

➤ **Plans expire every 8 years**

- Revise or rewrite the plan before expiration – at a minimum, make necessary edits to data and implementation program

➤ **Adoption process can take several months**

- Planning Commission hearing with notice to adjacent communities
- Selectboard hearing (1 in rural municipalities)
- Australian ballot for adoption
 - Decision on adoption shall be made by Legislative Body, unless the Legislative Body or voters have elected to decide by Australian Ballot
- Plans go into effect upon adoption

Regional Plan Approval & Confirmation

- **Municipalities may request RPC approval of the municipal plan.**

- **RPCs will confirm the municipal planning process if:**
 - If the municipal plan has been approved by RPC
 - The municipality is engaged in a process to implement the plan
 - Is maintaining efforts to provide funds for planning

- **A confirmed Planning Process allows municipalities to:**
 - Apply for state designation of centers and neighborhoods
 - Apply for Municipal Planning Grants
 - Levy impact fees
 - Have plan considered by state agencies in their planning

Vermont Planning Manual

[https://accd.vermont.gov/
community-
development/town-
future/municipal-
planning-manual](https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/town-future/municipal-planning-manual)

