

Dear Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee.,

I want to express my support for Brandy's comments. Her views captured my thoughts perfectly.

As a professional planner for 16 year I have worked hard to emphasize the need for plan implementation. From 2008 to 2014 I was the Director of Planning for the City of Barre and since have been the Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Montpelier. Both communities have benefited from a focus on implementing their Comprehensive Plans. This success has also helped to grow public support for further planning and more projects and initiatives. When residents and commissioners see their planning come to fruition in a cleaned up brownfield (Enterprise Aly parking lot in Barre City) or new downtown building (Barre City Place) the community gains the confidence that they can improve their communities.

An eight (or ten) year update provides a better window to achieve goals and tasks outlined in the plan. Transformative projects like Enterprise Aly took six years and City Place took five. Letting plans lapse is not an option as downtown designations, grant eligibility and the ability to amend zoning bylaws all rely on a current plan. Having the additional time will allow for projects to work their way to completion or offer a better window to implement a few smaller projects.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Mike

Mike Miller, AICP CFM
Director of Planning & Community Development
City of Montpelier
39 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Office: (802) 262-6269
Fax (802) 223-9524