

# VAPDA

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

**Regional Planning Commissions**  
**led by Boards** made up primarily of appointed officials. These ties to local government help RPCs serve as a bridge between local, state and federal governments.

**Planning Commissions have** local and state statutory responsibilities for transportation, land use, emergency management, brownfields, housing, energy, and economic development.

**Coordination of Regional Planning Commissions** is funded through a complementary combination of local, state and federal funding. State funding for RPCs helps maximize the use of federal dollars for our economy, environment and our communities, and plays a key role in applying for grants that have benefits across each region.

## We are Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions

<b>ACRPC</b>	Addison County Regional Planning Commission
<b>BCRC</b>	Bennington County Regional Commission
<b>CVRPC</b>	Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
<b>CCRPC</b>	Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
<b>LCPC</b>	Lamoille County Planning Commission
<b>NVDA</b>	Northeastern Vermont Development Association
<b>NRPC</b>	Northwest Regional Planning Commission
<b>RRPC</b>	Rutland Regional Planning Commission
<b>TRORC</b>	Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
<b>SWCRPC</b>	Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission
<b>WRC</b>	Windham Regional Commission

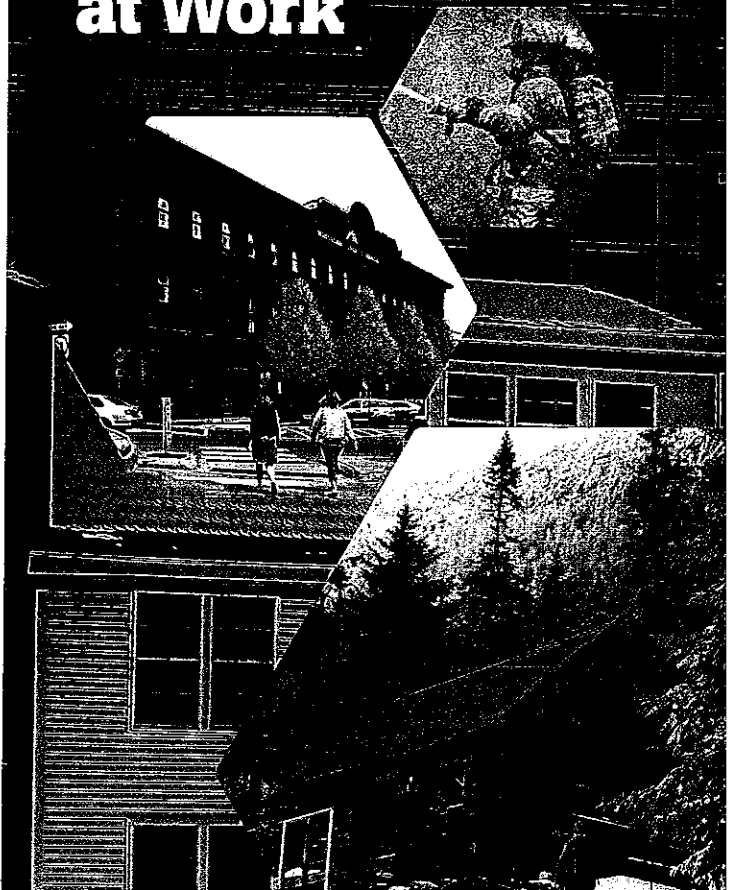
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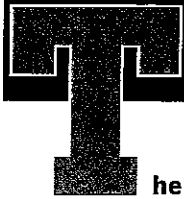
VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

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# Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions at Work

2018





**The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies** consists of Vermont's 11 Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs).

In the absence of county government, RPCs are an essential link between local, state and federal government and related programs that serve community needs

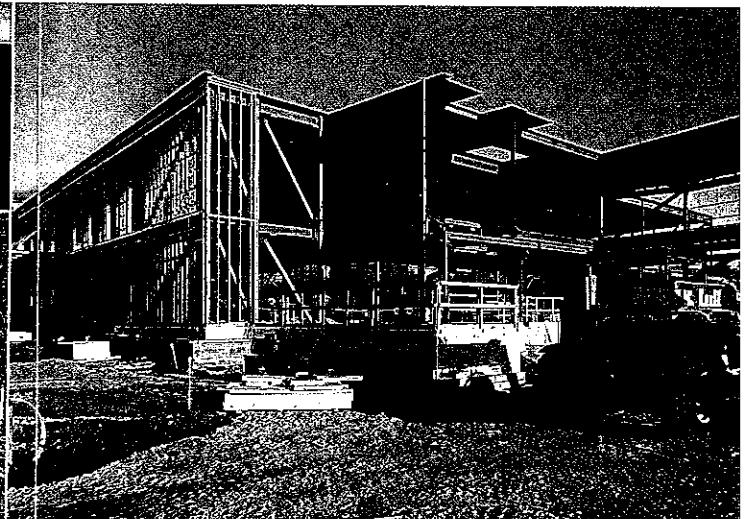
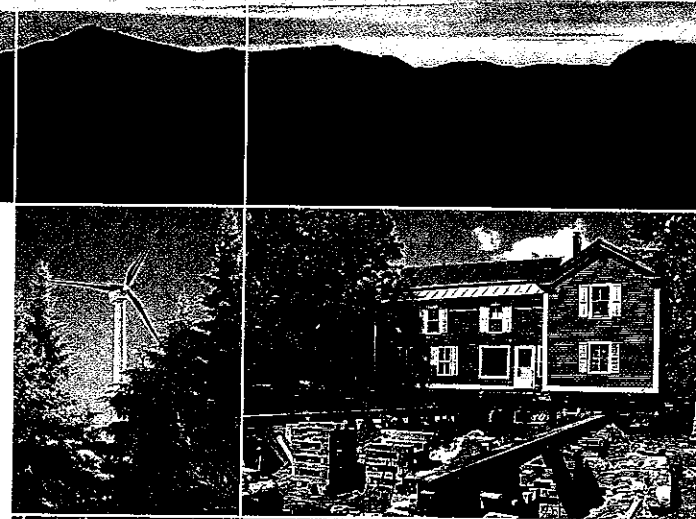
RPCs are political subdivisions of the State of Vermont, uniquely positioned to provide broad services to every Vermont municipality.

## From Around the State

**Addison County Regional Planning Commission** significantly increased its water quality planning activity this year. In addition to supporting the testing, education and outreach mission of the Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative, ACRPC helped the City of Vergennes create a stormwater master plan and helped Bristol to start its own stormwater master planning process.

**Bennington County Regional Planning Commission** is coordinating the delivery of regional economic development services through a partnership with the regional development corporation. Highlights include a collaborative effort to develop a Southern Vermont Regional Economic Development Strategy, a multifaceted workforce development initiative, and management of a major mixed use redevelopment in downtown Bennington.

**Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission** increased data accessibility by building web maps for Calais and Berlin, initiating an online municipal plan data library, and uploading municipal zoning map



**Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission** partners with Champlain Housing Trust and Housing Vermont on the Building Homes Together campaign to increase housing in Chittenden County. The campaign has a target of 3,500 new homes in Chittenden County by 2021 with 700 permanently affordable. Successes to date include a statewide \$37M housing bond, building over 1,600 homes the first two years, and municipal assistance on zoning up-dates and housing policy.

**Lamoille County Planning Commission** built a boardwalk in Smugglers' Notch which is now a fully accessible portion of the Long Trail, and completed construction of a new bridge on the Cambridge Greenway in Jeffersonville which should reduce flooding associated with the Brewster River.

**Northeastern Vermont Development Association** worked on recreation-related planning and economic development in Burke, St. Johnsbury, Danville, and Newport. It also continues to be an active partner in efforts to redevelop the iconic Yellow Barn in Hardwick. This \$6.5M business accelerator could generate at least \$750k of employment income in the local economy each year and create at least 25 jobs in the first 30 months.

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission** partnered with Franklin County Caring Communities to complete a new guide for municipalities addressing prevention. Planning for Prevention contains concrete

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission** continued to work with municipalities and developers throughout the Act 250 and Section 248 process to incorporate land use planning and design principals in site design that promote long-term social and economic growth.

**Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission** spent a considerable amount of time this year supporting municipal water quality planning and implementation efforts, including performing road erosion inventory assessments and assisting to manage erosion mitigation projects. The Commission also facilitated an outdoor recreation and economic development initiative with the towns of Windsor, West Windsor and Weathersfield.

**Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission** completed a statewide, Hazardous Materials Commodity Study, under contract with Vermont Emergency Management to document the types and frequency of shipments, which informs the state's emergency responders, and the Tropical Storm Irene Home Buyout Program, under contract with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

**Windham Regional Commission** began a village wastewater pilot study in collaboration with the Rich Earth Institute and is

## and Implementation



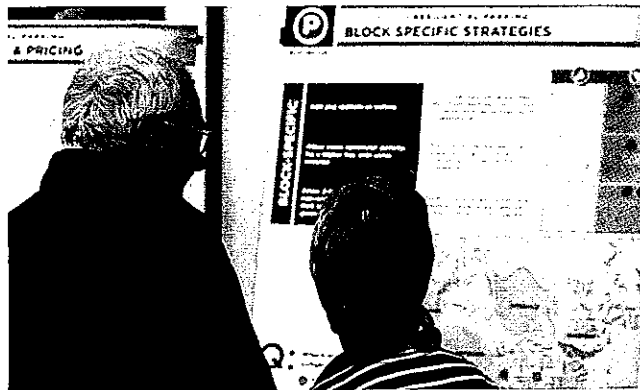
RPCs provided 193 municipalities with planning, bylaw and zoning assistance.

### Flood resilience workshop

Regional Planning Commissions serve as cost-effective professional planning staff for many of Vermont's municipalities and help communities improve town plans and local permitting through education and on-site assistance.

Staff have helped municipalities modernize bylaws, transition to Development Review Boards and implement economic development, flood resiliency planning, energy and forest resources planning. Current and clear plans and bylaws guide smooth local and state permitting.

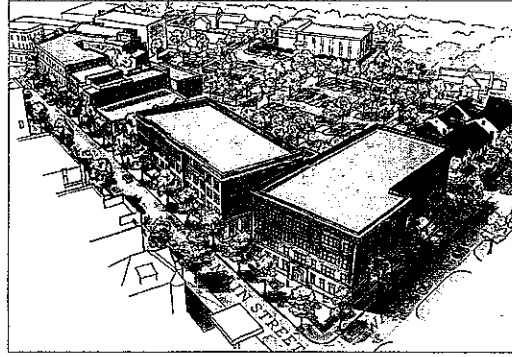
## Regional Planning



### A public meeting in Burlington, VT

RPCs coordinate planning at the regional level through the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive regional plan and related studies. These plans guide local planning and investment decisions of the public and private sectors.

## Development



A conceptual view of all phases of the downtown Bennington ("Putnam Block") redevelopment project being worked on by BCRC

Economic growth is supported best when development efforts are partnered with solid planning functions. The community infrastructure that RPCs help plan for and create provide the public support to private economic development.

RPCs work with municipalities and in partnership with local and Regional Development Corporations in several ways, including creating economic development sections in town and regional plans, helping municipalities plan for and develop critical infrastructure, and developing comprehensive strategies that will help to position Vermont for long-term economic prosperity.



RPC staff helped 137 communities prepare and write grants.

## Brownfields



Woodbury Country Store Remediation Planning, Woodbury, VT

Environmental site assessments and remediation planning allow properties to be sold or re-developed to benefit the local and state economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

## System Services

In addition to enhancing the RPC work, RPCs provide municipalities, state agencies, private redevelopment entities and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.



RPC staff provided mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

## Transportation Planning

Through a contract with Vermont's Agency of Transportation RPCs coordinate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) a statewide framework for public involvement in planning to Vermont's transportation system, with local communities through regional Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs).

Each regional TAC prioritizes projects, identifies local and transportation needs, and provides the platform for public involvement in the planning and development of the state's transportation system. RPCs serve as the point of delivery for the statewide transportation planning process to support local, regional, state and transportation network advancement.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING INITIATIVE	1	Enhance Cooperation & Coordination Between VTrans, RPCs & Municipalities	Better Regional Transportation
	234	municipalities actively engaged in regional transportation planning	Regional
	88	TAC meetings	Regional
	66	non-municipal representatives actively engaged via TAC meetings	Regional
		RAIL, AIR, PUBLIC TRANSIT, BIKE/ PED, DISABILITY RIGHTS, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTEREST GROUPS	Regional
		The TPI program's mission is to enhance cooperative decision-making among state, regional, and local partners about the transportation system. It has five main objectives, each covering a variety of projects.	Regional
		Here are a few highlights from FY 2018.	Regional

## Projects

engage in special projects that address unique community different areas such as flood resiliency, development, and transportation. Quite often, these projects create opportunities to identify and leverage future funding and result in future infrastructure improvements.



Photo Credit: Gordon Miller

<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Advances VTrans Strategic &amp; Long-Range Transportation Plans</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Provides a Mechanism for Improved Public Outreach &amp; Education</p>
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<p><b>341</b></p> <p>data collection activities conducted for VTrans</p>	<p>Objective 5 shares many cross-cutting performance measures with 1-4</p>
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**154** RPC coordination activities with municipalities & VTrans



**152** municipalities assisted with

## Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Resiliency



Winter flooding in Johnson, VT

RPCs play key roles in the mitigation and preparedness phases of emergency management in partnership with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Homeland Security Unit, VTrans, and the Agency of Natural Resources.

RPCs provide staff to the State Emergency Operations Center, support to local emergency management directors and coordinators, Local Emergency Management Plan assistance, administrative support to the Local Emergency Planning Committees, and coordination among responders and planners throughout the State's Public Safety Districts. RPCs also help update floodplain bylaws and FEMA-required hazard mitigation plans, arrange trainings and assist as needed in special circumstances like Tropical Storm Irene and other disaster events.



RPCs assisted with emergency planning in 255 municipalities.

## Watershed Planning and Project Development



Regional Planners assisted with clean water activities in 196 communities.

Cambridge

## Energy Conservation and Development



The Windham Regional Commission's Energy Committee toured the new Avangrid windpower installation in Searsburg and Readsboro.

A renewed focus on clean, renewable, sustainable and affordable energy presents Vermont with great opportunity and significant challenges. RPCs integrate energy planning with land use, transportation and natural resources efforts, and work with municipalities to assist with project implementation. RPCs participate in Section 248 proceedings and support comprehensive planning at the local and regional level to guide the permitting process. RPCs have helped 90 municipalities complete enhanced energy plans under Act 174.

RPCs work with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), conservation districts, and watershed groups to develop watershed tactical basin plans. RPCs also work with municipalities to implement river corridor assessments in local planning and regulations for better and safer growth management decisions.

The Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program is a new program from DEC that is coordinated by RPCs. The program provides funding for municipalities to construct Best Management Practices on municipal roads to implement the state Municipal Road General Permit. Last year, 173 municipalities constructed water quality improvements on 720 local road segments (approximately 45 miles); in FY 19, 212 municipalities plan to participate. RPCs also have a Block Grant from DEC to provide