

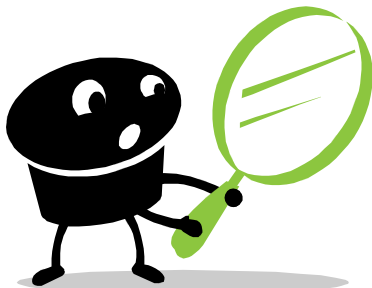


# TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

3117 Rose Hill, The King Farm, Woodstock, VT 05091  
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February 2011

## Regional Planning Commission Performance and Effectiveness



It is important for the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, and all regional planning commissions in Vermont, to step back periodically and review the level of performance we exhibit as well as the effectiveness of what we do to further state, regional and local goals. Vermont's regional planning commissions have embarked on a new wave of review, and last year's Challenges for Change discussions gave it a boost.

One aspect of this review is to survey each regional planning commission staff member and Commissioner to determine their perceptions and knowledge about the mission of the RPC, how it organizes itself to carry out the mission and then how well we accomplish that mission. The survey will be tabulated and results will be available to a wide audience this spring.

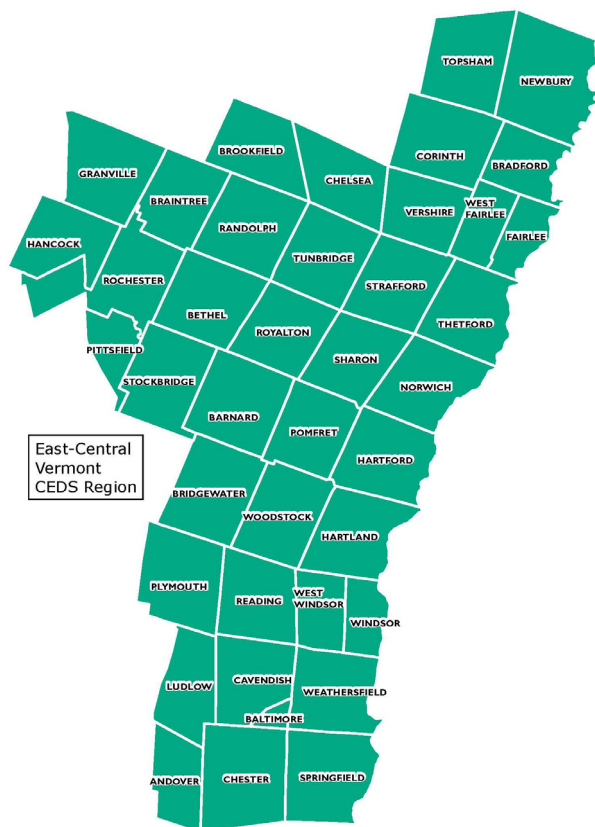
This effort, as well as a number of other tasks related to determining effectiveness and performance, is being guided by the work of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). In addition to the survey, the regional planning commissions are using teams from NADO to interview in person, approximately two dozen key Legislative, State Agency and Non-Profit leaders to obtain candid feedback on how we function individually as well as a network of regional planning commissions. The entire body of work will be published and reported back to each RPC Board, key Legislative Committees, State Agencies and our communities during this May-June period. I would welcome any comments or questions on this effort by phone or email [pgregory@trorc.org](mailto:pgregory@trorc.org).

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

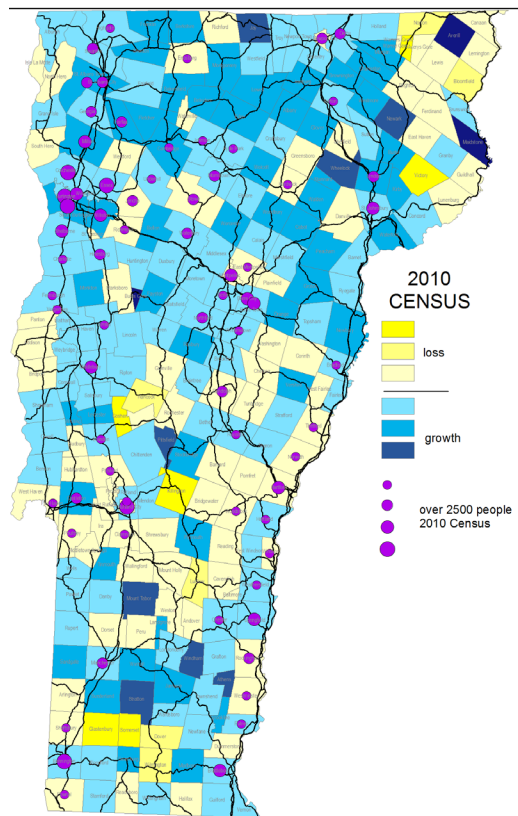
The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, together with the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation, the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, and the Springfield Regional Development Corporation, has completed a draft of the East Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The purpose of the CEDS is to help coordinate the efforts of regional planning commissions, economic development agencies, local governments, and private industry concerning the economic health and development of the 40 town East Central Vermont region. The CEDS is intended to complement the economic conditions and capabilities of the organizations and towns within the region and to sync with economic development policies and programs in the state.

The CEDS is now available for public review at the following link: <http://www.trorc.org/events.html>. Public review and comment is encouraged by March 4, 2011, and should be submitted to Sally Hull by email at [shull@trorc.org](mailto:shull@trorc.org), fax to (802) 457-4728, or by US Mail to TRORC, 3117 Rose Hill, Woodstock, VT 05091.



## 2010 VT Population Snapshot



2010  
Census data  
for Vermont.

## Energy Audit Updates

At the end of January TRORC completed energy audits of 11 buildings in Orange and Windsor County, including Tracy Hall in Norwich, Bradford Academy, Hartland's Recreational Center, and many more. Each audit resulted in recommendations about upgrades, costs, and potential savings. If all of the auditor's recommendations are implemented, then it would save the region \$67,282 per year, and reduce our carbon footprint by 26,200 gallons of fuel per year and 67,000 kilowatts per hour. Although TRORC cannot cover the full cost of upgrades, we may have money to help fund implementation measures that cost under \$2000 for some of these communities.

In future months, TRORC will reach out to Selectboard members to encourage the creation of an Energy Committee in each town (a team of dedicated local volunteers who can research and suggest possible energy efficiency projects) that currently do not have one. Please contact Chris Sargent at [csargent@trorc.org](mailto:csargent@trorc.org) for more information.

## Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Challenge Grant Assistance



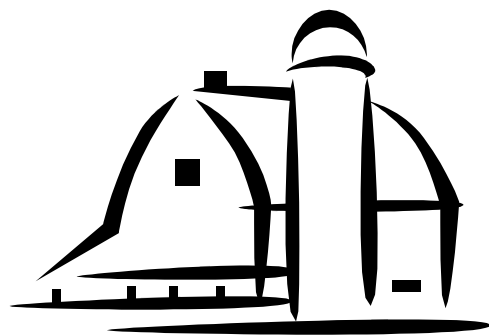
In recognition of the importance of bi-state cooperation in addressing issues that transcend state boundaries, TRORC will be assisting the Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) in New Hampshire on a recently awarded Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Challenge Grant. The project will collect and analyze data to help community leaders increase the supply of affordable housing within walking distance of food sources. TRORC will assist in collecting and analyzing Vermont housing data as part of the overall regional housing needs assessment. This will enable municipalities to address housing and land use issues through policy changes.

## TRORC Joins New Partnership to Keep Vermont's Working Landscape Vital

Vermont's working landscape—its open meadows and mixed forests—offers economic, cultural, scenic, environmental and recreational benefits that are essential to future prosperity. Yet if alarming trends are not reversed, it could vanish within a generation along with Vermont's unique character and many of the key values that unify the state.

Fifty years ago half of the state's land was in agriculture; today barely one-fifth is being actively farmed. Forest products mills are closing and production is down. Parcels are smaller, and development is spreading across the countryside.

The new nonpartisan and broad-based Vermont Working Landscape Partnership is leading a bold year-long campaign to keep Vermont's farm and forest economy vital. It will bring a focused Action Plan to the Governor and legislature—one that will help everyone trying to make a living from the land. Agriculture is an important component to the TRORC regional landscape, aesthetically and economically. We support efforts to encourage agriculture and its related enterprises. We hope that this partnership will further the goals of the state and the region.



# Transportation Projects

## FY'13 Capital Projects Prioritization

As part of our annual transportation project prioritization process, the RPCs are tasked with working with the Transportation Advisory Committee and towns to examine our list of VTrans capital projects and rank them in order based on our project criteria. VTrans decision making is based on engineering criteria and other technical factors making up 80% of the decision process and the RPCs' input addressing economic development, historic resources, etc.,



makes up 20% of the final decision. The draft list of regional projects has been sent to our towns and comments will be accepted until March 1. Please contact Rita Seto at [rseto@trorc.org](mailto:rseto@trorc.org) for inquiries.

## Vermont Scenic Byway Efforts

TRORC has been involved with simultaneous efforts to establish two Vermont Scenic Byway Designations in the region. This designation offers travelers historic, cultural, scenic and recreational information and waypoint centers about the towns and villages along the Byway. The Vermont Byway program is part of the National Byway program funded through the Federal Highway Administration.

The proposed Crossroad of Vermont Byway (Route 4) stretches across nine towns from Hartford to West Rutland. The Corridor Management Plan was presented to the Vermont Scenery Preservation Council (SPC) in January 2011 and to the Vermont Transportation Board on February 10 for recommended designation. The proposed Scenic Route 100 Byway from Pittsfield to Andover finalized their Corridor Management Plan that identifies intrinsic resources along the Byway. The Committee will present to the SPC on March 24, 2011.

## TRORC Partners with Public Transit

The VTrans Public Transit Section provided funding for transit planning efforts for Vermont's designated rural public transit providers in SFY2011. A total of \$50,000 in federal funding was available. TRORC worked with both Advance Transit and Stagecoach in submitting project applications. Both grant projects (Orange and Green route and schedule analysis for Advance Transit; and Bradford area transit analysis for Stagecoach) were funded and will commence in the next month.



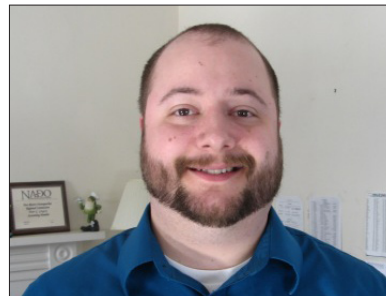
# TRORC Staff Updates

## Emma Zavez

TRORC welcomed Emma Zavez as our newest staff planner. Emma was born and raised in one of TRORC's member towns: Randolph, Vermont. Emma attended Earlham College



in Richmond, Indiana where she received a B.A. in History and minored in Environmental Studies. Emma recently returned to Vermont to pursue a Master's degree in Environmental Law and Policy. During the program, she interned at the White River Partnership, a local watershed restoration organization based in Royalton. She graduated in December 2010 and has since joined us here at TRORC. Emma works on projects related to water quality, hazard mitigation, forestry stewardship, environmental policy and broadband planning. Additionally, she assists staff with various planning projects, such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.



## Peter Bolduc

TRORC also welcomes Peter Bolduc as our new Finance Manager. Peter grew up across the Connecticut River in the small Upper Valley town of Canaan, NH.

Peter graduated from Plymouth State University in 2005 with a B.S. in Accounting. Peter lived in Manchester, NH for 2 years after his graduation and worked in the payroll department for Fidelity Investments. He returned to the Upper Valley in late 2006 to take a position as a tax staff accountant with the regional CPA firm Gallagher, Flynn & Co. Peter manages payroll, fund accounting, preliminary budget preparation, purchasing, AR/AP management, records and data management, contract management and reporting, phone service, and other similar support service functions.

## Goodbye to Liza Wilson

We are sad to see Liza Wilson leave TRORC after ten years. Liza kept the office running smoothly with her incredible organizational skills. Fortunately, she kept coming in occasionally to help with payroll and billing as we searched for a replacement. Liza still lives in Taftsville, where her husband recently sold the Taftsville Country Store, and while some traveling may be on the horizon, we hope to keep seeing her now and then. Thanks Liza for your great work over the years!





Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission  
3117 Rose Hill, The King Farm  
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### **Staff Members**

Peter G. Gregory, AICP - Executive Director  
Peter Bolduc - Finance Manager  
Pete Fellows, CFM - GIS Manager  
Kevin W. Geiger, AICP, CFM - Senior Planner  
Sally M. Hull - Regional Planner  
Chris Sargent, AICP - Senior Planner  
Rita Seto, AICP - Regional Planner  
Emma Zavez - Planner

### **FY 2011 TRORC Representatives**

Barnard - Gerald Fredrickson, Gerry Botha (Alt.)  
Bethel - Yaroslav Stanchak, Olena Stanchak (Alt.)  
Bradford - Nancy Jones, Bobette Scribner (Alt.)  
Braintree - Mark Bannon  
Bridgewater - Nelson Lee, Jr., Norman Martin, II (Alt.)  
Brookfield - Diane Montie  
Chelsea - Carl Pepperman, Cherylanne Linaris (Alt.)  
Corinth - Frank Roderick  
Fairlee - No representative  
Granville - No representative  
Hancock - No representative  
Hartford - Lori Hirshfield  
Hartland - No representative  
Newbury - Larry Scott, Scott Labun (Alt.)  
Norwich - Jamie Hess  
Pittsfield - Jerry Drugonis  
Plymouth - Jim Allen  
Pomfret - William Emmons  
Randolph - Ken Hafner (Alt.)  
Rochester - Larry Straus  
Royalton - David Brandau, Walter Hastings (Alt.)  
Sharon - Paul Haskell, Deborah Jones (Alt.)  
Stockbridge - Mark Doughty, Bill Edgerton (Alt.)  
Strafford - Steve Campbell, Guy Denechaud (Alt.)  
Thetford - Jim Masland, Donn Downey (Alt.)  
Topsham - Thomas Flannigan  
Tunbridge - Arnold Castagner, Michael Sacca (Alt.)  
Vershire - Bill Baylis  
West Fairlee - Jim Brigham, Nate Pero (Alt.)  
Woodstock - Charles Wilson  
Members - Joan Goldstein (GMEDC)  
At-Large - Christine Walker (UVLSRPC)  
- Jennifer Colby (Agricultural Advisor)

## **FY'11 Municipal Planning Grants Awarded**

The state has awarded more than \$417,000 in Municipal Planning Grants to forty five communities across the state to help them plan for growth and development. The six towns in TRORC region received a total of \$52,000 for municipal planning and development projects. Congratulations to the following towns who were awarded a Municipal Planning Grant:

- Braintree (Municipal Plan Update)
- Hartford (Village Center Designations)
- Norwich (Zoning and/or Subdivision Bylaw Update)
- Plymouth (Zoning and/or Subdivision Bylaw Update)
- Thetford (Municipal Plan Update) and
- Tunbridge (Municipal Plan Update)



## **News & Upcoming Events**

- Mar 4** - Public comments for draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan due
- Mar 10** - Next TAC Meeting
- Mar 10** - VIT Session: The Municipality's Role in Public Service Board Proceedings
- Mar 15** - Tree Planting Grants for VT Designated Downtowns and Villages Deadline
- Mar 24** - Scenic Route 100 Byway VT Scenery Preservation Council Public Hearing
- Mar 30** - Next TRORC Board Meeting
- Apr 20** - 2011 Town Officers Education Conference

For more information, please visit our website:

**[www.trorc.org/events.html](http://www.trorc.org/events.html)**

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receiving a digital newsletter.