TRORC CONTINUES UPDATING REGIONAL PLAN

Transportation chapter is next!

Over the summer and into the fall, TRORC staff will be updating the regional transportation chapter with input from the Transportation Advisory Committee and our member towns. The current plan was approved in 2007. This update will make use of current U.S. Census data and trends, lessons learned from Tropical Storm Irene, information about our current HUD Sustainability Grant, and the essential elements of TRORC’s Regional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

The updated plan will highlight the inextricable link between transportation, land use, and hazard mitigation, and will also explore important regional issues, such as the mobility needs of all citizens. The plan will feature a more user-friendly format and will be made available both in print and on our website (www.trorc.org). Draft sections will be posted to our website for review and comment. Outreach to members of the public and other entities will begin in late fall 2012. Please direct comments or questions to Rita Seto (rseto@trorc.org) or Peter Gregory (pgregory@trorc.org).
ACCESSING MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL PLANNING STATUTES
The inside scoop on how to find the state’s planning goals and requirements

Have you ever wondered what must be included in a Town or Regional Plan? The purpose and requirements are framed by the Vermont State Legislature and detailed in a book entitled “Vermont Planning, Development and Land Use Laws Annotated.” While you can buy a copy of the book for about $50 through LexisNexis’ online store, there are FREE online alternatives. For instance:

The ‘unofficial version’ can be found on the VT Statutes Online website: http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutesmain.cfm. Once there, click on the first entry for “Title 24 – Municipal and County Government,” then click “Chapter 117 - Municipal and Regional Planning and Development.”

The ‘official version’ is provided online for free by LexisNexis via Michie’s Legal Resources. Although the website can prove tedious to navigate, it’s worth a try: http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/michie. Once there, scroll down to the “Vermont” heading, click “Vermont Statutes Annotated,” click “I agree,” then click on the plus (+) sign next to “Title Twenty-Four. Municipal and County Government.” Then click the plus (+) next to “Part 2. Municipalities,” click the plus (+) next to “Chapter 117. Municipal and Regional Planning and Development,” and continue to click on the plus (+) signs until you’ve reached the most detailed level of the statute (then, and only then, will it allow you to link to the statutory language).

WATER RESOURCES PLANNING
Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) releases municipal planning guide to protect groundwater


Grants
MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANTS
Deadline: Sept. 28, 2012

Approximately $400,000 will be offered in grants to help Vermont municipalities address land use challenges. Individual grants may be awarded in amounts of up to $15,000 (or $25,000 for consortia), and priority will be given to projects that further smart growth principles. Eligible activities include:

- “Bylaw updates intended to correct clear conflicts with the municipal plan, and bylaw updates that address the smart growth principles.

- Infrastructure planning in support of compact centers and smart growth. Projects could include... facility inventory, mapping and needs identification; conceptual design/visioning; and developing policies relating to sewer, water, stormwater, energy, transportation, green infrastructure and/or communications infrastructure...

- Updating or amending a Municipal Plan for the purpose of addressing the smart growth principles and/or to address inconsistencies with statewide planning goals or the Regional Plan. (A recently expired plan or pending expiration of a plan alone is not considered a priority.)...

- Planning and implementation for achieving greater flood resiliency…”

For more information, go to: http://www.accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/municipal_planning_grants. Questions? Contact Chris Sargent at csargent@trorc.org.
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Safe Routes to School Infrastructure program promotes safe biking and walking amongst students at K-8 schools in Vermont. Eligible infrastructure will likely include: new sidewalks, bulb outs (sidewalks) for safety, upgraded signs, bike racks and more. Solicitation materials (including a finalized ‘eligible activities’ list) will be published on August 17th. Important dates include:

- October 26: Application Due
- December 14: Awards Announced

Website: http://saferoutes.vermont.gov/. Questions? Contact Rita at rseto@trorc.org.

FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY PROJECTS
Deadline: Rolling

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) gives grants to grassroots community groups working on local energy and environmental projects. NEGEF offers SEED grants ($250-$1000) on a rolling basis, so it's never too late to apply. Website: www.grassrootsfund.org. Questions? Contact Emma at ezavez@trorc.org.

2012 VTRANS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROGRAM
Deadline: Aug. 24, 2012

The VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is seeking applications for infrastructure projects that will promote access and safety. Eligible activities (scoping or design/construction) include:

- Bike lanes
- Shoulders
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian crossing improvements
- Pedestrian signals
- Improvements that implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Shared-use paths
- Pedestrian-scale lighting

A copy of the program guide and application materials can be found at http://www.aot.state.vt.us/, click “Site Map” (upper left corner), click “Bicycle and Pedestrian Program” (under “Programs”). Questions? Contact Jon Kaplan at 802.828.0059 or jon.kaplan@state.vt.us.

Please note that applicants were strongly encouraged to attend one of the two informational workshops on July 17th (1-3 PM) or 18th (5-7 PM); however, attendance was not required. If you did not know about or could not make it to one of these workshops, TRORC strongly encourages you to apply anyway.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

TRORC keeps up-to-date list of funding opportunities on website

Municipalities and community groups often have great ideas for projects and activities, but lack the funding for implementation. Don't despair! TRORC keeps an updated list of funding opportunities on its website under ‘Regional News & Events.’ Go to www.trorc.org and scroll down to find the latest grants. We recommend that you bookmark this page and check it weekly for updates.

Additional funding opportunities currently described on our website (but not in this newsletter) include:

- Down payment grants for homebuyers
- Tax Credits through the VT Downtown Program

COMING SOON TO EAST CENTRAL VERMONT
what we want
Moving Toward Sustainability, Where We Live & How
COME PLAN WITH US!
Check us out at http://ecvermont.org
Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission
128 King Farm Rd
Woodstock, VT  05091

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/9  Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at Bradford Town Office, 9:30 – 11 AM.

8/13 1st Royalton Energy Committee meeting at BALE (35 South Windsor Street, South Royalton, Vermont 05068), 5:30 PM - 7 PM. This is a new group and all are welcome!

8/23  LEPC Meeting at Upper Valley Ambulance in Fairlee, 6 - 8 PM.

9/21 VT Environmental Consortium’s Annual Meeting: VT Brownfields’ Successes (showcasing projects in Orange, Windsor, Windham and Bennington Counties) at the Great Hall, 100 River St., Springfield, VT, 8:30AM - 12:30 PM. Contact: jill_michaels@valley.net.

9/26 Next TRORC Board Meeting at the King Farm, 7 PM.

STAFF MEMBERS
Pete Fellows, CFM - GIS Manager
Kevin W. Geiger, AICP, CFM - Senior Planner
Dee Gish - Finance Manager
Peter G. Gregory, AICP - Executive Director
Brian Hamlin - Planner
Loralee Morrow, LEED AP - Regional Planner
Chris Sargent, AICP - Senior Planner
Rita Seto, AICP - Senior Planner
Emma Zavez - Planner

For more information, please visit: www.trorc.org/events.html

To receive a digital copy of this newsletter e-mail: dgish@trorc.org

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission

2012 TRORC REPRESENTATIVES
Barnard - Gerald Fredrickson, Gerry Botha (Alt.)
Bethel - Yaroslav Stanchak, Olena Stanchak (Alt.)
Bradford - Nancy Jones, Bobette Scribner (Alt.)
Brantree - Mark Bannon
Bridgewater - Nelson Lee, Jr., Norman Martin, II (Alt.)
Brookfield - Dee Montie
Chelsea - Carl Pepperman, Cherylann Linaris (Alt.)
Corinth - Frank Roderick
Fairlee - Ken Gulick
Granville - No representative
Hancock - Jill Jesso-White
Hartford - Lori Hirshfield
Hartland - Richard Waddell, Charles Jeffries (Alt.)
Newbury - Larry Scott, Scott Labun (Alt.)
Norwich - Jamie Hess, Jeff Goodrich (Alt.)
Pittsfield - Jerry Dragonis
Plymouth - Anne Brown, Jim Allen (Alt.)
Pomfret - William Emmons
Randolph - Del Thompson, Ken Hafer (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 Denchaud (Alt.)
Thetford - Tara Bamford, Jim Masland (Alt.)
Topsham - Thomas Flannigan
Tunbridge - Michael Sacca
Vernon - Bill Baylis
West Fairlee - Nancy Malmquist
Woodstock - Charles Wilson
Members-At-Large: - Christine Walker (UVLSRPC)
                   Jennifer Colby (Agricultural Advisor)

Check us out on Facebook!

OUR MISSION

To advocate for the needs of our member towns, and to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region’s quality of life.

The Commission’s staff provides technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region’s non-profits and businesses.