

# Chapter 7 – Historical, Archaeological, and Scenic Resources

## Goals, Policies, and Recommendations: Historic Resources

### Goals

1. ~~The unique characteristics of h~~Historic structures and sites or areas, where the public interest is clearly benefited ~~thereby~~, are enhanced and preserved.
2. The renovation of existing or construction of new structures is, ~~when they are found to be consistent and compatible with the historic character of the site or area, is enabled and supported.~~
3. Sensitive economic development is promoted in areas of historic value (such as in town centers, villages, and hamlets).
4. ~~Improvements to historical transportation facilities, instead of replacement, are promoted.~~

### Policies

1. Land development or subdivision within or immediately adjacent to areas or sites of historic significance should take reasonable steps to be permitted ~~provided that efforts are taken to ensure that the design of the project fits the historic context of the dominant character of the immediate area or environment.~~
2. Restoration or rehabilitation of historic ~~structures, buildings, neighborhoods, or sites~~ should ~~be encouraged where the design does not destroy or significantly alter their its distinguishing qualities, integrity, or character and immediate environment.~~
3. Destruction ~~or removal~~ of historic ~~structures, buildings, or sites~~ is discouraged. ~~When new buildings or structures within historic areas are proposed, they should have a design that is compatible with and sensitive to the character of the neighborhood.~~
4. Public improvements or structures such as bridge rehabilitation or replacement, street widening, roadway reconstruction, signage, utility distribution systems, and lighting must be designed to avoid unnecessary degradation of recognized historic sites or areas.
5. Public investments of regional or statewide significance must be planned in consultation with local and state officials, and as well as ~~the Division for Historic Preservation,~~ to encourage compatibility and consistency with their planning objectives.
6. ~~Local historical societies should continue the research, documentation, education, and advocacy efforts that they have pursued in their communities.~~

## CHAPTER 7 – GOALS, POLICIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ~~7. Developers must be encouraged to incorporate historic structures and important architectural details into their project planning.~~

### Recommendations

- ~~1. TRORC will ~~should~~ continue to support efforts to designate National Historic Register Districts and Sites. In so doing, TRORC should coordinate with the State and affected municipalities. ~~In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, TRORC must review all federally funded projects in the Region that affect Register properties or places to ensure that such publicly assisted projects are planned with due consideration to the resource.~~~~
- ~~2. TRORC will, as part of its Transportation Planning Program, ~~should~~ continue its work with the Agency of Transportation, town officials, its Transportation Advisory Committee, and other groups and organizations to ensure that design standards and plans for proposed transportation projects are reasonably compatible with historic resource needs and values. (See Transportation chapter.)~~
3. Towns are encouraged to clearly outline in their plans ~~historic~~ these resources deemed worthy of protection. -Town officials can participate in the Act 250 process, thus influencing decisions affecting historic sites in their community. Local historical societies should continue research, documentation, education, and advocacy efforts.
4. Developers should incorporate historic structures and important architectural details into their project planning.

## Goals, Policies, and Recommendations: Archaeological Resources

### Goals

1. Archeological resources within the Region are preserved, and an appreciation of their value as a vital aspect of the Region’s historic and cultural past is promoted.
2. Comprehensive planning and land use development are better integrated with archeological resource protection at the federal, state, regional, and local levels.

### Policies

- ~~1. Known and potential~~ Existing archeological resources must be protected where the public interest is clearly ~~demonstrated~~ benefited. No land development should be permitted when it results in unnecessary loss of an archeological resource of state or federal ~~level~~ significance.
2. Within archeologically sensitive areas, planning should consider the impacts a project may have on the resource. If warranted, a site inventory should be conducted as part of project planning. Projects that have undue adverse impacts on these resources ~~must~~ should be discouraged or redesigned to mitigate the impact. Project planners are encouraged to contact the state archeologist for further information.
3. To preserve significant archeological sites, purchase of land or development rights is encouraged when such actions are compatible with local plans and this Plan. Because

these sites are often farmland, floodplains, wetland margins, and other similar low-lying land, priority should be given to projects that serve multiple preservation purposes.

### Recommendations

1. To increase public awareness of archeological resources, TRORC encourages archeologists, local and regional groups, towns, and landowners to organize educational programs focused on Vermont's ~~ancient~~ history. Such a program could be made a part of an overall cultural heritage program through public schools.
2. Local planning commissions, conservation commissions, historical societies, and other interest groups are encouraged to develop an archeological plan for their community as part of the overall master planning program. Such a plan could be an important step in planning for future development in identified areas, ~~or areas most likely to contain sites. Assistance and guidance are available from the state archeologist within the Division for Historic Preservation.~~

## Goal, Policies, and Recommendation: Scenic Resources

### Goal

1. The natural and scenic resources of the Region are protected and preserved.

### Policies

1. Where development is proposed in areas of scenic value (examples listed under "Prominent Scenic Landscapes"~~including prominent ridgelines or mountaintops, highly scenic areas with distant views, scenic agricultural land, scenic areas highly visible from a public corridor, built environments with scenic value, and industrial or commercial development in areas of scenic value~~), because they possess scenic views, contain land with historic or scenic significance, or are highly visible within a scenic context, design plans must:
  - a. Maintain the prominent natural feature of the developed area;
  - b. Minimize adverse impact on views and areas of historic significance;
  - c. Work toward enhancing or retaining views;
  - d. Minimize contrasts with areas of historic significance; and
  - e. Reflect traditional settlement patterns.
2. Projects ~~planners~~ must minimize the adverse effects of strip development on existing scenic visual resources by consideration of the~~through the~~ following design principles:
  - a. Integrate landscaping into parking areas;
  - b. Encourage compact and densely developed projects ~~that utilize land efficiently;~~
  - c. Place street trees as buffers between traffic arteries and internal drives;
  - d. Use unobtrusive signage;
  - e. Vary the pattern, number, size, and location of structures within the site;
  - f. Employ screening plans for visually objectionable features on the site; and

- g. Minimize access roads or curb cuts onto public highways and use of common access drives.
3. ~~Given their unique visual experience, Roads exhibiting exceptionally high~~with scenic and cultural values, and determined to be of local or state significance, must be constructed or improved with due concern for the special scenic qualities inherent to the roadway and roadway fringe. Substantial modifications or off-alignment options that unnecessarily destroy the special characteristics of such roadways are not consistent with this Plan.
4. ~~It is appropriate that municipalities, TRORC, and other entities employ a process for evaluating impacts and recommend design characteristics to be considered by those involved in the review and preparation of development proposals.~~

### **Recommendation**

1. TRORC should employ a process for evaluating impacts to scenic resources in the development proposals.

## Goals, Policies, and Recommendations: Outdoor Lighting Design and Management

### **Goals**

- ~~1. The nighttime ambiance and aesthetic qualities of village centers and other places are preserved by illuminating them for safety and convenience in ways that enhance the best qualities of streets, architecture, and public spaces.~~
- ~~2. Outdoor lighting systems designed to conserve energy and minimize life cycle costs are used.~~
- ~~3. Lighting design that is creative and functional, consistent with these lighting goals and policies, is encouraged.~~
- ~~4. Technical guidance and support are provided to municipalities and others on lighting trends, needs, and opportunities.~~
1. Lighting provides for safety and convenience in ways that enhances qualities of streets, architecture, and public spaces, while preserving dark skies and avoiding light pollution.
2. Outdoor lighting systems designed to conserve energy and minimize life cycle costs are used.

### **Policies**

- ~~1. In developing Lighting plans will be, design light levels and distribution should be appropriate for the proposed use of the site and compatible with the character of the neighborhood. New lighting installations should be designed to minimize glare, to not~~

- ~~directly light beyond the boundaries of the area to be illuminated or onto adjacent properties, and to not result in excessive lighting levels.~~
2. ~~New lighting installations shall be~~ For larger projects, lighting professionals should follow established by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA). Additionally, project planners should give due consideration to the guidelines set forth in the *Outdoor Lighting Manual for Vermont Municipalities*. ~~designed to minimize~~ Project designers are encouraged to utilize fixtures to reduce glare from nearby surfaces, to not. ~~Where a light source is particularly bright compared to its background, use of cut-off or shielded fixtures to directly light~~ beyond the boundaries of the area to be illuminated or onto adjacent properties, and to not result in excessive lighting levels. ~~downward or a reduction in the amount of light being generated is encouraged.~~
  3. Lighting levels shall use Project designers are encouraged to utilize fixtures to reduce glare. ~~Where a light source is particularly bright compared to its background, use of cut-off or shielded fixtures to direct light downward or a reduction in the amount of~~ and prevent the light source being generated is encouraged ~~seen on an adjacent property.~~
  4. Excessively high lighting levels for uses in rural or very low residential areas are inappropriate.
  5. Lighting levels for gas stations and convenience stores and similar uses should only be sufficient to facilitate the activities taking place in such locations. Lighting schemes that serve as advertising or to attract attention to these uses should be discouraged. Signs or other forms of advertising should be used for these purposes. Excessive pole height and brightness of lighting fixtures should be prohibited.
- 6.4. \_\_\_\_\_ Illuminated signs that are excessively bright, causing glare and illuminating surrounding areas, are prohibited. ~~inappropriate.~~ Large illuminated signs can be disruptive to rural areas or historic villages and should be carefully evaluated and discouraged.
- 7.5. \_\_\_\_\_ Lighting designs should address the negative effects of shall avoid sky glow through lighting plans that direct luminaries downwards and turn off unneeded lights after hours. Project designers should advocate for lighting plans that minimize light pollution without unduly compromising safety, security, or utility. Methods to be considered for minimizing sky glow are:
- a. Directing luminaries downward, toward the ground;
  - b. Using LED lights;
  - c. Turning lights off after hours;
  - d. Reducing illumination levels; and
  - e. Prohibiting rays of light from being emitted above 90 degrees from luminaries.
8. ~~Outdoor lighting schemes should employ generally available mitigating steps to improve their harmony with their surroundings, taking into consideration, among other things, the type and density of land use presently in existence, the type of topography, and whether the area has scenic value.~~

## Recommendations

## CHAPTER 7 – GOALS, POLICIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. TRORC should assist local and state policymakers in evaluating lighting options. -TRORC will consider sponsorship of educational workshops for planning commissions, design professionals, and others to acquaint them with the principles of good lighting design.
2. Towns interested in planning for outdoor lighting in their communities should consider using their municipal plans to establish goals and objectives for lighting. Additionally, consideration should be given to incorporating a lighting section into a town's zoning ordinance or a separate ordinance to cover lighting installations in all or parts of the town.
3. TRORC staff should continue to work with Vermont's public utilities and design professionals to evaluate lighting technologies and efficiencies.