

# REGIONAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT July 2015-June 2016

ER=Economic Region, SR=Social Region and PR=Physical Region

ECONOMIC REGION	Economic Development Actions	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
	Work cooperatively with other RPCs and RDCs to coordinate the Economic Development District serving the region and the other four northern counties.	ongoing	✓		✓	New Northern Vermont Economic Development District Board established, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy completed and approved by US Economic Development Administration, elevated District status achieved through EDA. Applied for additional three-year funding grant.
	Create a system for collecting and sharing data on the number of visitors to regional areas of interest, activities and events to be used for future planning.	mid term	✓			No activity.
	Perform a region-wide inventory of infrastructure and unused capacity and identify the additional infrastructure needed at local/regional/ state level to support businesses & communities.	short term	✓		✓	Initial water/wastewater needs assessment completed.
	Hold an annual Island Summit to provide educational opportunities for municipal officials and a forum for cooperating on economic development strategies.	ongoing	✓			No activity- continued to next year.
	Identify funding to hire and sustain a local foods coordinator.	short term	✓	✓		This position is being funded through the Northwestern Medical Center. NRPC staff participates in the Healthy Roots Collaborative, the group that guides the work of the local foods coordinator. A USDA grant was received to assist with infrastructure development.
	Work with the economic development groups to identify future needs for licensed professionals in the region, and ensure job training and technical programs are aligned with these needs.	mid term	✓			No activity; noted as an action in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Economic Infrastructure Action	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Partner with other organizations and employers to provide training and retraining opportunities.	ongoing	✓	✓		NRPC ED serves on the Executive Committee of the Workforce Investment Board. NRPC provides book keeping services for the WIB.
Energy Actions	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Review and/or participate as a statutory party in PSB Section 248 applications.	ongoing	✓		✓	NRPC, through its policy and project review committee, has participated in and commented on 9 PSB Section 248 applications in FY 16.
Assist municipalities with developing and adopting land use ordinances that facilitate energy conservation, encourage energy efficient construction and redevelopment to reduce energy consumption.	ongoing	✓		✓	Drafted solar siting bylaw language for the Town of Fairfax under direction of the planning commission. Draft is currently under local review.
Assist municipalities in the development of complete streets considering all modes of transportation including bike trails, sidewalks, and public transit.	ongoing	✓	✓	✓	Completing necessary right of way acquisition on behalf of Alburgh for a sidewalk project (VTrans grant). Partnering with St. Albans City and Town on a sidewalk planning grant application. Participating in Grand Isle Safe Routes to School project.
Support municipalities in forming an energy committee and implementing local energy plans.	ongoing	✓			No activity to date. The Regional Energy Planning effort will be complete in fall 2016. Participated in development of Act 174 regarding local and regional plans and participation in Section 248.
Ensure energy reliability is considered in disaster mitigation plans including identifying areas where underground placement of utilities might improve reliability.	short term	✓		✓	Energy reliability is considered in Hazard Mitigation Plans. No areas have been identified to relocate utilities underground.

Social Infrastructure Actions		Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Work with the consortium of public libraries to identify needs and challenges for which NRPC can provide assistance.	mid term			✓	✓	No activity.
Work with municipalities to develop multi-jurisdictional and regional partnerships related to recreational programming and facilities.	mid term			✓	✓	Assisted St. Albans Town and City with a joint application to the VTrans bike/pedestrian program.
Identify areas underserved by recreational opportunities.	short term	✓	✓	✓		Updated the regional trails map included in the regional plan. Completed an update and reprint of the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail guide. Developed a “Cycle the Islands” map to support the Better Bikes Festival.
Housing Actions		Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Assist municipalities with Town Plan and bylaw language that promotes the development of multi-family housing, affordable housing, inclusionary zoning, elderly housing, mixed uses, and planned unit developments (PUD).	ongoing	✓	✓			Assisted with the town plan update in Georgia that promotes mixed use in the village area.
Provide assistance with bylaw language that provides for compact residential development and infill near existing centers.	ongoing	✓	✓	✓		Working with the Town of South Hero on a bylaw revision including village zoning and form based codes.
Work with adjacent regional commissions to understand our neighbors’ growth pressures and plan to mitigate the impacts that they may have on our region.	ongoing			✓	✓	Ongoing coordination, no specific projects.
Support the work of housing trusts that serve our region with mapping, grant application and other assistance. Support development of projects that are in conformance with regional plan policies.	ongoing			✓		No activity.

Community Health Actions	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Create an interactive, regional map application for recreational facilities and opportunities on public and private lands.	short term	✓	✓	✓	Evaluating need- state Trail Finder may replace this task.
Participate in development of a regional food hub to serve as an aggregation and distribution center to increase the market for products and stimulate more supply. Include kitchen incubators to produce local foods and where new products can be produced and trialed.	short term	✓	✓	✓	NRPC staff participate in the Healthy Roots Collaborative, the group that guides the work of the local foods coordinator. A USDA grant was received to assist with infrastructure development.
Provide assistance to municipalities on incorporating public health (mental health, physical health, substance abuse, etc.) into local plans.	ongoing	✓	✓		Included in the Swanton Town and Village plan.
Provide technical assistance to municipalities interested in creating restrictive licensure policies.	ongoing		✓		No activity.
Work with regional partners on a regional Mental Health Summit to discuss more specific actions to improve mental health in the region.	short term	✓	✓		No specific activity- participating in the Community Partnership.
Work with regional and state partners to regularly assess the state of transitional living support, including housing, youth employment and life skills.	ongoing	✓	✓		No specific project but regular coordination with FCIDC, the Chamber of Commerce and Workforce Investment Board.
Partner on development of senior and adult day or living facilities that serve social and emotional support to aging residents; focus on development of a senior facility in Grand Isle County.	ongoing, long term		✓		No activity.
Help to promote volunteer-based programs that can provide companionship, outreach, and advocacy services to isolated seniors and at-risk youth.	ongoing		✓		NRPC serves as co-chair of the Hunger Council and helped to promote funding for summer meal sites.

PHYSICAL REGION	Natural Resources Actions	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
	As opportunity arises, examine appropriate modifications and/or selected removal of hydroelectric facilities to reduce the impact of these facilities on important aquatic species.	as needed			✓	No activity.
	Provide technical assistance to municipalities and undertake necessary regional actions to implement practices in the Lake Champlain TMDL.	ongoing	✓		✓	Significant effort including municipal education, road inventories, local plan and bylaw review/revisions. Created Clean Water Advisory Committee.
	Provide technical assistant to communities on regulations that address water quality issues, including FEH zoning, river corridors, or similar regulations.	ongoing			✓	Provided assistance to Enosburgh, Bakersfield, Berkshire, North Hero and Montgomery.
	Provide technical assistance to watershed groups such as Missisquoi River Basin Association, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, Lake Carmi Watershed Association and Stevens / Rugg Brook Watershed Association and St. Albans Bay.	ongoing		✓	✓	NRPC served as acting director for the MRBA for several months and coordinated the hiring process of a new director. NRPC shared an EcoAmeriCorps staff member with MRBA. Ongoing work included grant writing assistance and project coordination.
	Work with communities to include conservation in plans and bylaws: forest blocks, productive forest soils, water resources, wildlife habitat and connectivity, rare, threatened & endangered species, significant natural areas and deer wintering areas.	ongoing	✓		✓	Berkshire plan update included an expanded forestry section. Flood resiliency was address in Swanton, Sheldon, Georgia and Montgomery.
	Transportation Actions	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Identify suitable park-and-ride lot locations for Grand Isle County, especially in the towns of Grand Isle and South Hero.	short term	✓		✓	Received funding from VTrans to complete a feasibility study of Grand Isle park and ride lots, released RFP for consulting services.	
Promote the expansion of transit service along the VT 105 corridor and eastern Franklin County.	mid term	✓		✓	With VTrans, identified areas that have difficulty providing local match-working to change policy.	

Promote the expansion of transit service to serve the ferry terminal in Grand Isle.	mid term	✓	✓	No activity.
Partner with VTrans on a local matching funds financing study for public transit.	short term	✓	✓	Study is complete but led to no specific action this year.
Encourage VTrans to install a permanent variable message board on I-89 near Exit 17 to alert motorists of US 2 road closures in Grand Isle County.	mid term		✓	Ongoing effort.
Work with VTrans, New England Central Rail Road, St. Albans City and other partners on redevelopment opportunities for the Amtrak station and roundhouse facility. Support efforts to reestablish passenger rail service to Montreal.	mid term	✓	✓	No specific activity.
Work with 1-3 communities a year on capital improvement plans that address future municipal transportation needs.	ongoing		✓	Grand Isle Capital improvement plan draft was completed. Highgate Capital Improvement plan was completed, but rejected by voters.
Ensure that all communities in the region have reliable and comprehensive bridge and culvert inventories. Complete field work for 3-5 municipalities each year and work with other communities on minor updates as needed.	ongoing		✓	Completed work on inventories for three municipalities- Alburgh, Grand Isle, Swanton.
Lead a planning effort to establish a Transportation Improvement District (TID) for the area around I-89, Exit 19.	ongoing	✓	✓	Project is listed in the state capital program and is eligible for cost share under Act 250.
Host at least two workshops a year for municipal road crew on best management practices, new water quality regulations, grant opportunities and/or opportunities to share municipal resources.	ongoing	✓	✓	NRPC staff attended a Roads and Rivers training. A Better Roads workshop for road foreman was held on 3/22/2016 in Enosburgh.

Land Use Actions	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Work with municipalities to promote understanding of the land use implications and potentials of their plans and land use regulations.	ongoing	✓	✓	✓	NRPC worked with 11 municipalities on plan or bylaw updates.
Work with municipalities interested in defining local village areas appropriate for the scale and character of their community and to seek designated village center status where appropriate.	as needed	✓		✓	Working with South Hero on a bylaw update and completed Swanton and Georgia plans- each with a focus on village areas. Assisted with designation renewal for three municipalities.
Assist municipalities with designated growth centers plan their growth and obtain funding and other resources necessary to support planned development within the growth center's boundaries.	as needed	✓		✓	Provided a brownfields grant of \$110,000 to St. Albans City for a clean-up and redevelopment project on Lake Street to enable construction of a new hotel.
Develop technical assistance materials for municipalities wishing to encourage and support the working landscape (e.g. agriculture and forestland) in their municipal plans and zoning by-laws.	mid term	✓	✓	✓	No activity.
Work with RDCs and municipalities to identify future industrial areas or opportunity for expansion if sufficient need is determined.	as needed	✓		✓	No activity.
Disaster Resiliency Actions	Timeframe	ER	SR	PR	FY 16 Progress
Develop FEMA approved and locally adopted Hazard Mitigation Plans that include Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments and mapped hazard areas such as landslide, 100 and 500 year flood plain sites, hazardous materials storage facilities and transportation routes for municipalities within the region.	short term		✓	✓	Drafted hazard mitigation plans for St. Albans City, Town, Enosburgh Town and Falls, Grand Isle, Fairfax, Berkshire and Highgate
Provide technical training and education for the National Flood Insurance Program and river corridors to reduce risk and flood damage. Delineate river corridors based on river assessments.	ongoing	✓		✓	Provided NFIP assistance to 5 communities. NRPC planner received continuing education to remain a Certified Flood Plain Manager.

Provide education and support to municipalities regarding funding opportunities to reduce damages through FEMA's Mitigation programs for repetitive loss properties.	ongoing	✓		✓	No activity.
Develop Basic Emergency Operations and Response Plans for municipalities that are compatible with the National Incident Management System.	yearly			✓	Worked with all municipalities to complete the LEOPs.
Promote public awareness of emergency preparedness through promotion of flood readiness and public service announcements during disaster preparedness month.	yearly		✓	✓	No activity.
<b>Physical Infrastructure Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>ER</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>PR</b>	<b>FY 16 Progress</b>
Provide assistance to municipalities and community groups interested in developing community water and wastewater systems in regional growth areas or in areas where existing settlements may threaten water quality.	as needed	✓		✓	Completed a regional wastewater status/needs assessment.
Assist the Northwest Solid Waste District in educating local officials and the public about proper disposal of household hazardous wastes, source reduction, recycling and composting of waste.	ongoing			✓	No activity.