

2A. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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2A.1 Introduction

The Purpose of this section is to describe in summary the work that ACRPC will do to implement the goals contained in each section of this Regional Plan. Generally it quotes selected recommended actions from each section of the Plan, however, sometimes for efficiency, it combines two actions. This section does not include all actions ACRPC will take. Instead it focuses on the priorities from each section identified in the Plan and confirmed by ACRPC’s committees, staff and workplans.

ACRPC constitutes a community development organization for the Region that, in conjunction with other state and local partners:

1. Creates policies and plans to guide and implement local and regional development and conservation goals;
2. Envisions and develops the community infrastructure necessary to promote and improve the region and its municipalities;
3. Identifies and supports conservation or sustainable use of regional or local natural resources; and
4. Participates in regional land use decision making processes (Act 250/Section 248) for projects with “significant regional impact” to promote the general good of the Region and its citizens.

Within this broad framework, ACRPC adopts the following implementation priorities for each of the planning areas this Plan addresses.



(March 9, 2016) ACRPC

2A.2 Implementation Plan Recommended Actions

A. Population and Housing

Population

1. Track the demographic characteristics of the region's population;
2. Maintain historic demographic information for comparison to current trends;
3. Project future population change for each community in the Region; and
4. Provide information to the Region and its municipalities in a manner that promotes planning for demographic changes.

Housing

1. Work with municipalities to collect and disseminate housing-related information for the Region. Create a database to track housing statistics like sales and permits, link to information on grants and educational opportunities, and provide current information on the availability of housing units, especially for low-income, elderly or special needs households;
2. Assist municipalities interested in improving housing by developing ordinances for accessory apartments, zero-lot line developments, easing parking requirements, enabling cluster subdivisions, energy efficient buildings and density bonuses;
3. Promote and help implement public investments in water, sewer and roads in the Region's villages and downtown areas to improve opportunities for affordable housing.

B. Natural Resources

Water Resources

1. Work with the Agency of Natural Resources to educate the region's municipalities and citizens about the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL") which set goals for phosphorus reduction within the Otter Creek Section of Lake Champlain;
2. Support the work of the Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative to collect and disseminate information about water quality in Addison County;
3. Identify priority projects within each of the river sub-basins in the region that will improve water quality within the basin and Lake Champlain including:
 - a. Identify priority areas for green infrastructure to clean stormwater prior to it entering the regions rivers and lakes;
 - b. Work with VTrans and municipal road foremen/commissioners to identify priority road projects to mitigate impacts on water quality; encourage proper maintenance and sizing of bridges, culverts and other structures to accommodate flow from storm events and to mitigate flood hazards;
 - c. Assist municipalities to develop protection measures for their surface and groundwater resources through land use controls such as, stormwater management

- districts, flood and fluvial erosion hazard areas, shoreline and riparian buffers, and sourcewater protection areas; and
- d. Work with Addison County's farm and forestry community to promote and implement "Required Agricultural Practices" ("RAPs") and "Best Management Practices" ("BMPs") for forestry.

Working Lands: Agricultural and Forestry Resources

1. Create a regional plan and help municipalities create plans and regulations that recognize the value of the Region's working landscape and seek to preserve that landscape and the right to raise and harvest agricultural and forest products for future generations;
2. Support the work of land trusts and other voluntary conservation efforts in the Region;
3. Support statewide tax incentives like the Current Use Program to preserve large tracts of agricultural and forest land;
4. Work with Addison County Economic Development Corporation and other partners to promote the economic viability and growth of agricultural and forestry in support of Vermont's working landscape;
5. Support efforts to manage harmful invasive species.

Wildlife, Native Plants and Natural Communities

1. Periodically revise the Significant Regional Resources map within the regional plan identifying resources of regional significance;
2. Promote regional and municipal plans and regulations that recognize the value of wildlife, native plants and natural communities and seek to preserve each in viable population sizes within the Region and its municipalities;
3. Participate in land use applications (Act 250/Section 248) that impact regionally significant resources as identified in the Addison County Regional Plan;
4. Work to preserve large blocks of contiguous habitats, especially those that support east/west wildlife travel corridors;
5. Provide data and maps to help towns recognize and address significant plant, wildlife, and natural community habitat areas in town plans and other planning proceedings;
6. Assist municipalities in developing priority systems for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat areas, native plants and important natural communities.

Scenic Resources

1. Support village and downtown designation efforts to provide financial incentives that support historic preservation and mixed uses, including affordable housing;
2. Use ACRPC's mapping resources and expertise to encourage communities to identify areas of high scenic value through an inclusive public process;
3. Ensure that new commercial scale telecommunication towers, wind energy towers, solar facilities and other commercial scale energy generation sites and transmission corridors conduct proper siting analyses, including the technical feasibility of burying transmission lines, designed to encompass the lifecycle of the infrastructure and to address scenic resources, wildlife habitat and impacts on agricultural soils and forestry resources;

4. Encourage lighting plans and designs to address sky-glow and energy efficiency in all development proposals;
5. Encourage municipalities to incorporate the lighting guidelines set forth in “*Outdoor Lighting Manual for Vermont Municipalities*” in their zoning bylaws.

Air Quality

1. Promote transportation uses and policies that encourage public transportation and transportation alternatives that limit the combustion of fossil fuels;
2. Recommend the local adoption of energy codes and standards that promote energy conservation;
3. Encourage citizen initiatives, like those of the Addison County Relocalization Network (“ACoRN”) and municipal energy committees to educate, promote and implement energy conservation initiatives and programs; and
4. Consider the relative locations of jobs and households when reviewing development proposals in view of transportation’s impact on air quality. Encourage mixed-use developments incorporating commercial and residential uses in village centers and downtowns.

Mineral and Earth Resources

1. Support the reasonable use and extraction of earth resources within the Region with conditions requiring proper site mitigation at closure and to mitigate operational impacts like noise and trucking;
2. Review town plans and zoning bylaws to insure the municipal intent regarding gravel extraction and mineral resources is clear and specific;
3. Develop a groundwater resource map layer to overlay on existing and proposed mineral resources and extraction sites.

C. Economy

1. Continue to actively work with partner organizations like the Addison County Economic Development Corporation and the Addison County Chamber of Commerce to plan and implement economic development strategies for the region;
2. Seek funding to assist with the identification, remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites in the Addison Region;
3. Assist communities seeking downtown or village center designations; and
4. Utilize ACRPC’s mapping resources to promote and publicize the region’s historic, cultural, artistic, recreational and natural resources and tourism-based businesses.



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D. Transportation

1. Maintain a strong Transportation Advisory Committee (“TAC”) to provide local and regional prioritization of state-owned transportation infrastructure. Local and regional priorities include implementing cost-effective system maintenance and improvements that promote system safety, preservation, and hazard mitigation;
2. Provide local and regional input into State transportation modal plans;
3. Work with local road foremen/commissioners to help document, prioritize and implement municipal transportation priorities;
4. Collect data and conduct traffic studies to inform future planning and prioritization work;
5. Engage in project development planning for municipal and regional projects; and
6. Work as project managers for local transportation projects that promote transportation alternatives and safety, specifically for bicycles, pedestrians, public transportation and alternative fuel vehicles.

E. Utilities Facilities and Services

Water Supply, Wastewater and Solid Waste

1. Work with the Region’s small water supply and wastewater systems to develop long-term plans for infrastructure capital budgeting;
2. Help interested municipalities create plans to develop and finance water, wastewater or stormwater infrastructure necessary to preserve and/or expand their village centers;
3. Provide and help create mapping resources for source groundwater protection; and
4. Work with and support the Addison County Solid Waste District to ensure all citizens have access to adequate waste disposal and recycling facilities.

Energy

1. Create a framework for regional planning and review of generation and transmission projects, including solar, wind, biomass, gas, and electric;
2. Continue to provide and support organizations that provide educational material that promotes energy efficiency and conservation; and
3. Discourage the use of eminent domain for energy generation or transmission projects.

Communications technology

1. Continue cooperative efforts with the Addison County Economic Development Corporation to seek development of communications infrastructure that meets the needs of the region’s businesses;
2. Assist in the dissemination of information to member municipalities relating to current communications services and infrastructure; and
3. Support efforts to mitigate the effects of disasters on communications infrastructure.



Health and Safety

1. Assist local service providers with data collection and support in grant writing;
2. Facilitate greater coordination and cooperation between law enforcement, fire and rescue services;
3. Assist municipalities in developing:
 - a. Local emergency plans
 - b. Land use plans including hazard mitigation strategies for known hazards, maps of vulnerable areas and lists of priority projects
 - c. Driveway standards designed to accommodate emergency vehicle access.
4. Continue to participate in and support the activities of the Addison County Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC #8);
5. Help LEPC #8 identify and map sites where hazardous materials are stored and used in the Region; and
6. Organize and conduct professional training opportunities regarding hazards and hazard mitigation.

Education

1. Maintain statistical information on the region's population to be incorporated into local plans to support grant applications and to aid schools in projecting enrollment and anticipating changes;
2. Continue to assist local schools with GIS services as needed; and
3. Continue to partner with educational institutions by offering internship and similar opportunities to students.

Historic, Cultural, Municipal and Recreational facilities

1. Assist municipalities interested in developing regulations that protect and promote adaptive reuse of historic structures, establishing historic advisory review boards, or in designating historic, downtown or village center districts;
2. Assist municipalities or organizations in developing GIS maps and data related to historic structures or from historic maps;
3. Support and assist municipalities or organizations with grant writing;
4. Assist municipalities or organizations in developing GIS maps and data illustrating the region's recreation resources; and
5. Aid municipalities and local organizations in developing and linking trail systems in the Region;

F. Future Land Use

Regional centers and villages:

1. Work with the Region's municipalities to structure their land use areas and regulations implementing them to clearly define and articulate village areas surrounded by rural areas;
2. Encourage residential development primarily in community centers and villages;
3. Work with Addison County Economic Development Corporation to provide incentives encouraging businesses to locate in downtowns and village centers;
4. Promote, plan for and construct public infrastructure like water and wastewater systems, sidewalks, bike lanes, stormwater, energy and communication systems that make locating in a regional center or village desirable; and
5. Support value added agricultural/wood products manufacturing in villages and downtowns to help transform locally harvested raw materials into marketable products from the working landscape.

Working lands and conservation areas:

1. Support the efforts of the Vermont Land Trust to conserve appropriately located agricultural and forestry lands;
2. Support the delineation boundary of the Green Mountain National Forest;
3. Work with the Region's municipalities to structure their land use areas and regulations implementing them to clearly define and articulate regulations protecting rural and conservation areas;
4. Promote Freedom to Farm policies within this plan and municipal plans in the Region;
5. Support taxation and other state policies that provide incentives to preserve working blocks of agricultural and forestry land; and
6. Work with Addison County Economic Development Corporation to encourage value added farm and forest product production in areas close to the harvest.

G. Resiliency and Emergency Management

1. Work with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security ("DEMHS") to plan for disasters in local communities and to gather information locally or in the State Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") during and after a disaster;
2. Work with municipalities and the Local Emergency Planning Committee ("LEPC#8") to develop a regional network of emergency services offering mutual aid to one another;
3. Work with municipalities to develop local All Hazard Plans for each community to identify local potential hazards and Emergency Operation Plans ("EOPs") to identify the people and resources available to respond in the case of an emergency; and
4. Work across planning disciplines to include transportation, land use and natural resources planning in decisions regarding emergency management to increase the resiliency of systems and infrastructure.