



November 2025 Newsletter



ACRPC
Website

Full Commission
meeting 11/12

Minutes &
Agendas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Addison County Regional Plan Update

ACRPC continues its work to rewrite the **Addison County Regional Plan**. This month we focus on the **Economy** section of the plan and will offer an opportunity for the ACRPC Commissioners and the general Public to comment on the draft Economy section to kick off our Nov. 12 Full Commission meeting.

The Economy section will also serve as a **Regional Economic Development Strategy** for the [Addison County Economic Development Corporation \(ACEDC\)](#). I want to thank them for their participation as a partner in developing and writing large portions of this plan section. By developing the plan together with, we believe it will strengthen our joint efforts and allow us to accomplish complimentary tasks.

The Economy section stems from the **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** that we created jointly with ACEDC and the RPCs and RDCs in our surrounding regions. It relies on a lot of the same data sets and public comments, but focuses exclusively on the Addison Region. Please [read the Economy section of the Plan here](#), come to the meeting, and provide us with feedback to improve the draft.



ADDISON COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation
Great starts here.

As I hope you will recall, we presented drafts of the Transportation and Energy sections of the Plan earlier this year. In September, we presented the draft of the Future Land Use Map for the Region that we created based on hours of public outreach to the local community. In October, we began asking local Selectboards to “opt in” to the map to achieve the benefits offered by Tier 1B status for the eligible areas identified on the Future Land Use Map. The Natural Resources Committee has its draft plan section nearly completed.

At our December meeting, we will present a complete draft of the entire Addison County Regional Plan to the Full Commission and public for additional comments. We will also be seeking approval from the Commission to send the entire Plan to the newly established **Land Use Review Board (LURB)** for its preliminary review.

Our goal will be to submit the Plan, supported by resolutions of any communities that have chosen to opt in to Tier 1B, to the LURB by the end of December. The LURB has 60 days to review the plan and to provide comments. At the end of that period, in the spring of 2026, ACRPC will respond to the LURB’s comments and present the Plan for two formal public hearings.

Assuming the hearings proceed as planned, ACRPC will look to adopt its plan before July 2026. After adoption, ACRPC will resubmit the Plan to the LURB for final review and adoption, again supported by and including resolutions from all municipalities that chose to opt into Tier 1B.

Educational Opportunities

Reimagining Rural Capacity Summit November 13 - 9:00 to 3:30 pm

Join an inspiring and interactive day with community and economic development leaders, planners, resource providers, local officials, organizers, legislators, and funders to reimagine how Vermont supports its small towns.

Highlights include:

- Findings from the Vermont Evaluation of Rural Technical Assistance (VERTA) study
- Lessons from peer states and promising models for improving community support
- Hands-on sessions to co-design strategies and actions to help towns get real projects done—from housing to transportation to village revitalization
- Collaborative discussions to prioritize potential pilot programs, agency actions, and 2026 legislative priorities

Why Your Participation Matters:

This summer and fall, DHCD and UVM has engaged hundreds of municipal, state, and federal leaders—as well as technical assistance providers—to assess how Vermont can better support local capacity. They've also compiled case studies and lessons learned from other states. These findings will be shared at the Summit.

The project remains on track to deliver a report to the General Assembly in December with actionable recommendations to:

- Strengthen long-term coordination among state, regional, and nonprofit partners; and
- Identify new ways to help low-capacity towns plan and build the infrastructure needed for housing, community, and economic development.

With reduced federal staffing, the loss of MTAP funding, and ongoing resource challenges, Vermont faces growing pressure to become more self-reliant in supporting its rural communities. Boosting rural capacity isn't easy—but Vermonters have a long history of finding creative, collaborative solutions.

The final report will be delivered to the House and Senate Economic Development Committees in late December.

Register for 11/13



Interested in supporting arts and culture nonprofits during these turbulent times?

Join the [Vermont Creative Network](#) for vital advocacy training events this fall.

Nov. 17 = 2026 Legislative Preview

Dec. 4 = Creatives at the Table: Getting Involved in Local and State Government



Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program

[2026 Communities Caring for Canopy grant program](#). A total of \$40,000 in 1:1 cost-share grants is available, with individual awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Applications are due Friday, January 30th, 2026.

Nov. 12, Swanton: Tree pruning and chainsaw maintenance for municipal road crews

Nov 20, Burlington: Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative Conference

Jan - March 2026, virtual and in Boise, ID: Green Communities Leadership Institute

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All programs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are ADA accessible.

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