

Substantive Changes Proposed for ACRPC Draft Regional Plan

April 8, 2026

Following submission of the Draft Regional Plan for public hearing, the RPC received comments from the Land Use Review Board, state agencies, and the public that will result in the following substantive changes in the next draft iteration. These changes are noted below to allow for public comment on both the Draft Plan and the intended revisions. ACRPC welcomes feedback on all Regional Plan materials provided on our website at <https://acrpc.org/regional-plan-2026/>

Chapter 1: Natural Resources

1. In response to comments from the Agency of Natural Resources, Map 12 (page 20) will be updated to include new data from Vermont's Vernal Pool Atlas to ensure all vernal pools are reflected.

Chapter 2: Energy

1. The discussion of new renewable generation will be supported by the addition of energy generation siting standards. The proposed text can be found at the link provided and will be located in the Energy Chapter appendix: <https://acrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Regional-Energy-Project-Siting-and-Design-Standards-ACRPC-Draft-2026.pdf>
2. The following text in the Goals, Objectives, Actions list (pages 20-22) will be updated as indicated below.
 - a. Goal 6, Objective 1, Action a – edited to incorporate any energy technology and the added siting standards
 - i. Original text: *Analyze the feasibility and support the installation of additional municipal solar and/or wind net-metering facilities that are compliant with the standards enumerated in this plan to off-set municipal electric use.*
 - ii. New text: *Analyze the feasibility and support the deployment of municipally owned, leased, or otherwise operated distributed generation facilities that are consistent with the Regional Energy Project Siting and Design Standards.*
 - b. Goal 6, Objective 1, Action b added
 - i. New Text: *Support the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of Municipal Enhanced Energy Plans.*
 - c. Goal 6, Objective 2, Action a – edited to incorporate new siting standards
 - i. Original Text: *Work closely with the municipalities impacted by proposed energy development projects to ensure responsibly sited and developed renewable energy projects are implemented in the region.*

- ii. *New Text: Work closely with municipalities affected by proposed energy development projects to evaluate whether those projects are consistent with the Regional Energy Project Siting and Design Standards.*
 - d. Goal 6, Objective 2, Action b – edited to incorporate new siting standards
 - i. *Original text: Expand regional and local energy storage and promote local microgrids to improve energy system reliability and resiliency.*
 - ii. *New Text: Support the expansion of energy storage, microgrids, and other energy system infrastructure in locations and with designs that are consistent with the Regional Energy Project Siting and Design Standards.*
 - e. Goal 6, Objective 2, Actions C and D – deleted to reduce repetition.
- 3. Staff review revealed that two tables titled Table 32—Regional Residential Incremental Annual MWh- by End-Use and Table 33 - Regional Non-residential Incremental Annual MWh- by End-Use were lost from the energy appendix (page 17) in editing. The tables will be included in the next draft.
- 4. As a result of new research performed on behalf of the RPC by UVM students, additional information on potential generation from solar canopies in Addison Region will be included on page 16 and in the map package in the Chapter 2 appendix.

Chapter 3: Transportation

1. Addition of appendix materials that include specific project recommendations as well as the suggested location, responsible party, and timeframe of the proposed project. The newly incorporated items cover the topical areas of:
 - a. Air Transport
 - b. Rail Transport
 - c. Truck Traffic and Freight
 - d. Agriculture Impact
 - e. Travel Demand Management
 - f. Promotes Economy
 - g. Safe modes of Travel
 - h. Energy Efficiency and Conservation
 - i. Electric Vehicles
 - j. Enhancing Regional Land Uses and Sense of Place
 - k. Resilience to Natural Hazards
 - l. Sufficient Funding
2. Additional changes will be made to the appendix, in response to LURB and Agency of Transportation comments, to provide cost range estimates for each project recommended while the Responsible column will be split into two columns indicating the project Lead and project Partners respectively.

3. In response to public comment a brief discussion of recent truck fires on Route 7 will be added to page 16 of the chapter.

Chapter 4: Community Infrastructure

1. Corrections to the data presented in figure 2 (page 34) and Map 7 (page 33) will be made to provide more accurate information.
2. In response to comments from the LURB a new Action b will be added to Goal 5, Objective 2 (page 42):
 - a. *New Text: Support the planning, development, financing and construction of new municipal water and wastewater systems to encourage development in village centers, villages, downtowns, and planned growth areas.*

Chapter 5: Population & Housing

1. In response to LURB comments the discussion of new regional and municipal housing targets will be consolidated in Chapter 5 (page 22-23) and improved with a table providing a breakdown of the 2050 housing targets by tenure, affordability, type and size.

Chapter 6: Economic Development

1. Text will be added to the main chapter (page 1) and the appendix (page 1) to better articulate the relationship between the RPC and ACEDC, as well as the relationship between the Regional Plan Chapter 6 and the West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Chapter 7: Flood Resilience

1. In response to comments from the LURB new text will be added to this chapter to expand the discussion on Special Flood Hazard Areas on page 5.
2. In response to comments from the LURB new text will be added to briefly discuss strategies to mitigate flood risk to historic structures on page 7.

Chapter 8: Future Land Use

1. In response to comments from the Agency of Natural Resources the Regional Future Land Use Map will be updated to incorporate the National Wetlands Inventory Maps which provide new data for some of the Region.
2. In response to comments from the LURB the FLUA map will be updated in accordance with mapping methodology released following the initial submission of the Regional Plan. These changes include mapping of roads and surface waters in the FLUA map and appropriate categorization of these areas.

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3. In response to comments from the LURB the FLUA map will be updated to ensure municipal FLUA mapping treatment properly responds to the provided methodology in regard to river corridors and flood hazard areas.