

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### FISCAL YEAR 2007 – August 2006

Chittenden County will soon have a *new transportation modeling tool* at our disposal thanks to a Federal Highway Administration grant that has been awarded to Resource Systems Group to develop a model called *Transims* for our region. Federal Highway is interested in understanding the utility of this model for small and medium sized MPO regions. We are pleased to be one of three regions selected in the entire country. Transims will provide the ability to perform micro simulation across the region which should allow us to do a much better job in optimizing the performance of the transportation system we already have. It will take a couple of years for this model to be fully functional, but as a region we should be quite optimistic that this new analysis tool that is coming our way. RSG took the initiative in applying for this grant, so please do express your thanks to them when you have an opportunity.

The MPO has been approached by a couple of faculty teams who are submitting pre-proposals to the *National Transportation Center at UVM* to collaborate on their project ideas. UVM is currently soliciting ideas for what they are calling “signature” projects for the Center. The MPO has believed that our region is an obvious “playground” or “testing ground” for these project ideas and so are intending to enthusiastically participate with faculty groups submitting ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity for our region to gain the benefit of the incredible transportation, policy and engineering talent that exists at our institutions through the programming of the Center. As these proposals develop, more details will become available.

In a related matter, *Dr. Lisa Aultman-Hall* arrived in August as the new director of the National Transportation Center at UVM. Welcome to Vermont Lisa!

In *SAFETEA LU*, an earmark for \$3,000,000 was included to address *stormwater issues* in Chittenden County. Some of the funds for the early years has been targeted to existing initiatives. However, VTrans now has a request for proposals on the street for any Chittenden County community to submit their ideas to improve stormwater initiatives in their community. Proposals may be submitted through the end of October. Information regarding the program as well as the forms will be on our web site soon!

Our *Annual Meeting* for the MPO will be October 18<sup>th</sup>. We intend to kick off our *Futures Initiative* at this event and are very excited to have Dennis Meadows as our keynote speaker. Dennis an author of several books including “*Beyond the Limits*”. Please do plan to attend. Invitations will go out this week and will also be on our web site soon.

Shelburne now has a “*walking and cycling*” map for their community, [www.shelburnepaths.jot.com](http://www.shelburnepaths.jot.com). This tool, developed by a community member, may be a model of interest to other communities. Take a look.

The *Chittenden Traffic Alert Program* is up and running for this construction season. This program provides information to citizens regarding where construction is occurring. To view the current information please follow this link. <http://www.ccmpto.info/cta/>

If you would like *more detailed information*, please feel free to check our detailed Progress Report at: [http://www.ccmpto.org/monthly\\_progress/](http://www.ccmpto.org/monthly_progress/) or contact Scott Johnstone at 660-4071 \* 15 or [sjohnstone@ccmpo.org](mailto:sjohnstone@ccmpo.org).