

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2007 – August 2007

While the summer floated by, work on many key transportation issues continued here in Chittenden County. Here is a sampling of what was done last month.

The *Underhill Flats sidewalk feasibility study* continues with the town requesting information on a multi-use path facility versus the sidewalk envisioned in the final draft report. Once resolved the study will be finalized.

The *Severance Corners bicycle-pedestrian revised final draft report* with conceptual cost estimates for facilities is under review. Severance Corners traffic study revised final draft report was delivered in response to VTrans comments. The Town has requested the analysis be expanded to include an additional parcel in the growth center area.

The *Circ Williston EIS* process continued, with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Public Hearings for the DEIS are on October 4, 2007 and comments may be submitted until November 8, 2007. For more information please go to <http://www.circeis.org>.

Consultant selection is complete to perform services to *optimize the signals* in the *Dorset Street Corridor* this summer. Work will commence in September.

The *Western Vermont Corridor Study* has completed the process of consultant selection with PB (formerly Parsons Brinckerhoff) selected to lead a strong team to look at Route 2 and the railroad systems from Canada to Massachusetts.

A new MPO program, Safe Routes to Schools "Lite", was initiated with the planning of an open house for school administrators to gauge interest from schools of the region. This program was initiated as a result of a high level of interest from schools who did not gain acceptance into the formal SR2S program, as a way to get the process started.

As a precursor to the development of the regions next Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the MPO is hosting a scenario planning workshop on November 9, 2007 to learn more about this tool and it's potential application in our long range planning process. Development work with the Federal Highway Administration and the University Transportation Center was initiated this past month to build to the event.

The regions bicycle / pedestrian plan is over five years old and will be updated this year. A request for proposals was issued this month to engage a consultant to assist in the development of this plan update.

Staff, along with others from the region, attended a Rail's to Trails conference in Portland Oregon due to the potential to attract capital funding over the coming years for the development of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in our region. As a result a resolution

“2010 Campaign for Active Transportation” was developed to be considered by the MPO Board in September’s meeting.

The MPO and the Burlington Business Association entered into a letter of commitment to investigate the potential of developing a transportation management association in Downtown Burlington. The first step to this consideration will be for the BBA to engage a contractor to survey downtown employees and employers to gauge interest in the concept and readiness for new directions. The Survey should be available by September or October.

The Colchester/Essex/Essex Junction, Route 15 Bicycle/Pedestrian Path is now complete. This study will be a key input into the Route 15 corridor analysis now underway.

The draft study of VT15/Sand Hill intersection in Essex is awaiting review and comments by VTrans. The study will then be finalized.

The I-89 Exit 12B alignment analysis is now progressing with a notice to proceed being issued to the projects consultant. A kick off meeting was held to begin the process.

The *Chittenden Traffic Alert* Program, <http://ccmpo.org/cta/index.html>, is up and running again for the construction season. Please do use this resource to understand where you might run into construction related traffic delays.

As a first step in updating the MPO Public Involvement Plan, staff is interviewing stakeholders involved in our processes from a variety of perspectives to understand what is working and not working well. This early input is providing great insight and will be incorporated into the updated plan. Thanks to the many of you who have participated in this process.

Data collection continues as we respond to requests for communities. See <http://www.ccmpo.org/data/counts.html> for more data information.

Staff is investigating the possibility of updating our travel survey for our transportation model by joining with the National Household Travel Survey in cooperation with the University Transportation Center and the VTrans. While the cost would be about the same as doing this on our own, we would get the same information and would, by our partnership, help to build a national database and help our partners to participate. If details can be worked out we are likely to act on this issue in September.

The MPO is creating a blue ribbon commission on innovative finance to consider new funding options, project delivery ideas, standards issues, and to consider ideas relative to how governments can work better together to deliver transportation services and projects. Background white papers are being developed by a consultant and will be ready for the first meeting of these groups.

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