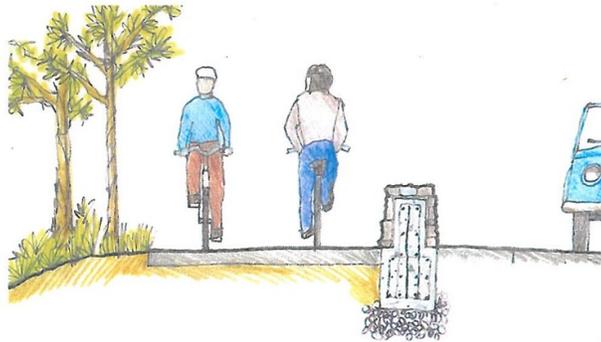


Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Two of the Region's towns, Ludlow and Springfield are currently exploring opportunities to explore their bicycling and pedestrian network. Ludlow hired the Dufresne Group to develop a scoping and feasibility study for a multi-use path. The proposed North Fork of the Calvin Coolidge Bike & Recreation Greenway bike



path would parallel VT Routes 103 and 100 from the Ludlow Park-and-Ride to Locust Hill Road and Ranta Road connecting with Okemo's Jackson Gore base area. It would then cross VT Route 103 and continue along Buttermilk Falls Road finishing at the popular swimming hole.

The first public meeting was held on Thursday, April 11th. The scoping study is anticipated to be completed by November 2013.

At the other end of the Region, Springfield is reviewing proposals for an engineering and planning consultant to develop a similar study for a multi-use path or similar facility connecting Downtown Springfield with the village of North Springfield and the Springweather recreation area.

For other towns interested in scoping and feasibility studies, as well as funds for the construction of sidewalks and multi-use paths, in May, VTrans anticipates releasing application materials for the next round of the Bicycle and Pedestrian

Program and then the Transportation Alternatives Program in August.

For more information please see the grants section on the last page of this newsletter and our website homepage in the upcoming months for announcements and the grant applications.

What is a scoping and feasibility study?

The analysis of the practicability of a proposed idea. It evaluates the economic, environmental, technical and quality of life aspects of a proposed idea.

Coupled with the projects compatibility with the local community, this information allows decision makers to have the accurate and relevant information needed to make informed decisions.

Spring 2013 Edition

What's inside:

- Energy Roundtable May 8th
- HHW May 11th
- Way to Go Week May 13-17
- Upcoming Transportation Construction Projects

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**Don't forget to check us out on Facebook  and also
our website for the most up to date information.**

Annual Energy Committee Roundtable

The annual Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable will take place on Wednesday, May 8th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Bugbee Senior Center in White River Junction.

The roundtable is a collaborative event organized by Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG), Vital Communities and the three area regional planning commissions. It is intended to promote networking and information sharing, and assist energy committees or town governments in carrying out their work to promote energy efficiency and conservation.



Photo from 2012 Energy Roundtable

If you plan to attend, please RSVP at the following website: <http://www.doodle.com/xhm9xzx2feeaffny> . Please also have one representative from your group fill out the survey, even if no one can attend the roundtable, at: <http://surveys.verticalresponse.com/a/show/858711/385f2b77a3/0>

The Roundtable is free and a light buffet dinner will be provided, with thanks to our event sponsors: Building Energy, Tarm Biomass, Simple Energy and the Enfield Energy Emporium.

For more information, contact Jason Rasmussen.

May 13-17 is Way to Go Week



Things are starting to get into gear for the 2013 “Way to Go” Commuter Challenge. Way to Go is a week long challenge for commuters to find alternatives to driving alone to work, whether taking the bus, riding a bike, walking, participating in a ride share or telecommuting.

Way To Go has been taking hold across the state over the last few years. In 2013 it will be the week of May 13th through 17th. The event includes a fare-free Friday on *The Current* buses which provide in-town service in Springfield and commuter services around the Region.

There are several good reasons to consider trying out commuting alternatives during Way To Go week:

- You can reduce the amount you spend on gas
- Reduce pollution and keep the air clean
- Get some exercise; and,
- Win prizes!

Sign up at www.waytogovt.org for a chance to win some great prizes. Also check out www.swcrpc.org for more information about local commuting options and events in and around southern Windsor County. For more information contact Katharine Otto.



WIN A CARBON CUP!



Mapping Corner



Biofinder - Revised interactive map service from ANR

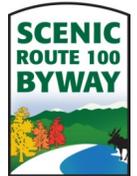
A revised interactive map service has just been released by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). BioFinder is a map and database identifying Vermont's lands and waters supporting high priority ecosystems, natural communities, habitats, and species. The new data and priority ranking of habitat will start appearing in town plan maps soon. The RPC is also going to be organizing a regional workshop on BioFinder. Until that time, you can explore Biofinder and the new data more online at <http://biofinder.vermont.gov/>. It is similar to ANR's Natural Resource Atlas, but Biofinder offers more tools and data for analyzing biodiversity.

Vermont Parcel Shapefile/ Geodatabase Standards

As a follow up to last year's update to the GIS parcel data standards, VCGI recently released new standards for GIS parcel data. These standards are available online at <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/resources/standards>. If you have any questions about these new standards or mapping parcels, please contact Katharine Otto.

Expansion of the Scenic Route 100 Byway

The Scenic Route 100 Byway was recently expanded to 138 miles over 20 towns in southern Vermont – connecting it from the Mad River Byway in Granville to Stamford on the Massachusetts border along VT-100, and including small sections of VT-100A and VT-103. Andover and Ludlow were part of the original 6-town Byway, and a new spur along VT-103 connects Ludlow to Scenic Highway VT-131 in Proctorsville. For more information about the Byway, contact Katharine Otto. For more information on all of Vermont's Byways, see www.vermont-byways.us.



Summer Field Work Will Be Starting

As summer rolls in fieldwork season is coming again. Every year SWCRPC completes a variety of inventories and counts – including sidewalks, culverts, bridges, roads, signs, traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians. Also available this year – is the ability to borrow two handheld GPS units. Please let Katharine Otto know if you have any requests for fieldwork or would like to use the GPS units.

Flood Insurance Reform Act Overview

Recent flooding events including Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi River flooding, Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Sandy have placed financial strain on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The associated costs of these events have placed a great financial burden on the insurance program, and the frequency of their occurrence has put the NFIP in debt to the federal government. To remedy this situation, the Biggert – Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 was passed and signed by President Obama. The bill included:

- Removing the subsidized (pre-FIRM) rates for certain classes of structures including residential properties which are not the primary residence of the owner, business properties, and newly purchased properties.
- Increasing insurance rates by 25% per year until actuarial rates are achieved.
- Allowing private flood insurance to satisfy the flood insurance coverage requirements of bank loans.
- Adding allowable mitigation activities such as elevation, relocation/demolition/rebuild and flood proofing to be included in town All Hazard Mitigation Plans.

For more information, contact John Broker-Campbell.

Upcoming Transportation Construction Work

The Region will be hosting a significant amount of transportation construction work this summer, including:

Town	Project type	Location info	Notes
Windsor	Interstate Bridge	Bridges 33 N&S on I-91 over VT-44	Design-Build. VT-44 may be closed a little. Construction will continue into 2014
Weathersfield	Major Paving	VT-131 and VT-12 from VT-106 to NH	
Weathersfield	State Highway Bridge	Bridge 11B on VT-131	Big Culvert
Andover, Weston, Ludlow	Minor Paving	VT-100 south of Ludlow village	
Chester, Andover	Minor Paving	VT-11 west of Chester village	

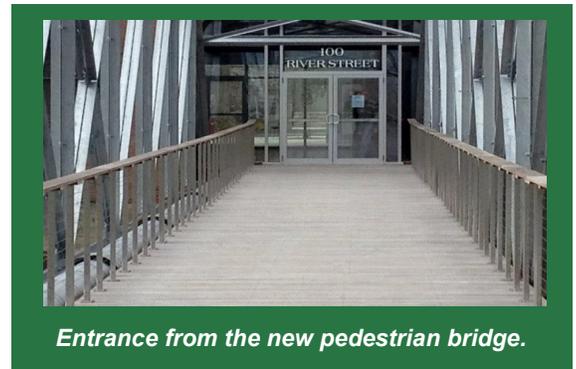
For a more comprehensive summary of all current and upcoming major projects, please see <http://swcrpc.org/wp/programs/transportation/> Please let Katharine Otto know if you would like more regular updates on upcoming transportation construction projects.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

The SWCRPC's Brownfields Program recently received national attention. March's edition of Planning Magazine, the American Planning Association's monthly publication, featured an article about the 100 River Street project in Springfield.

The article was written by a former RPC employee: Joelle Greenland. It featured several nice photographs and highlighted the cooperation necessary to achieve success include locating the Springfield Health Center.

For a full copy of the article, please visit the RPC's [website](#).



Entrance from the new pedestrian bridge.

East Central Vermont Consortium

The SWCRPC is working with the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission to develop a plan that strives to make this area a more efficient, affordable, safe, and healthy place to live. Local officials and members of the public are encouraged to participate as your input is needed!

Predominately funded by a HUD grant, the **East Central Vermont Sustainability Consortium** is creating a sustainable communities regional plan that will utilize feedback from our community. Areas of focus are economic competitiveness, housing, transportation, climate resilience, building, energy, habitat, health and society.

There are several ways in which you can participate including: taking an online [survey](#), participating in the [discussion forums](#) or, if you would prefer to interact in person, attending any of the workgroup meetings. Each Friday results will be posted as they are collected, so to learn more about the program-- or to check out the results anytime-- go to <http://ecvermont.org>. For more information or a schedule of upcoming meetings please visit www.ecvermont.org or contact Dan Potter at dpotter@swcrpc.org.

Feel free to spread the word! Any and all feedback is welcome and key to a comprehensive, successful plan.

**Household Hazardous
Waste Collections**



**Saturday
May 11, 2013**

**Springfield Transfer
Station**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

For District residents & businesses* only.

For District residents only

No pre-registration

*Businesses will be charged for disposal costs and must pre-register.

www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org

For more information,
call 674-9235.

*Bring in a mercury thermometer;
we'll give you a digital
thermometer.*

**The next HHW collections will
be in Springfield and
Weathersfield on Saturday,
September 7, 2013.**

NEW LAW for VERMONTERS

Recycle fluorescent bulbs and tubes for FREE at your local transfer station* (or WinCycle in Windsor). Bring in any number of bulbs and up to 10



tubes per visit—pay nothing!
Fluorescents have mercury in them so it's imperative to dispose of them properly.

*Cavendish

Ludlow

Rockingham

Springfield

Weathersfield



For more information on recycling, composting or Household Hazardous Waste disposal dates please visit www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org or email Mary O'Brien at mobrien@swcrpc.org.

Questions? Call 674-9235.

Funding Opportunities



PACIF Equipment Grants

Round 1 due: April 30, 2013

Round 2 due: August 31, 2013

Who: All PACIF members

From: VLCT

What: 50/50 matching funds for certain safety-oriented equipment

For more info see <http://www.vlct.org/rms/pacif/pacif-equipment-grants/>

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Round 5

Due: July 12, 2013

From: FEMA/ Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)

What: hazard mitigation projects

For more info see <http://vem.vermont.gov/>

Bicycling and Pedestrian Program

Expected to be announced mid-May 2013

Due: July 2013

From: VTrans

What: Funds for bike and pedestrian related projects such as multi-use paths and sidewalks

More details to come



Recreational Trails Grant Program

To be announced mid-June 2013

Due: September 15, 2013

From: VT Dept of Forests, Parks & Recreation

What: Funds for motorized and non-motorized trail projects

More details to come at www.vtfpr.org/recgrant/trgrant.cfm



Municipal Park and Ride Program

Expected to be announced June 2013

Due: July 2013

From: VTrans

What: Funds for creating municipal park and ride lot

More details to come

Transportation Alternatives Program

To be announced August 2013

Due: October 2013

From: VTrans

What: Variety of transportation projects including sidewalks, multi-use paths, scenic overlooks, environmental mitigation such as stormwater management and preventing invasive species (see

<http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sections/ltf/transportationalalternatives> for more detailed list)

More details to come

Other Grant Opportunities

Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities Grants – deadline May 13, 2013.

<http://www.vermontartscouncil.org/Portals/0/tabid/97/Default.aspx>

Downtown Transportation Grants – deadline May 20, 2013.

http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/downtown_transportation_fund

Bikes Belong Community Partnership Grants – deadline May 24, 2013.

<http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/who-can-apply/>

Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program – deadline June 13, 2013.

<http://www.vtwaterquality.org/grants.htm>

CDBG Disaster Recovery Grants – deadline is ongoing and reviewed monthly.

http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/cdbqdr

Vermont Community Development Grants

http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/vcdp/applicants

For more up to date information on all grant opportunities, please check

<http://swcrpc.org/wp/rfp/grants/> regularly.

RPC Calendar of Events

May

- 08 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm, Damon Hall, Hartland.
- 08 Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Bugbee Senior Center, WRJ.
- 10 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting at 9:00am, Ludlow Town Hall.
- 11 Household Hazardous Waste Collection from 9:00am— 12:00pm at the Springfield Transfer Station.
- 21 Brownfields Steering Committee Meeting at 11:30am Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney.
- 21 Regional Planning Commission Meeting at 12:00pm, Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney.
- 22 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting at 6:00pm in the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave., Windsor.

June

- 12 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm, location TBD.
- 14 Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management Executive Meeting at 9:00am, Ludlow.
- 18 Brownfields Steering Committee at 11:30am at Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney.
- 18 Regional Planning Commission Annual Meeting at 12:00pm at Martin Memorial Hall, Route 5, Ascutney .
- 19 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting at 6:00pm in the RPC Conference Room, Ascutney.



Save the Date!