

# Northwest Regional Planning Commission

## FY 2025 Annual Report

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) serves the 23 municipalities (19 towns, 3 incorporated villages, and 1 city) located in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties in northwestern Vermont.

Municipalities in the region appoint two representatives to serve on the Board of Commissioners. This board governs the policies and activities of the Commission and elects an Executive Committee and officers to oversee NRPC programs and staff. The Mission of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission is:

- To assist local municipalities, through education, technical assistance, grants and funding; and to aid municipalities in their planning efforts as authorized by Vermont planning laws.
- To serve as a center for information and as a resource to support the region and its municipalities' interests, growth patterns and common goals.
- To provide a forum for the discussion of issues which are regional in nature and/or unique to our area of the state, and to serve as a mediator to resolve conflicts as appropriate. Common sense and a spirit of compromise must be allowed to enter the discussion so that the impacts of development may be mitigated.
- To conduct regional planning programs.

### PLANNING AND ZONING

RPCs function as a cost-effective professional planning staff for many of Vermont's municipalities. Work in recent years focused on improving town plans and local permitting through education and on-site training, bylaw modernization and implementing municipal planning and bylaw requirements for housing and economic development, flood resiliency and forest blocks and habitat connections. Current and clear plans and bylaws are essential in smooth state and local permitting. This work is supported through local and regional planning funds, local contributions, and other grants. All technical assistance provided this year is shown on the At Work map; highlights include:

- Served as the zoning administrator for Sheldon and North Hero under a municipal services agreement.
- Held workshops that were attended by municipal staff and volunteers from most municipalities. Topics included: Act 181 Training for Municipal Officials, Introduction to Planning and Zoning & New State Laws, Zoning Administrator Roundtable, and Open Meeting Law Refresher.
- Provided support to the Town of Highgate on the Village Core property redevelopment, specifically on brownfields assessment and remediation planning, Section 106 compliance and wastewater planning. The master plan includes senior housing, a new library and future commercial lots.
- Provided professional planning support for municipal plan projects including:
  - Town of Sheldon,
  - Town of Alburgh, with a focus on Alburgh Village and recreation,
  - Town of Isle La Motte, first ever Town Plan,
  - Town of Grand Isle, with a focus on town center planning and proposed land use, funded by a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant,
  - Town of Richford, with a focus on streetscape and housing needs in Richford village,
  - Town of Franklin, and
  - Town of Montgomery, with a focus on natural resources, housing and the two village areas, funded by a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant.

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- Granted regional approval and confirmation of planning process to the Montgomery Town Plan, Sheldon Town Plan, Alburgh Town Plan, Isle La Motte Town Plan, Grand Isle Town Plan, and Georgia Town Plan.
- Provided technical support and regional coordination to the Town of St. Albans with a Transit Oriented Development Master Plan for the growth areas north and south of St. Albans City, funded by a RAISE grant from the USDOT from Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.
- Provided professional planning support for updates to local development regulations including:
  - Updates and unified zoning and subdivision regulations for the Town of Enosburgh and Village of Enosburg Falls, funded by a Municipal Planning Grant.
  - Zoning bylaw updates for the Town of Montgomery focusing on addressing short-term rentals and expanding the Village 2 district to provide additional opportunities for housing. Funded by a Bylaw Modernization Grant.
  - Zoning and subdivision bylaw updates for the Town of Fairfield to revise bylaw standards relating to development in rural areas.
- Assisted Fairfax, Bakersfield, Fairfield and Grand Isle with applications for Municipal Planning Grants for planning and zoning projects, all of which were awarded.
- Provided project management and administrative support to the Town of Isle La Motte for architectural and structural assessments of their shuttered elementary school and old town hall necessary for determining highest and best reuse. Funded by Municipal Technical Assistance Program.
- Provided project management and administrative support to the Town of Berkshire to develop engineering designs and secure funding for an accessibility ramp at the Berkshire Town Hall. The accessibility ramp is under construction. Funded by Municipal Technical Assistance Program.
- Answered general planning and zoning technical assistance questions for Alburgh, Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fletcher, Franklin, Georgia, Grand Isle, Highgate, Montgomery, North Hero, Richford, Sheldon, St. Albans City and South Hero.

### ACT 181 AND REGIONAL PLANNING

RPCs coordinate planning at the regional level through the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive regional plan and related studies. These plans guide local planning and the investment decisions of the public and private sectors. The Northwest Regional Plan was adopted by the Board of Commissioners in June 2023. NRPC amended the plan with an updated enhanced energy plan in September 2025. Act 181 of 2024 changed regional plan requirements, including requiring new consistent future land use (FLU) areas and municipal housing targets.

During FY25, NRPC coordinated with other RPCs, the State and the new Land Use Review Board on methodology for developing new regional FLU maps and regional plan approval and Tier 1B guidance under the new regional planning framework established by Act 181. NRPC completed draft FLU maps and municipal housing targets for all municipalities and met with municipal planning commissions and legislative bodies to explain changes under Act 181 and receive feedback. NRPC developed and implemented a participation process that provides access and opportunity for citizen involvement and meaningful participation in decision-making around regional planning and FLU mapping. NRPC directly

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engaged with regional residents and collaborated with municipal officials in all 23 regional municipalities, including:

- Developing and publicizing materials for the public and municipalities including a project website, newsletters, paper flyers posted across the region, social media postings, front porch forum updates and memorandums to municipalities.
- Holding eight of fourteen planned open houses across the region at businesses and community gatherings, with the goal of engaging over 100 regional residents in conversations about the regional Future Land Use Map and housing targets.
- Developing an online survey and map comment tool available on NRPC's website
- Meeting with all municipal Planning Commissions and most Selectboards to present on the Future Land Use Map and housing targets.
- Providing information to each eligible municipality on Act 250 exemptions available through Tier 1A and Tier 1B status.
- Meeting with partner organizations across the region to receive feedback on plan policies and implementation.

Municipal and public feedback was incorporated into a full draft plan with major updates to the Housing and Land Use chapters. This work will carry into FY26 with anticipated adoption in Spring 2026.

In FY25 NRPC staff collected data from all 18 municipalities with zoning to complete the first yearly update to our regional building permit database and Housing Dashboard. The database includes information on the location of new housing units built in the region starting in 2020. Information from the database is publicly available on the [NRPC Housing Dashboard](#). The database and dashboard enable NRPC to track progress toward regional and municipal housing targets.

NRPC reviews state permit applications to ensure proposed projects conform with the regional plan. In FY25, the Project Review Committee reviewed five Section 248 applications, three Section 248a applications, and eight minor Act 250 applications for conformance with the regional plan. Of the Act 250 applications, the Committee determined that all projects conformed with the Regional Plan, with two projects that conformed with conditions. The Committee also found one Section 248 project was not in conformance with the Regional Plan and one project required conditions to be in conformance with the Regional Plan.

### BROWNFIELDS

NRPC has sought and been awarded over \$5 million for this economic development initiative and as of June 30, 2025, has a program income balance of just shy of \$250,000. Environmental site assessments allow properties to be sold, developed or re-developed in ways that benefit the local and state economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities. NRPC currently has 3 active EPA Brownfields grants, including two Revolving Loan Funds and one assessment grant. During FY25, the following projects were either finished, ongoing or started:

#### Assessment Projects:

- *6 South River Street, Swanton*. In FY25, NRPC supported the Town in gaining concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office on no adverse impact to historic resources based on Archeological Assessments funded by the program in FY24. The Village bought the dilapidated historic hotel property (hotel now demolished) to facilitate its cleanup and redevelopment. In

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FY25, NRPC also supported the Village and prospective developer, Habitat for Humanity, with site planning in relation to the brownfields cleanup. NRPC anticipates funding a cleanup plan in FY26.

- *124 First Street, Former Carroll Concrete, Swanton.* NRPC funded an Evaluation of Corrective Action Alternatives and a Corrective Action Plan at this site. The Village of Swanton is addressing contamination with plans to develop a facility for its Electric Department.
- *200 Bridge Street, Sheldon.* NRPC funded supplemental assessment and an Evaluation of Corrective Action Alternatives. The Sheldon Historical Society is restoring the building to serve as the historical museum and headquarters, in addition to considering public access to the yard areas.
- *Highgate Village Core, Highgate.* NRPC funded Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives and Corrective Action Plans for Lot 1 and Lot 2 of the Village Core site, in addition funding Section 106 assessment for historic impacts to archeology resulting from building materials abatement. The Town of Highgate is working with Cathedral Square on developing senior housing. The Village Core master plan also includes a new library and commercial lots.
- *20-22 Stebbins Street, St. Albans City.* NRPC funding confirmatory sampling at 1 monitoring well and development of a soil management plan, necessary for the property owner to achieve a Certificate of Completion for the property, which is used for a catering business.
- *20 LaSalle Street, St. Albans City.* NRPC approved funding for a Corrective Action Plan to manage urban soils at this vacant property slated for a 28-unit housing development.
- *LaPointe Auto, Highgate.* NRPC funded a Phase 2 assessment and approved funding for a supplemental assessment for a prospective purchaser of an auto repair garage near the village of Highgate Falls.

### Cleanup Projects:

- *Town of St. Johnsbury, St. Johnsbury Armory, St. Johnsbury, VT.* NRPC granted 162,000 and loaned 162,000 for a total of \$324,000 in cleanup dollars at the St. Johnsbury Armory. The Town of St. Johnsbury is addressing cleanup ahead of renovating the space as a public safety facility.
- *Goldenjunk, LLC., Champlain Transmission, Burlington, VT.* NRPC loaned \$268,640 to Goldenjunk LLC to clean up the former Champlain Transmission site on North Winooski Avenue in Burlington, VT. The owner plans to renovate and for their Junktiques retail business in addition to a few apartments.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic growth is supported best when development efforts are partnered with solid planning functions. RPCs work with municipalities and Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) to this end in several ways, including development of comprehensive strategies that will help to position Vermont for long term economic gain.

NRPC coordinates the [Northern Vermont Economic Development District \(NVEDD\)](#) in partnership with the three RDCs and RPCs in the six northern counties. An advisory board helped to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that was approved by EDA and is updated [annually](#). NRPC serves as the administrative coordinator for NVEDD. NRPC provides grant administrative support for Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) grantees.

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NRPC provided over five years of support with grant writing, project management, and grant administration to the Alburgh Family Clubhouse Childcare project, which recently celebrated their ribbon cutting of a brand-new early education center filling a critical need in their community.

### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Under contract with VTrans, RPCs coordinate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI). This effort has provided a statewide framework for public involvement in planning the improvements to Vermont's transportation system, with local communities represented through regional Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs). Each regional TAC prioritizes projects, identifies local and regional transportation needs, and provides the platform for public involvement in the planning and development of the state's transportation system. RPCs serve as the point of delivery for the statewide transportation planning process to support local, regional, state and federal transportation network advancement.

#### Objective 1

##### Enhance Cooperation and Coordination between VTrans, RPC Regions and Municipalities

# of TAC meetings held	8
# of non-municipal TAC members actively engaged in transportation planning via the TAC meetings	0
# of municipalities actively engaged in transportation planning	22
# of RPC coordination activities with municipalities and VTrans	8

#### Objective 2

##### Better Connect Federal, Regional and Statewide Transportation Planning

# of regional transportation plans that are current (within 8 years)	1
# of Act 250 applications with RPC comments relating to transportation	9
# of Section 248 applications with RPC comments relating to transportation	0
# of coordination activities in support of regional public transit providers	4
# of VTrans committees that involves RPC staff participation	1
# of regions participating in Project Prioritization	0

#### Objective 3

##### Provide Technical Assistance to Municipalities

# of municipalities participating in road foreman meetings annually	0
Total # of programs that RPCs municipalities assisted with transportation related grants	12
% of budget spent on municipal technical assistance	47%
# of municipal transportation inventories conducted	13
# of municipal transportation related feasibility/project definition studies	6
# of municipalities assisted with transportation element of municipal/town plan	7
# of road erosion inventories in support of the MRGP completed using TPI dollars and using other funding sources	0

#### Objective 4

##### Deliver Results that Advance VTrans Strategic and Long-Range Transportation Plans

# of data collection activities conducted specifically for VTrans	25
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### Grants in Aid

For FY25 there are 235 municipalities participating in the Best Management Practices program, with 21 municipalities in our region. 12 of those have agreements with NRPC for assistance in the following areas:

- Reviewing existing municipal road erosion inventory maps and data to identify eligible projects.
- Holding pre-construction meeting(s) with the municipal staff to select project location(s), segment start and end points and identify specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) for each project segment.
- Preparing project documentation for municipality to submit to VTrans to receive Construction Authorization.
- Assisting with documenting project completion and required reporting in the [Reporter for the Municipal Roads General Permit](#).
- Assisting with preparing and/or reviewing invoicing materials, if needed.

### Transportation Planning Highlights

- NRPC worked closely with VTrans Rail Trail Program to secure funding and complete a full culvert and bridge inventory along approximately 26 miles of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail; from Swanton to Cambridge.
- NRPC is serving as a Municipal Project Manager (MPM) for a project to assess safer bike and pedestrian movement at a seasonally busy US Route 2 intersection in South Hero. NRPC utilized funding through our annual TPI work program to complete both pedestrian and traffic counts to support this project.
- NRPC completed Road Erosion Inventories (REI) in four municipalities this year. These REI Reassessments address erosion concerns on all hydrologically connected road segments, as required by the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP).

### EMERGENCY PLANNING & DISASTER RECOVERY

RPCs play key roles in the mitigation and preparedness phases of emergency management in partnership with Vermont Emergency Management, Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. RPCs provide direct staff to the State Emergency Operations Center, local Emergency Operations Centers, administrative support to the Regional Emergency Management Committees and coordination among Emergency Management Directors, Emergency Management Coordinators, first responders, planners and stakeholders throughout the State. RPC's also help update floodplain bylaws, write flood resiliency sections of municipal plans and FEMA-required hazard mitigation plans, coordinate updates to municipal emergency management plans and assist as needed in special circumstances such as the July 2025, July 2024, and July 2023 statewide flood disasters, Covid-19 pandemic, the 2019 Halloween Storm, Tropical Storm Irene and the Lake Champlain Flood in 2011, and other state declared and local disasters.

- Local Hazard Mitigation Plans: Twelve municipalities in the region currently have updated local hazard mitigation plans, and 6 municipalities are in the process of updating their existing plan or creating a new plan.
- Regional/County Coordination: NRPC staffed the Grand Isle County Mutual Aid Association, Grand Isle Regional Emergency Management Committee and the Franklin County Regional



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Emergency Management Committee, as well as the greater St. Albans Area Incident Management team. The activities include improving capacity to respond to all- hazards incidents, delivering EM related training and supporting municipal hazard mitigation plan development and updates.

- State EOC Support: Served as the Local Liaison to municipalities for the Planning Section and Situational Awareness Unit of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) following severe weather events including the December 18-19, 2023, heavy rain event and the July 11, 2024, severe weather event. Duties include establishing direct contact with municipal EMDs /EMCs to assess damages, compiling damage assessments in coordination with Vermont Agency of Transportation and Department of Environmental Conservation and reporting local damages to the Planning Section of the SEOC.
- State Committees: Served on the State Training and Exercise Planning Working Group which oversees Vermont's three- year emergency Training and Exercise Plan. Served on the State Individual and Family Assistance Task Force which coordinates immediate and long-term recovery efforts to meet the basic housing and subsistence needs of affected individuals and families following a disaster. The team was activated in response to July 2025 flooding event. Served on statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee which carries out the requirements of the EPA's Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA). The statewide LEPC focuses on risks associated with fixed site and transport of hazardous materials. In 2025, the statewide hazardous materials response plan was updated.
- Grant Support: Provided mitigation grant assistance to municipalities for municipal resiliency efforts including applications for the Flood Resilient Communities Fund, Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities, Flood Mitigation Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

## MAPPING

In addition to enhancing the RPC work, RPCs provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

- Completed town plan & zoning maps for municipalities updating their plans and bylaws. Any new or updated zoning shapefiles are added to the Vermont Open Geodata Portal website yearly (<https://geodata.vermont.gov/>).
- Prepared and updated Village Designation Maps for communities seeking village designation and renewal.
- Completed [E911 Community Maps](#) for all municipalities for use by town officials, emergency responders and others.
- Printed and mailed out any VTrans Highway maps to municipalities that wanted an updated map.
- NRPC started updating the Northwest Regional Plan. Maps were updated within the Regional Plan, including draft Future Land Use maps.

## ENERGY PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

A renewed focus on clean, renewable, sustainable and affordable energy presents Vermont with great opportunity and significant challenges. RPCs integrate energy planning with land use, transportation and natural resources efforts, and work with municipalities to assist with project implementation. RPCs participate in Section 248 proceedings and support comprehensive planning at the local and regional level to inform the permitting process.

- Organized second annual WindowDressers build for the region, providing insulating window inserts to residents including free inserts for low-income residents.

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- Supported the implementation of Municipal Energy Resilience Program in the region. This included assisting municipalities with applications for mini grants, assessments, and implementation, coordinating assessments and reports, and assisting with implementation steps including scope of work amendments and procurement. Work also included coordination with Buildings and General Services as well as other energy planners.
- Began work on Energy Navigators technical assistance program. This included coordination with the Great Plains Institute, subcontracting with NVDA on municipal assistance to be provided in their region, recruitment of municipal participants, and provision of technical assistance.
- Supported Walk/Bike Saint Albans in their work to increase bike and pedestrian infrastructure in St. Albans.
- Developed application proposal for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant in partnership with Saint Albans City, created Scope of Work and began implementation. Work includes collaboration with Saint Albans Transportation Working Group on implementation of a Transportation Needs Assessment and collaborating with the City Energy and Climate Committee to write an enhanced energy plan.
- Led state implementation of Climate Pollution Reduction Grant which included coordination with other RPCs, attending Municipal Climate Planning Advisory Group meetings, assisting in hosting of a regional input session on draft Climate Action Plan, and updating NRPC's municipal enhanced energy plan template.

### CLEAN WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE

RPCs work with the Agency of Natural Resources to assist with completion of the EPA-required watershed plans and implementation of the Lake Champlain and Lake Carmi TMDLs. RPCs also work with municipalities to incorporate river corridor assessments and flood mapping in local plans and regulations. This results in better and safer growth management decisions. Some RPCs have additional responsibilities such as Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs) and are charged with pursuing projects that reduce the amount of phosphorus reaching Vermont's waterways and lakes. NRPC is the only RPC to serve as CWSP for two Vermont river basins. NRPC also performs work as a contractor on projects funded via the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

- Provided project management support to the Town of South Hero and the Town of Highgate for ARPA and CWSRF funded village wastewater projects.
- Promoted municipal involvement in the review of draft "work maps" prepared as part of FEMA floodplain mapping update. Continued to support municipal officials with updating of flood hazard bylaws in anticipation of new Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Funded by Vermont DEC via the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission.
- Assisted the state's Basin Planner with watershed planning activities in the Northern Lake Champlain, Missisquoi Bay, and Lamoille Basins. Provided input on potential public hearing dates in Northwest Vermont, promoted community involvement via social media, and analyzed draft plan for alignment with the Northwest Regional Plan.
- Participated in planning and public engagement activities with partner organizations in the Northern Lake Champlain, Missisquoi Bay, and Lamoille Basins. Supported the delivery of webinars on critical topics like winter road salting best practices and rain gardens. NRPC reissued its "Cleaner Lake Starts at Home" septic system guide, providing vital information to landowners.



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- Completed project development effort examining potential water quality project sites in three Grand Isle County communities and commenced effort identifying potential sites for Clean Water project development through lakeshore erosion modeling. Work was funded by VT Department of Environmental Conservation via the Clean Water Service Provider managed by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. Also participated in Lake Carmi Coordination Team meetings.
- Continued to provide support for Trout River streambank restoration work in Montgomery, with focus on COE regulatory compliance.
- As Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP), continued to steward the Missisquoi Bay and Lamoille Basin Water Quality Councils (BWQC) and participate as member of Northern Lake Champlain BWQC.
- Support provided to BWQCs included conducting three more project funding rounds in each basin and expanding the number of pre-qualified project partners. NRPC directed funding to partners for several new projects in the Lamoille and Missisquoi Basins, representing hundreds of kilograms of phosphorus reduction.
- Also continued to develop grant-management, project tracking, and project prioritization systems, along with systems focused on project operation and maintenance (O&M).
- Continued to support St. Albans City and St. Albans Town and their Regional Stormwater Education Program as partial fulfillment of MS4 permit obligations. Organized several stream clean ups and workshops, and in coordination with other partners helped conduct major lake-themed student education event known as Lake Lessons and planned a second annual water-themed storytelling event.
- Commenced work on a multi-region study aimed at refining protocols for assessing erosion from private roads, which has been linked to significant amounts of phosphorus entering Lake Champlain.

## HOUSING

Northwest Regional Planning Commission serves as the backbone organization for the Northwest Regional Housing Collaborative. This began a region-wide project focused on supporting the creation and improvement of housing for healthy, inclusive, and prosperous communities and is funded by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston as part of the Working Communities Challenge (WCC) initiative through December of 2025. In FY25, the NRPC supported the restructuring of the project's cross-sector core team to serve as a regional housing collaborative for northwest Vermont. NRPC supports the collaborative by developing agendas and facilitating monthly meetings. In FY25, the collaborative refined and focused on two priorities: the accessory dwelling unit mini-grant program and technical assistance and mini-grants for community supported housing. Highlights from these two projects this fiscal year include the following:

- Four homeowners received support with design, regulatory navigation and financial assistance to develop an accessory dwelling unit, two of which are under construction.
- Funded a water supply feasibility study to service a 30-unit senior housing project in Highgate Center.

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### **EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

#### **Equity and Environmental Justice**

The NRPC has continued its work to ensure equity & inclusion in our work. NRPC adopted a statement of inclusion in FY22. The Regional Plan, adopted in 2023, furthers this work including an analysis of vulnerable and disadvantage communities and goals & policies related to equity. A summary of outcomes from our work over the last year is provided below:

- Developed an analysis of environmental benefits and burdens as part of an ongoing update to the Regional Plan.
- Developed and implemented a public participation plan for the Regional Plan that addresses meaningful participation to regional residents, including holding community open houses at 8 locations throughout the region in June.
- Attended regional community partnerships to support equitable planning including the Community Partnership and Accountable Communities for Health.

#### **Healthy Roots**

NRPC serves on the Steering Committee for the Healthy Roots Collaborative (HRC). HRC works to improve food access, education, and develop essential infrastructure and programs that support farm viability—All of which directly impacts the health and wellness of our Northwest Vermont Communities.

### **GRANT WRITING AND ADMINISTRATION**

NRPC owns its building at 75 Fairfield Street in St. Albans, purchased in 2013. This provides budget certainty and enables NRPC to hold and manage an asset rather than pay rent. Planned renovation costs over the next three years are included in the budget and budget reserves, and the Board has adopted an accelerated mortgage repayment plan.

The Board utilizes a reserve fund policy for long-term financial planning. NRPC maintains Board designated reserve funds to cover operating shortfalls, accrued leave time, building renovations and equipment replacement. The Commission maintains a three-year plan for equipment and software upgrades and replacement.

The FY 25 NRPC budget was \$4.2 million. Revenue sources included state and federal performance contracts, grants and local assessments. All the NRPC's revenue sources are tied to contracts with scopes of work, guidelines and/or performance measures. This means that the NRPC has limited flexibility in how it chooses to use most of its funding. Funding received through municipal assessments is the exception, which makes this funding stream particularly important because it gives us the greatest latitude to respond to NRPC-identified needs in the region. The grants we receive enable us to work with our towns on areas such as transportation, emergency planning, community development, brownfields redevelopment, energy, and natural resources. Revenue from federal and state grantors requires non-federal matching funds ranging from 10 percent (Transportation Planning Initiative) to 50 percent (Emergency Management Planning Grant). Municipal assessments and regional planning funds pass through to NRPC under a performance contract with the Department of Housing and Community Development and provide matching funds required by grantors.

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An audit is currently underway and will be completed by December 2025. NRPC has had no audit findings in over ten years. Staffing in FY 25 included: Executive Director, Assistant Director, Senior Planners (3), Regional Planner (2), Project Manager, Climate and Energy Planner, Transportation Planner, Assistant Planner and Zoning Administrator, GIS Technician, Office Administrator, Economic Recovery Coordinator, Working Communities Challenge Manager, and interns (3). Six of the employees have been with NRPC for twenty years or more. An Eco-AmeriCorps served at NRPC in FY 25.

### **UNMET NEEDS AND OTHER**

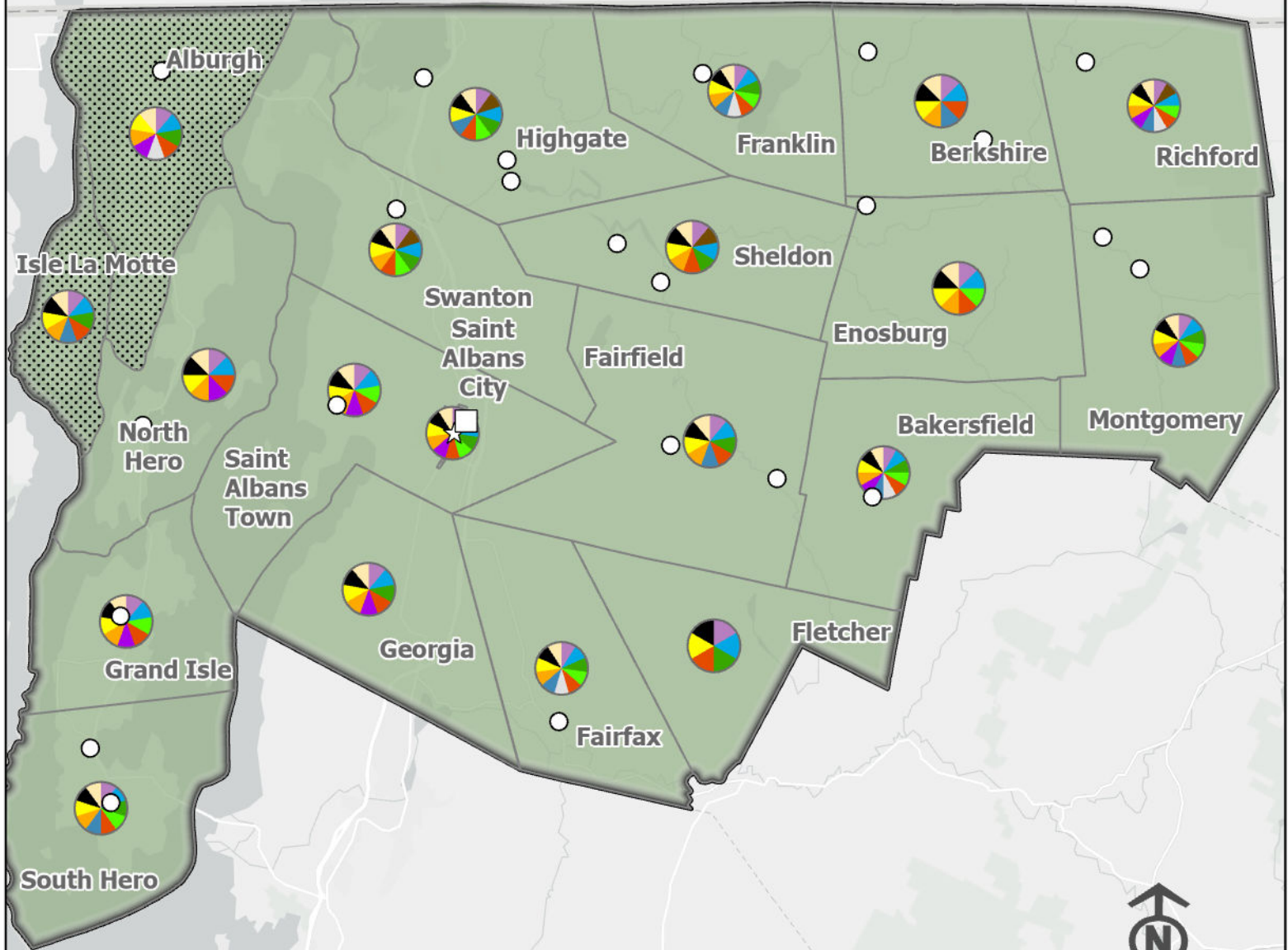
#### **Northwest Vermont Communications Union District**

NRPC continued providing administrative and governance support to the Northwest Vermont Communications Union District (dba Northwest Fiberworx). This Unit of Local Government, made of representatives from communities within the region (plus Milton in Chittenden County) was formed in 2020 to support the expansion of broadband services in the Region. Highlights from FY25 include supporting the CUD in partnering with a Services Provider for delivery of broadband infrastructure and services, serving as liaison between Operations and municipal officials for housing middle mile infrastructure, providing technical assistance to the NWCUD Governing Board, subcommittees and staff in developing administrative policies, accounting support and assisting with governance structures. Attended meetings of Governing Board and subcommittees as necessary or by request. NRPC has a Continuity of Operations agreement to provide administrative and accounting services to the CUD should their staffing be disrupted. The goal of Northwest Fiberworx is to deliver reliable, affordable high-speed internet to unserved and underserved residents in the region.

### **‘AT WORK’ MAP**

NRPC has updated its At Work Map depicting the range of services provided to its member municipalities in FY25. The map is available on the next page, and online at: <https://vapda-report-vapda.hub.arcgis.com/>

# NRPC At Work-FY2025



## Legend

**RPC Boundary**

**Zoning Status by Municipal Boundary**

- Adopted
- Flood Only
- None

**Municipal Plan Status by Municipal Boundary**

- Current
- Expired
- No Town Plan

**State Designations**

- Designated Downtown

- Designated Village
- Designated Growth Center
- Neighborhood Development Area
- New Town Center

## At Work Projects



- Act 181
- Brownfields
- Clean Water & Infrastructure

- Economic Development
- Energy Planning & Implementation
- Emergency Planning & Disaster Recovery
- Equity & Environmental Justice & Healthy Communities
- Grant Writing & Administration
- Housing
- Planning & Zoning
- Mapping
- Transportation Planning
- Unmet Needs & Other

