

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) serves the 27 municipalities of the Rutland Region in Southwest Vermont. Since its establishment in 1967, the RRPC has been committed to strengthening local capacity and advancing regional priorities by fostering collaboration among towns, state and federal agencies, and community partners. The Commission works to ensure that municipalities can provide effective local government services while addressing shared challenges and opportunities across the region.

RRPC's mission is to advocate for the needs of our member towns and to articulate a clear vision for a thriving, sustainable, and resilient Rutland Region. Our staff deliver technical assistance in land use, transportation, energy, emergency management, natural resources, and community and economic development. By combining local knowledge with regional coordination, RRPC supports projects and policies that enhance quality of life, protect natural and cultural resources, and promote long-term economic vitality for the communities we serve

PLANNING & ZONING

RRPC supports municipalities with town and regional planning, zoning bylaws, subdivision regulations, feasibility studies, and master planning—helping communities align local goals with state policy while fostering sustainable growth and development.

- In FY25, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission continued its work on a comprehensive update to the Rutland Regional Plan. The update process has emphasized transparency, innovation, and deep public engagement, ensuring that the voices of residents, municipalities, and partners are central to the final plan, with dominant themes of health, equity, and resilience.
- Following two years of broad outreach, the RRPC advanced into Phase 2 – Report Back and Phase 3 – Alignment of the public engagement strategy. In Phase 2, we returned to the public with a summary of what we had heard during initial engagement and shared a set of draft policies for review. This phase allowed residents, municipal leaders, and stakeholders to see how their input had been incorporated and to provide further guidance. Phase 3 built on this foundation by focusing on alignment—making sure the Plan's goals, policies, and strategies matched the needs of communities while meeting new state requirements under Act 181. To make the process accessible, RRPC offered three distinct pathways for engagement: a full draft of the plan for in-depth readers, concise chapter summaries for a quicker overview, and for the first time ever, "The Plan Visualized", a graphical depiction that transformed complex policies into an engaging, easy-to-understand format.
- A centerpiece of the plan update has been the creation of the new Regional Future Land Use Map (FLUA), the first to be developed under Vermont's Act 181 framework. This effort involved one of the most comprehensive outreach campaigns in RRPC's history. Staff held meetings in all 27 municipalities, engaged with local planning commissions and selectboards, and convened an ad hoc committee to provide technical and policy guidance. The RRPC Board of Commissioners also held multiple work sessions to ensure alignment with community values and statewide standards.
- The RRPC created a first ever Town Plan Toolkit – the resource provides tools, resources, and information for the region's Planning Commissions as they update their plan every 8 years.
- The RRPC used the Regional Plan to evaluate applications and participate in the Act 250 and Section 248 projects for substantial regional impact and conformance with the regional plan.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

- Provided technical assistance to twenty-one (21) planning commissions.
- Assisted with town plan updates for the towns of Benson, Castleton, Clarendon, Middletown Springs, Tinmouth, Wells, and West Haven.
- Assisted with zoning bylaw modernization, along with reviewing and updating zoning bylaws for conformance with the HOME Act for the towns of Castleton, Fair Haven, Mendon, and Pittsford.
- Assisted the Town of Sudbury with establishing a new village center designation.
- Provided guidance and technical assistance to Administrative Officers implementing local land use bylaws, subdivision regulations, and town plans.
- Hosted municipal training and roundtable on the Open Meeting Law with the Vermont Secretary of State.
- Hosted two municipal training courses on the Act 181 framework.

HOUSING

RRPC partners with towns, housing organizations, and developers to identify opportunities, secure funding, and manage projects that expand housing options and support vibrant, livable communities.

- Provided guidance to the Towns of Brandon and Fair Haven on actions needed to become eligible for a Neighborhood Development Area surrounding the towns designated centers.
- Supported the Housing Trust of Rutland County (HTRC) with Brownfields Assessments and Cleanup for new housing projects in Brandon, Rutland City, and West Rutland.
- Continue to support the regional Housing Resource Guide, which outlines up-to-date information on over 30 funding opportunities to lower development costs, and over 45 informational resources to support local developers and housing organizations. This regional guide was marketed electronically and on local bulletin boards across the region.
- Created municipal housing targets from the 2023 Rutland Region Housing Needs Assessment and 2025 State Housing Needs Assessment for inclusion into the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RRPC advances economic vitality by supporting local businesses and municipalities with strategic planning, feasibility studies, grant assistance, and projects that strengthen infrastructure, workforce, and community resilience.

- Continued participation in the West Central Vermont Economic Development District Board of Directors, further advancing the approval of an Economic Development District under the U.S. Economic Development Administration.
- Completed Phase 3 of the Rutland Asset Mapping Project (RAMP) through a Municipal Planning Grant with the Town of Brandon. The regional asset map was completed and a pilot RAMP events calendar feasibility was tested for a region-wide shared calendar.
- Partnered with Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) to rebrand RAMP and combine with the Real Rutland Initiative to create the Real Rutland Map. The project will now be a collaboration between the RRPC and CEDRR.
- Provided technical assistance to the City of Rutland for the development of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district.
- Continued to implement the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) in two communities, Benson and Pawlet. Completed preliminary design and public engagement for

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

improvements to community facilities in Benson, through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. This project seeks to enhance the accessibility, resiliency, and recreational value of the main public space in the Town of Benson – which contains the Public Library, Community Hall, and Town Clerk’s Office.

- Completed engineering design for improvements to the West Pawlet Wastewater Treatment Facility, through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. This project will lower operational expenses associated with the facility, which have increased due to declining demand and rising costs. Applied and selected to pursue funding through the Congressional Directed Spending (CDS).
- The RRPC helped Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board (RRWIB) form a new Board of Directors for 2024 – 2026 and worked to coordinate a bimonthly meeting schedule for the group. The Board is made up of representatives from major regional employers, the public school system, as well as state and local government.
- The RRPC applied for and was awarded the Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (WORC) 6 Grant from the US Department of Labor to establish an Education to Employment Bridge Program. The program has a goal of providing high school graduates, adult learners and new Americans access to free training leading to good jobs paying a liveable wage. The Bridge program works in partnership with local training programs delivered by Stafford Technical Center, Vermont Adult Learning , ReSOURCE and Vermont Works for Women. The first cohort of participants started in July with at least three additional training opportunities expected throughout the rest of the year. The participants will receive stipends upon training completion and will be matched with employers to support the Region’s workforce needs.
- The RRPC partnered with CEDRR to hold a Bring Back the Trades event for middle and high school students in and around Rutland County. The event was well attended and hosted over 2,200 students . The BBTT event, funded in part by the Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (WORC) grant, provides career exploration and awareness and supports outreach and enrollment for the RRPC’s Bridge Program. The event also provided an opportunity to engage with potential employers who could match with Bridge Program participants

EMERGENCY PLANNING & DISASTER RECOVERY

RRPC supports communities in all phases of emergency management—preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation—through trainings, exercises, and planning. We provide direct staff support during disasters, coordinate local damage assessments, and help towns complete mitigation priorities to strengthen long-term resilience.

- Maintained the structure and operations of the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC), which exists to coordinate emergency planning and preparedness activities. This included soliciting the reappointment of voting members for FY25; coordinating and supporting four (4) quarterly meetings; reviewing and amending the Regional Plan; and outlining regional coordination procedures and available resources to support local response efforts. In September 2024, REMC held a strategic discussion regarding the future of the committee based on current trends and needs; this served as one of the springboards jumpstarting the REMC-COAD partnership (see below). REMC also elected a new Chair for FY25, who served a complete one-year term.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

- Facilitated a formal partnership between the REMC and the Rutland Regional Disaster Cooperative (RRDC). The purpose of this partnership is to establish the foundation for a Regional emergency management support network. The RRDC vision is that this network will strengthen the Region's coordination in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters (which is the purpose of the REMC), while also addressing increasingly limited capacity issues at the local levels. For several months, a weekly sub-committee consisting of the RRPC, the RRDC, the VEM Regional Coordinator, and several local EMDs met to begin mapping out this vision and garnering local buy in. As a first step, municipalities were grouped into "sub-regions" for a series of facilitated discussions aimed at gathering trends in municipal needs before, during, and after a disaster. The first discussion, held in June 2025, had over 20 participants, including four Towns: Brandon, Chittenden, Killington, and Pittsford. The findings from this and subsequent exercises will inform which "community sector" organizations (businesses, non-profits, faith-based, government agencies, etc.) RRDC will approach to inquire about meeting these needs. The REMC-COAD partnership has a dedicated spot in the agenda to keep municipalities up to date on this effort, with the intent to invite EMDs from each sub-region to participate in the formation and findings of each facilitated discussion.
- Assisted individual municipalities with Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs). Middletown Springs submitted their Plan to Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) for Approval Pending Adoption (APA) in January 2025; Rutland Town in February 2025; and Fair Haven and Rutland City in April 2025. The last is a notable milestone for the City, as they have lacked an active Plan since the expiration of the Region's 2014 multijurisdictional LHMP. Benson also began the development of their Plan in April 2025, with Chittenden, Hubbardton, and Wells in the pipeline for FY26. As of the end of FY25, APA Status is still pending on the "core four" municipalities, given unprecedented delays at VEM.
- Developed "Whole Community" contacts for the Region, which are utilized in the public outreach conducted throughout the LHMP development process. In addition, Maggie went through significant training and onboarding to become the new lead for LHMPs.
- Transitioned the LEMP preparation and review duties to the new VEM Regional Coordinator for Bennington and Rutland Counties, William Jones. Reviewed LEMPs following their approval and updated municipal contacts as necessary.
- Coordinated with municipalities having the most promising projects for the DR-4720 funding round of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This included tours at the State Fairgrounds in Rutland City with VEM, ANR, the Rutland County Agricultural Society, and the City's Assistant Engineer; technical assistance sessions with Clarendon regarding the flood risk present at the bridge on Middle Road; communications and project scoping with VEM, VNRC, and the Town of Shrewsbury related to a potential project pairing a dam removal (Mountain School Road) with a culvert upgrade (Northam Road); and investigations regarding the status of the ongoing alternatives analysis for Poultney D&H Rail Trail Project. Ultimately, only one application was submitted by the April 30 deadline: the culvert upgrade on Clover Street.
- Worked with municipalities to maximize their State Emergency Relief Assistance Fund rating, including enrollment in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Served as a host location for the Statewide Binary Blizzard tabletop exercise; this was held in preparation for the Binary Blizzard Full-Scale Exercise in October 2025.
- Reviewed the Rutland Region Vulnerable Populations Communication Protocol with local municipal emergency management officials and regional social service agencies. While the Protocol was not activated in FY25, the annual VT-Alert drill, in conjunction with the annual

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

review of the Protocol, ensures both municipalities and social service agencies know what to do when the Protocol is activated. The VT-Alert “core” group of EMDs renewed their training for VT-Alert administration, allowing them to trigger the Protocol once through Everbridge, rather than making multiple separate phone calls.

- Hosted several meetings and trainings to strengthen local capacity for inclement weather planning and the Local Liaison response. Following revisions to the Local Liaison procedures in March 2025, RRPC held a seminar briefing Towns on these changes. All municipalities successfully participated in the June 2025 Local Liaison Drill triggered by VEM, and their response rates were impressive given the <24 hour time window.
- The Chittenden Reservoir Emergency Action Plan (CREAP) Team presented at the 2024 annual VEM Emergency Preparedness Conference. The presentation, which focused on partnership and capacity building with dam owners, was well received by attendees. Members of the group also participated in a statewide legislative dam safety committee; its purpose was to come up with recommendations related to municipalities having an emergency action plan for dams following the historic flooding events of July 2023. In coordination with GMP, the Chittenden Reservoir sirens and alert system continue to be tested twice a year. Using the shapefiles from the Kleinschmidt maps, RRPC developed inundation maps following a dam breach for Chittenden, Pittsford, Rutland Town, Rutland City, and Proctor..
- Participated in meetings of the Southern Regional Recovery Network, flood resilience workshops in Montpelier and Barre City, and multiple interviews related to State Flood Response, coalition building in the Champlain Adirondack biosphere network, and the future of hazard mitigation following the cancellation of BRIC funding..
- Two RRPC staff remain qualified to serve in the State Emergency Operations Center as needed.
- Annual Training with RRPC staff related to supporting the emergency management planner in the Local Liaison process. Staff are informed of municipal contact updates as they occur.
- Worked with Mount Tabor to complete a Flood Risk Scoping Study to evaluate alternatives for mitigating flood risk posed by the Big Branch tributary of the Otter Creek.
- Supported rollout of the Municipal Vulnerability Indicator Tool, developed by the Climate Action Office, to municipalities in the Rutland Region.

ENERGY PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

RRPC partners with towns, energy committees, and regional organizations to advance energy efficiency and resilience. We support MERP and federal grant programs, assist with Section 248 reviews, expand EV infrastructure, and help municipalities prepare Enhanced Energy Plans to meet state and local goals.

- Administered the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program (MERP) grant for the implementation phase of the program. This included helping municipalities apply for the Implementation Grant; assisting with the execution of the grant award agreements between Building & General Services (BGS) and municipalities; offering grant administration services for all awardees; assuming BGS-Town grant administration for the Towns of Benson, Pawlet, and West Haven; submitting building project forms for VDHP review; developing, posting, and advertising RFPs for the projects outlined in the municipal building energy assessments; attending site visits with bidders; and providing support to Selectboards in the RFP award process. RRPC continues to regularly meet with other RPCs and BGS to provide feedback and key input as the Implementation Phase progresses.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

- Assisted towns with MERP mini-grant implementation. This resulted in 1 energy efficiency event in Poultney and four Enhanced Energy Plans in Killington, Middletown Springs, Pittsford, and Tinmouth.
- Continued work on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and completed the Prime Resource Map analysis of land use and energy siting goals to demonstrate whether available non-forested land area is sufficient to meeting the renewable energy generation targets of the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan.
- Conducted outreach to all 27 municipalities to assist with Enhanced Energy Plans.
- Completed a final draft of the 2026 Rutland Regional Enhanced Energy Plan, including municipal energy targets for all towns in the Region.

CLEAN WATER & INFRASTRUCTURE

RRPC collaborates with the Agency of Natural Resources and local partners to advance clean water initiatives, including the South Lake Champlain Clean Water Service Provider and Basin Water Quality Council. We assist with watershed and tactical basin planning and support projects that protect water quality and strengthen community infrastructure.

- As the designated Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the South Lake Champlain Watershed, RRPC worked with our partner, the Poultney Mettewee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD), to continue readying natural-based projects for review by the Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC). Through an open-ended Requests for Projects process in FY25 and a total of 23 ongoing projects were identified by the CWSP as eligible or early stage (needing more analysis), or for design or completion in the South Lake Basin which extends from northern Bennington County to northern Addison County. The approved projects were in Dorset, Pawlet, Castleton, Fair Haven, Poultney, Addison, Orwell, Wells, Benson, Ira, and Panton. The total awards for projects as of the end of FY25 was over \$325,000. The CWSP also made progress on meeting the TMDL target for phosphorus reduction that is a requirement in our contract with DEC.
- Worked with Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), which was designated the CWSP for the Otter Creek Watershed, by being a member of its BWQC and providing input on projects proposed in that basin (which includes part of the Rutland Region) and by being a member of its finance committee.
- Worked with Benson, Orwell, and Mount Ascutney Regional Commission to secure a second Clean Water Design Implementation Block Grant to alleviate water quality and road erosion issues at Sunset Lake. A subcontractor will be selected to finalize a design and prepare the project for construction for reducing runoff and erosion from Lake Sunset Road from getting into the lake. The new owners of the former Boy Scout Camp that's adjacent to the road and the lake association have been included as key partners in the design process.
- Under an EPA/VDEC 604b grant, updated the State's Watershed Projects Database with Clean Water Act projects with projects from river plans in the Otter Creek and Poultney-Mettewee Basins.
- Provided outreach and assistance to 3-acre landowners interested in applying for funds from the state's Permit Obtainment Assistance Program.
- Worked with the City of Rutland and Rutland Town to conduct MS4-related public education and outreach work. The two municipalities are part of one impaired watershed that requires an MS4 permit.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

- Assisted towns of Pittsford, Pawlet, and Poultney on large-scale wastewater treatment facility projects to fund upgrades to aging municipal systems.

BROWNFIELDS

RRPC helps communities transform underutilized and contaminated properties into assets by securing EPA funding, conducting environmental assessments, and guiding redevelopment projects that support housing, economic development, and community revitalization.

- Performed assessment work for ten projects across four different municipalities: Rutland City, Rutland Town, Pittsford, and Proctor.
- Completed the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) of the Former Berwick Hotel and provided support for grant applications for cleanup. The redevelopment of this site into a new hotel is a focus of the Rutland City TIF District.
- Performed assessment work at the former Lynda Lee Fashions manufacturing facility in Rutland City, which is setting the stage for a redevelopment of the historic building. The redevelopment of this site is a focus of the Rutland City TIF District.
- Supported assessment at the former Vermont Marble Company facility in downtown Proctor, to redevelop the 26-acre property into a mixed-use development which will include light manufacturing.
- Performed assessment and planning work for East Creek Commons (Housing Project in Rutland City), Former College of Saint Joseph (Commercial Redevelopment Project for Casella Waste), Pittsford Village Farm (Community and Childcare Center), Former Rutland Plywood, and Vermont Farmers Food Center.
- Formalized the Brownfields Committee under the RRPC Board of Commissioners to enhance regional awareness, collaboration, and transparency.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

RRPC works with municipalities, VTrans, and regional partners to improve mobility, safety, and access. We support local and regional transportation planning, transit coordination, bike and pedestrian projects, and infrastructure investments that connect communities and strengthen the regional economy.

Objective #1: Enhance Cooperation and Coordination between VTrans, RPC Regions and Municipalities

- Held ten (10) Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.
- Worked with twenty seven (27) municipalities in the Rutland Region actively engaged in regional and municipal transportation planning.
- Reviewed four (4) plan sets for VTrans projects in Rutland Region.
- Organized and held monthly Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail Council meetings to discuss ongoing planning efforts, municipal level solutions, and the Missing Link property dispute preventing the completion of the trail between Poultney, VT and Granville, NY.
- Helped co-ordinate with Rutland City and VTrans about municipal desires for River Street bridge reconstruction and helped schedule public hearing on project.
- Sat on VTrans Rail Plan Advisory Committee, reviewed drafts and provided feedback

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

- Ongoing work with the Town of Mendon to help implement their US-4 Scoping Study, which has involved collaboration between Mendon, VTrans, Marble Valley Regional Transit District and the Green Mountain Club.

Objective #2: Better Connect Federal, Regional and Statewide Transportation Planning

- Serving as a Chair and Board Member of the Marble Valley Regional Transit District Board of Commissioners
- Helped lead successful implementation of Fixed Route Consolidation in Rutland City resulting in savings of upwards of \$100,000 with minimal impact to service
- Reviewed existing road surface data against current surface type
- Reviewed STIP and presented STIP to TAC Members
- Held ten (10) meetings of regional OA&D Advisory Committee.
- Participated in VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program Selection Committee.
- Coordinated four (4) activities in support of Regional Public Transit Providers (OA&D, Bus Board, Route Consolidation, and Bus Stop Improvement Planning).
- Finished drafting Regional Plan Transportation Chapter
- Created a new Rutland Airport Committee for the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport in collaboration with VTrans and CEDRR.

Objective #3: Provide Technical Assistance to Municipalities

- Held two Road Foreman Meetings, including special ‘Road Foreman Rodeo’ meeting with shoulder grading equipment demos and discussion of gravel road shoulder maintenance.
- Assisted West Rutland, Rutland City and Poultney with preparation for small-scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grants.
- Assisted Rutland City with preparing Large Scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant
- Provided technical assistance for Downtown Transportation Fund and Better Roads
- Provided MRGP compliance assistance for municipalities – training on permit requirements and how to use web-based and mobile app tools to manage road erosion inventories.
- Developed Downtown Bike Rack Plan for Rutland City.

Objective #4: Deliver Results that Advance VTrans Strategic and Long-Range Transportation Plans

- Conducted twenty-two (27) data collection activities for VTrans. (Traffic Counts, Bike Ped Counts, Park and Ride Counts, Sidewalk Inventories, Culvert Inventories.)
- Developed ROW Ash Tree Management plan for West Rutland, to help enhance safety and resiliency of road network

Objective #5: Provide a Mechanism for Improved Public Outreach and Education

- Held “traffic garden” event to allow young children to learn rules of the road for biking
- Provided dedicated public outreach support to Rutland City for their US-4/US-7 scoping project to better facilitate community feedback and awareness
- Visited numerous community events and select board meetings to facilitate feedback on Rutland Regional Plan Transportation Draft
- Partnered with VTrans to conduct public education campaign around Woodstock Ave and North Main Street Road Diet projects along with post construction data monitoring around travel time, safety and side street traffic
- Conducted dedicated outreach around VTrans grant opportunities

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

- Helped Marble Valley Transit develop and distribute fliers about OA&D program

MAPPING

RRPC provides mapping and data services that support local decision-making, from town plans and zoning updates to infrastructure projects and regional initiatives. Our GIS team delivers custom maps, data analysis, and visualization tools to help communities plan effectively and share information clearly.

- **Bolstering GIS Management:** In the past year the RRPC has taken significant steps in developing office-wide standard operating procedures when developing and delivering GIS solutions. Our work continues in developing time and cost-saving measures for in-house work by reducing redundant analysis and layout work.
- **Establishing the RPC GIS Group:** Continuing our efforts to increase communication between RPC GIS users we held quarterly meetings where attendees shared common workflows, tips, tricks and best practices. Collaborating with BCRPC and VCGI, a new Teams Channel devoted to the group has been created to share and ask questions between our regular quarterly meetings.
- **Led the Development of a New VAPDA At Work Map:** Recognizing the opportunity for improvement the RRPC collaborated with LCPC to prototype a new data schema and symbology for the Annual map thereby streamlining the mapping process and producing a more easily legible end product.
- **Town and Regional Planning:** Our GIS team collaborated with multiple towns, including Danby, Killington, Fair Haven, Mendon, Middletown Springs, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Poultney, West Rutland, Proctor, Pittsford, Wells, and West Rutland to create and update municipal plans and zoning maps, recreational trail feasibility maps, watershed analysis maps and more.
- **State Rail Trail Program Assistance:** The RRPC leveraged GIS solutions to assist the State Rail Trail Program and aid in the development of the Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail Management Plan. Further efforts were made to collaborate with cross-border partners to explore the completion of the trail between Poultney and Granville, NY utilizing GIS to identify potential alternative routes.
- **Emergency Management:** In alignment with ongoing emergency management planning efforts, our GIS team developed potential Local Hazard Vulnerability maps for several towns to enhance their Local Hazard Management Plans. These maps incorporate the latest data on flood zones, critical infrastructure, and vulnerable populations, providing towns with valuable resources to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. We also developed a map of Tinmouth and Wallingford for the Wallingford Rescue Squad.
- **Resiliency Support:** RRPC continued advancing resiliency planning by providing towns with updated maps of special flood hazard areas, river corridors, and site-specific flood hazards. This year we produced a map of inundation areas affected by a theoretical dam failure at the Chittenden Reservoir. Our work has enabled municipalities to better understand their risk profiles and implement targeted strategies to safeguard their communities against future hazards.

GRANT WRITING & ADMINISTRATION

RRPC assists towns and regional partners in securing state and federal funding through grant writing, project development, and compliance support. We also manage and administer grants that sustain

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

RRPC operations and ensure effective delivery of regional services.

- RRPC operates with a budget of over \$2 million, funded through federal, state, and local contracts, with base support from ACCD. In FY24, we successfully completed financial and performance reporting, leveraged ACCD funds to expand grant opportunities, and completed the FY23 audit with no findings or weaknesses.
- Updates were made to the RRPC Bylaws, Employee Handbook, and Financial Policies to enhance services, strengthen transparency, and improve employee recruitment and retention.
- RRPC created a new Board of Commissioners Handbook - a comprehensive resource designed to support our commissioners in their important role representing their communities and the region.
- RRPC continued to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion by applying engagement strategies from Plan 2026 to other planning efforts and regional initiatives.
- RRPC served as Municipal Project Manager for three VTrans-funded scoping studies. In Brandon, the study is evaluating different alternatives for a shared-use path between downtown Brandon and the Village of Forest Dale. In Proctor, the study is evaluating different alternatives for safe and accessible pedestrian and bicyclist facilities to connect the towns of Proctor, Pittsford, and West Rutland. In Rutland City, the study is evaluating alternatives to improve the safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists at two key intersections on US Route 7 – at Woodstock Avenue and West Street.
- RRPC served as Municipal Project Manager for three VTrans-funded construction projects. In Rutland Town, the project involves the design and construction of a 1,685-foot-long shared-use path on the west side of US Route 7 North, from the City/Town line to Post Road. In Wallingford, the project includes design and replacement of 2,100 feet of sidewalk on School Street (VT Route 140). The RRPC successfully supported this project in receiving supplemental grant funding. In West Rutland, the improvements include design and construction of a 2,900-foot-long shared-use path connecting Thrall Avenue and Gilmore Street in the West Rutland Village Center.
- RRPC served as Project Manager for a scoping study funded by a Flood Resilient Communities Fund grant. The study is evaluating alternatives to reduce the flood risk posed by Big Branch on assets along Brooklyn Road in the town of Mount Tabor.
- RRPC served as project manager for the West Pawlet D&H Rail Trail Improvement Project funded through VOREC.
- Assisted West Rutland, Rutland City and Poultney with preparation for small-scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grants.
- Assisted Rutland City with preparing Large Scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant.
- Successfully applied for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for the West Pawlet Wastewater Project.
- Assisted towns of Sudbury, West Haven, West Rutland, and Rutland City on Municipal Planning Grant applications.

ACT 181

RRPC is actively implementing Vermont's landmark land use reform, Act 181. This work includes developing the regional Future Land Use Map, supporting towns with zoning and subdivision updates, and providing training and technical assistance to help communities align with new state standards and access Act 250 exemptions.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

- The RRPC held two regional trainings to educate municipal officials and public on Act 181 with special highlights to the designation program, Act 250, and regional future land use maps. There were nearly 100 participants at training.
- RRPC met with all Tier 1 potential towns to inform them of any eligibility requirements needed to qualify for the new exemptions. RRPC is working with Brandon, Fair Haven, Killington, Pittsford, Proctor, and Rutland City on zoning bylaws, subdivision regulations, flood hazard/river corridors, and downtown or neighborhood development areas.
- RRPC created a draft of the regional future land use map and met with all towns in the Region to review the map changes, refine the map based on local input, and create a final draft for LURB review.

EQUITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

RRPC assists towns and regional partners in securing state and federal funding through grant writing, project development, and compliance support. We also manage and administer grants that sustain RRPC operations and ensure effective delivery of regional services.

- The RRPC incorporated an equity analysis, supported by a health equity grant, into the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan update. As part of the analysis, an intersectional approach to demographic data and the social drivers of health was used to examine the existing and potential impacts of planning across sectors. The purpose of the analysis was to mitigate potential disparities for historically marginalized communities, especially in rural areas, and achieve more equitable outcomes as part of the plan's update.
- RRPC completed Phase 3 of the Rutland Asset Mapping Project (RAMP) in collaboration with CEDRR to advance healthy equity and healthy communities.

UNMET NEEDS & OTHER

RRPC is more than a planning and development organization, we are a partner to towns as new challenges and opportunities arise. From special projects to emerging priorities, we stand ready to assist municipalities with the tools, expertise, and coordination needed to ensure strong, resilient, and well-supported communities.

- RRPC assumed financial management and administrative responsibilities for the Otter Creek Communications Union District, ensuring sound fiscal oversight and organizational support for regional broadband expansion.
- RRPC launched a new quarterly forum bringing together town managers, administrators, and the Regional Development Corporation to coordinate projects, share resources, and strengthen collaboration across the Rutland Region.
- RRPC partnered with VLCT to host the first-ever Regional Selectboard Meet-Up. Due to high demand for more coordination, RRPC has continued with quarterly meet-ups, creating a forum to discuss shared challenges, explore funding opportunities, and strengthen municipal connections through peer-to-peer collaboration—with special emphasis on shared services, personnel, and resources.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

FY 2025 Annual Report

‘AT WORK’ MAP

RRPC 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/>

RRPC At Work-FY2025

