CVRPC Regional Plan Committee

3 November 2026

Agenda

- **4:00 Begin Recording**
- 4:01 Call to Order & Roll Call
- 4:05 Updates to Agenda
- 4:10 Public Comment
- 4:15 Review & approve the 6 October 2026 Meeting Minutes (action)
- 4:20 The Board Adopted the Regional Plan. Now what? (discussion)
- 4:30 Committee Perspective: Priority Issues for the Regional Plan Update (discussion)
- 5:00 Staff Perspective: An Inventory of Assets & Priority Issues for the Regional Plan Update (discussion)
- 5:20 Regional Plan Update Timeline (discussion)
- 5:30 Adjourn

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Committee Perspective Discussion Topics

- Suggested topics from email correspondence with Committee Chair
  - Document length
  - Chapter format & approach
  - Revisit how Policies are presented
- Other topics / Committee priorities?

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Aspirations, Goals, Policies & Strategies

Element	Status
Natural Systems	Draft Aspiration, Goals, Policies & Strategies
Energy	Draft Aspiration, Goals, Policies & Strategies
Transportation	Draft Aspiration, Goals, Policies & Strategies
Infrastructure	Draft Aspiration, Goals, Policies & Strategies
Housing	Draft Aspiration, Goals, Policies & Strategies
Economy & Working Lands	Draft Aspiration, Goals, Policies & Strategies
Land Use	Not yet drafted
Resilience	Not yet drafted

Other Content

Topic	Comment
How to read this plan	See Addison County Regional Planning Commission (p 4)
Compatibility	See Addison County Regional Planning Commission (p 246) or Northwest Regional Planning Commission (p 18)
Implementation	See Bennington County Regional Commission (p 359) & Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (p 220)
Regional Profile	See Northwest Regional Planning Commission (p 3) & Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (p 17)
Cultural Resources	Currently in Infrastructure Chapter
Climate Change	THREAD - integrate into every chapter
Environmental Justice / Equitable Planning (?)	• THREAD - integrate into every chapter • Do we want / need standalone Aspiration, Goals, Strategies & Policies? • Interpret & contextualize the benefits & burdens table (currently in Appendix D)

Outreach & Public Participation

- What DID / DID NOT work?
  - Selectboard & Planning Commission meetings
  - Office hours
  - Hand delivering document & map drafts to municipal offices & libraries
  - Messaging
- Ideas to promote
  - Earlier involvement
  - Broader participation
  - Collaboration

Document Length

- Document length is not a primary measure of quality; it is a constraint to be managed.
  - Length: How much material does the reader need to navigate?
  - Density: How much complexity does each page / section impose?
  - Usability: How easily can a reader find, understand and apply the information they need?
- The plan should be no longer than necessary to fulfill its purpose, but no shorter than necessary to explain its conclusions, support its policies, and make its recommendations usable.
  - Objective: reduce length while preserving the Plan’s essential functions
- Accessibility is a requirement of effective communication, not a design preference that should compete with brevity
  - Establish design standards (typography, layout, visual communication, tables & digital accessibility)

Benchmarks to Assess Document Length

1. Purpose & obligations: Does the plan contain the analyses, maps, policies and implementation direction needed to meet applicable statutory requirements and its stated objectives?
    - Required statutory content remains adequate
    - Important findings retain their supporting evidence
    - The document remains accessible and usable
2. Audience needs: Can municipal officials, planners, residents and other users find the information relevant to their decisions without having to read the entire plan cover to cover?
    - Test whether people can use the document (e.g. find the regional policy on growth in existing settlement areas)
3. Comparable Plans: How does the draft compare with other regional plans of similar geographic scope, analytical complexity and legal purpose?
    - Total pages & word count
    - # of chapters & appendices
    - Font size, line spacing & proportion of pages occupied by maps, tables & graphics
    - Technical inventories: main document or appendices
4. Marginal value: Does each section add information, evidence, explanation or direction that the reader cannot readily get elsewhere in the plan?
    - Keep, shorten, consolidate, relocate or remove

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