



CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, WINOOSKI, VT

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) combined its CEDS, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and its Regional Plan in 2013 thanks to a Partnership for Sustainable Communities grant. This plan, called the ECOS (Environment. Community. Opportunity. Sustainability) Plan was required to address equity, and 'Ensuring Equity' became two of the ten guiding principles. Number 8 of the 'Strategies and Actions' is to: "Ensure That The Projects And Actions In All ECOS Strategies Assess Equity Impacts, And That The Design And Development Of Programs Are Inclusive Of All And Engage Underrepresented Populations."

The Commission publishes an ECOS Annual Report, including the 2020 Annual Report focused on inequities, and is interested in finding more tools to better assess impacts to underrepresented communities. While equity focused work wasn't generally seen as a priority in 2013, that changed in 2020 with the murder of George Floyd. CCRPC joined with the City of Burlington and 30 other County organizations declaring racism a public health emergency. Using MPO funds, CCRPC brought on a DEI Consultant who completed an equity assessment of the organization and led a CCRPC sponsored Equity

Summit in November 2021. Takeaways from the Summit and work by the Consultant led to an [Equity Assessment Report](#) with recommendations that were presented to CCRPC's board in 2022.

CCRPC is working to address equity with internal and external partners. CCRPC has an equity leadership team made up of Board members and staff, with the intention to soon include community members. The Commission has also partnered with the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, which is beginning convenings with 30 organizations this spring. While CCRPC has been making progress to address equity in the region, it has also come across challenges. This is still an evolving issue and CCRPC is still determining how to incorporate equity into its CEDS. They have contracted with Vermont Professionals of Color Network to help with public engagement as they begin to prepare the next CEDS, with a particular goal of incorporating perspectives of under-represented business owners.

Links:

[Racial Equity_page](#)
[ECOS Plan](#)

