



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Shape Our Future Together

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Introduction

The development of the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan (the Plan) was guided by a vision of the kind of place the Region’s residents want it to become in the coming decades. Community engagement—the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people linked by location, shared interests, or similar situations to address issues affecting their well-being—was a core part of this update. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (the RRPC) committed to an equitable and transparent process based on the Engagement Strategy prepared by *b Creative* in October 2023. The Strategy is included as **Appendix A**.

The Engagement Strategy outlined three phases, each aligned with key milestones in the Plan development process. In Phase 1 - Learn & Assess, the RRPC began the Plan update by launching a broad advertising campaign and offering the Region opportunities to provide feedback on priorities important to them. In Phase 2 - Report Back, the RRPC shared what it heard in Phase 1 with the Region and asked for reactions to the draft Plan policies, which were shaped by input from Phase 1. In Phase 3 - Alignment, the RRPC aimed to achieve alignment on the whole draft Plan, including the Regional Future Land Use Map.

This report summarizes the RRPC’s efforts during each phase of engagement. Since community members took time out of their day to participate in the process, it also contains a record of comments received.


Phase 1 - Learn & Assess


Phase 1 engagement was completed between January and April 2024, coinciding with the start of the Plan update, to help the RRPC understand the Region’s concerns and needs. This input was essential for describing current conditions in the Region, future aspirations, and how to reach the community economic development goals.

The outcome of the Learn & Assess Phase was a shared understanding of baseline conditions along with the strengths, assets, and challenges present in the Region.

Methods of Engagement

A combination of active and passive engagement methods was used during Phase 1 to inform and gather input from the Region. A dedicated effort was made to ‘meet people where they are’ to ensure full public access to the planning process. A summary of the Phase 1 methods is included here.

 **Advertising Campaign:** To notify the Region about the Plan update and opportunities for engagement, the RRPC launched an initial advertising campaign. Materials directed people to the landing page and promoted the online survey. Announcements were published in the RRPC e-Newsletter, town newsletters, on PEG-TV, and in regional newspapers (Rutland Herald, VT Digger, Mountain Times, Brandon Reporter, Lakeside News & Rutland Sun). Paid advertisements were posted on Facebook and Front Porch Forum. Physical flyers were posted in multiple locations in each of the Region’s 27 municipalities. Sample advertising materials are provided in **Appendix B**.

 **Landing Page & Dedicated Email:** The RRPC developed a dedicated landing page (www.rutlandrpc.org/plan2026) to serve as a central online hub for accessing all pertinent information about the Plan update and opportunities for engagement. The landing page remained in effect throughout all phases of engagement and included links to a dedicated email (plan2026@rutlandrpc.org). The dedicated email ensured that all emailed comments were centralized in one location, rather than being sent to multiple RRPC staff members.



★ **Online Survey:** The online survey was an essential tool for the ‘Learn & Assess’ phase, as it provided the basis for initial outreach. The survey was open from January to March 2024. It included 29 questions – 21 multiple choice and eight open response. To incentivize participation, respondents were entered into a raffle to win a Solo Stove. The RRPC received 1,143 responses, exceeding our goal of 1,000. Survey results are presented in **Appendix B**.

★ **In-person Presentations:** The RRPC attended public meetings with town Selectboards, the Rutland City Board of Aldermen, the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region, Project VISION, ARC Rutland Area, Rutland County Continuum of Care Coalition, and the RRPC Board of Commissioners to directly connect with local leaders and residents about the Plan update, promote the landing page, and Phase 1 opportunities for engagement. The presentation is provided in **Appendix B**.

★ **Pop-ups:** This outreach technique was effective for reaching sectors of the Region that might not have otherwise participated in a public planning effort. For this engagement method, the RRPC set up an information table at 20 events in 18 municipalities. At most events, the RRPC interacted with 15-40 people. However, at the Rutland Free Library Book Sale, we connected with 60 people; at the Winterfest Chili Cookoff, with 75 people; and at the Snow Days at Mountain Top Inn, with 100 people. The pop-up events are listed below. For those wanting to stay connected, a signup sheet was provided for people to join the Plan Update email list. Pop-up poster results are provided in **Appendix B**.

- 1) Tinmouth: Story Slam, January 12, 2024
- 2) Benson: Neighbor to Neighbor Event, January 17, 2024
- 3) Wallingford: Rotary Club Annual Roast Pork Dinner, January 20, 2024
- 4) Poultney: Stone Valley Arts Open Mic, January 26, 2024
- 5) Chittenden: Blue Cross Blue Shield Snow Days at Mountain Top Inn, January 27, 2024
- 6) Rutland City: Rutland Free Library Book Sale, February 9, 2024
- 7) West Rutland: Red Cross Blood Drive, February 9, 2024
- 8) Ira: Annual Cabin Fever Pot Luck, February 10, 2024
- 9) Pittsford: Senior Lunch, February 15, 2024
- 10) Rutland City: Winterfest Chili Cookoff, February 17, 2024
- 11) Rutland City: Winterfest Drag Show, February 23, 2024
- 12) Killington: Transfer Station, February 25, 2024
- 13) Proctor: Senior Lunch, February 28, 2024
- 14) Fair Haven: Meet the Candidates Forum, March 2, 2024
- 15) Wells: Voting Day at Town Office, March 5, 2024
- 16) Rutland Town: Transfer Station, March 6, 2024
- 17) Mount Holly: Transfer Station, Mar 10, 2024
- 18) Mendon: CEDRR Mixer at Vista Senior Living, March 12, 2024
- 19) Clarendon: Mill River Union High School Parent-Teacher Conferences, March 14, 2024
- 20) Shrewsbury: Pancake Breakfast, March 30, 2024

★ **Community Open Houses:** The RRPC sponsored five Open House events distributed across the Region. These events were coordinated with local officials in the host municipality and scheduled at times intended to maximize attendance.



Phase 1 Survey Promo



Pop-up at the BCBS Show Days Event in Chittenden



Four events took place on a Saturday, with the fifth held on a Wednesday evening in Rutland City. Printed poster boards were displayed throughout the venue, featuring questions for attendees to respond to. Each event was staffed by RRPC employees and 2-3 members of the RRPC Board of Commissioners, who greeted guests at the door and circulated the room to help with any questions. The Open House events are listed below. Attendance at the events ranged from 10 to 20 people. Open House poster results are provided in **Appendix B**.

- 1) Brandon: Brandon Inn, February 10, 2024, 10 am–12 noon
- 2) Castleton: Village School, March 2, 2024, 1-3 pm
- 3) Middletown Springs: Town Office, March 16, 2024, 11 am–1 pm
- 4) Wallingford: Gilbert Hart Library, March 30, 2024, 11 am-1 pm
- 5) Rutland City: Paramount Theatre, April 17, 2024, 5-8 pm



Open House Social Media Announcement

★ **Stakeholder Engagement:** Sometimes, it can be difficult to obtain attendance or input from key stakeholders when reaching out to the broader public. Therefore, the RRPC identified important stakeholders and created more structured settings to gather feedback from state and local government, business owners, non-profits, community-based organizations, underrepresented populations (minority, aging, low-income communities), schools, youth, and persons with disabilities. This sometimes involved participating in public meetings of stakeholder groups, like the Stafford Technical Center Regional Advisory Board meeting and Project VISION monthly meeting; attending special events, such as the Otter Valley Middle School Career Day; conducting interviews with subject matter experts, like the Vermont State Archeologist and Vermont Arts Council; or hosting a Focus Group to discuss priorities and concerns with attendees from multiple organizations. Stakeholder engagement conducted in Phase 1 is summarized by chapter in the table below.

Phase 1 Stakeholder Engagement by Chapter

<p>Chapter 3: Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter Valley Middle School Career Day • Vermont Student Assistance Corporation Fair at VSU-Castleton • Stafford Technical Center Regional Advisory Board • Focus Group with Casella Waste Systems and Killington Resort
<p>Chapter 4: Cultural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Group with Vermont Historical Society, Middletown Springs Historical Society, and Vermont Division for Historic Preservation • Preservation Trust of Vermont • Vermont Arts Council • Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Tribe • Nulhegan Abenaki Band • Vermont State Archeologist
<p>Chapter 5: Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRPC Transportation Advisory Council • Rutland Southwestern Vermont Regional Airport
<p>Chapter 6: Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless Prevention Center • Rutland County Continuum of Care Coalition • Habitat for Humanity
<p>Chapter 7: Community Facilities and Public Utilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus Group with Community Care Network/Rutland Mental Health, Bouse Health Trust-Rutland Regional Medical Center, and Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging • Project VISION • ARC Rutland Region



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus Group with Pine Hill Park Association, Vermont Adaptive, Shrewsbury Sno-Birds, Vermont State Parks, Municipal Recreation Departments-Brandon, Killington, Poultney, Rutland City, Proctor, Rutland Town, Wallingford
Chapter 8: Enhanced Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus Group with Regional Energy Committees-Brandon, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Pawlet
Chapter 9: Working Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermont Natural Resources Council Northern Woodlands Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation VT Releaf Collective Migrant Justice Vermont Forest Products Association Gagnon Lumber Vermont Forestry Foundation Sean Barrows Saw Mill
Chapter 10: Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Chapter 11: Climate Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermont Department of Health Vermont Climate Action Office Vermont Natural Resources Council Vermont League of Cities and Towns Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee

Key Takeaways

During Phase 1, multiple recurring themes were identified. These ‘key takeaways’ are a digestible summary of what the RRPC heard across all engagement methods. Key takeaways by chapter are presented in the table below.

When asked about the Region’s strengths or assets, the top three responses were the natural landscape, the people and sense of community, and access to recreational assets. When asked about the Region’s weaknesses or threats, the top three responses were the housing market, substance abuse, and limited economy.



Phase 1 Regional Weaknesses and Strengths

Phase 1 Key Takeaways by Chapter

Chapter 2: Land Use	Growth is desired in downtown and village centers, such as Rutland City, Brandon, Fair Haven, and Poultney. Preserve and conserve the natural landscape and rural areas.
Chapter 3: Economic Development	There is concern about the Region's economy. Many residents specifically called for growth in industrial and manufacturing jobs, trade positions, and higher-wage careers. There was also a desire for increased capacity and programming at technical centers, along with more internship and externship programs for high school and college students. Concerns were raised about the lack of recruitment of a new workforce and the retention of young adults. People value that Rutland City serves as an economic driver for the Region. Efforts should focus on attracting new businesses and employment opportunities to diversify the tax base.

<p>Chapter 4: Cultural Resources</p>	<p>The most frequently mentioned cultural resources included the Region’s downtowns, water recreation sites, parks, and trail systems. The natural landscape was also among the most commonly mentioned cultural and scenic resources. Additionally, there was a strong desire for more annual festivals across the Region, especially pride festivals and centers. People believed that incorporating certain historical or culturally significant topics into school curriculums would be the best way to pass down that history.</p>
<p>Chapter 5: Transportation</p>	<p>Feedback highlighted the need for improved road maintenance and upkeep, as well as better-maintained sidewalks and bike paths to enhance active transit options. The community highly values driving and walking. Regarding public transit, there were requests for improved bus schedules, routes, and accessibility. While many people said they do feel safe, they believe that reducing vehicle speeds would further enhance their safety.</p>
<p>Chapter 6: Housing</p>	<p>Affordable housing was a main issue throughout all the engagement efforts. It, along with a general lack of housing in the Region, was identified as a top concern by the priority dot poster and was among the most frequently mentioned weaknesses. Other housing-related themes included the need to address homelessness, the shortage of rental units, and the importance of restoring old and blighted housing stock. Frustrations were also expressed regarding Act 250 and the developmental restrictions in the state.</p>
<p>Chapter 7: Community Facilities and Public Utilities</p>	<p>Affordable childcare was among the most desired community facilities. Other less common themes included a desire for more indoor and outdoor recreation options (like expanding trail networks), enhanced public safety facilities (such as police and EMS), and additional community events and gathering places (like a movie theater). Residents feel there are limited options for community events and gathering spots. Many also believe that mental health and substance abuse resource facilities are needed.</p>
<p>Chapter 8: Enhanced Energy</p>	<p>Most people strongly believe that it is important to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and start exploring renewable energy options. People said they think it is important to lower greenhouse gas emissions, and they showed a strong preference for solar energy over other renewable sources. Many expressed concern about the high cost of energy, followed by worries about the climate impact of energy use. For individual homeowners and businesses, weatherization and heat pumps were the most popular energy projects.</p>
<p>Chapter 9: Working Landscape</p>	<p>The community expressed that the most important aspect of a strong agricultural system in Vermont is providing access to fresh, healthy foods. There is a high demand for locally sourced foods, including more farmers markets and community gardens. Additional benefits of a strong agricultural system include preserving farmland and supporting CSAs.</p>
<p>Chapter 10: Natural Resources</p>	<p>Protecting the natural landscape was one of the most important and widely agreed-upon topics throughout the entire engagement process. Community members especially cherish water resources and forests. A desire to improve accessibility for beginners and people with disabilities to natural resource sites, as well as to extend and connect hiking and biking trails, was also frequently mentioned.</p>
<p>Chapter 11: Climate Resilience</p>	<p>People reported feeling neutral or disagreed that the Region is prepared for natural disasters. There were also calls for flood prevention infrastructure and concerns about changing winters affecting winter recreation. Flooding and temperature fluctuations were identified as the biggest climate-related concerns.</p>



Phase 2 - Report Back

Phase 2 engagement was completed between September and November 2024. The RRPC closed the feedback loop by reporting back the key takeaways from Phase 1 and asked the Region to respond to the draft policies, which outline how the Region would achieve the Plan's goals for community economic development. The RRPC asked if 1) respondents agreed with the key takeaways and draft policies, and 2) if anything was missing that the RRPC should consider.

The outcome of the Report Back Phase was validation from the Region that the Plan's policies were on target.

Methods of Engagement

Building on the most successful methods used in Phase 1, a mix of active and passive engagement techniques was used in Phase 2 to notify and gather input from the Region. A focused effort was made to 'meet people where they are' to ensure full public access to the planning process. A summary of the Phase 2 methods is included here.

★ **Advertising Campaign:** To inform the Region about the Phase 2 goals and opportunities for engagement, the RRPC launched a second advertising campaign. Materials directed people to the updated landing page and promoted the online survey. Announcements were sent to the Plan Update email list, and published in the RRPC e-Newsletter, town newsletters, on PEG-TV, and in regional newspapers (Rutland Herald, VT Digger, Mountain Times, Brandon Reporter, Lakeside News & Rutland Sun). Paid advertisements were posted on Facebook and Front Porch Forum. Physical flyers were posted in multiple locations in each of the Region's 27 municipalities.



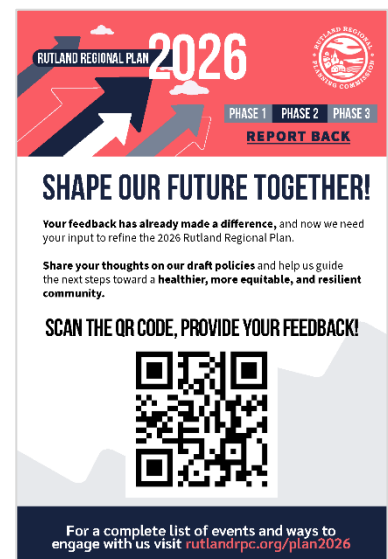
Phase 2 Survey Raffle Winner Cheryl Murray

★ **Online Survey:** The online survey gathered public reaction to the Phase 1 key takeaways and draft policies. It was open from September to November 2024. The same two questions were asked for each of the Plan's 10 topical chapters: 'Do you agree or disagree with the key takeaways and draft policies?' and 'Is there something missing we should consider?' To encourage participation, survey respondents were entered into a raffle to win a \$200 gift certificate to the Paramount Theatre. The RRPC received 345 responses. Survey results are provided in **Appendix C**.

★ **In-person Presentations:** The RRPC attended public meetings with town Selectboards, the Rutland City Board of Aldermen, the RRPC Transportation Advisory Committee, and the RRPC Board of Commissioners to directly connect with local leaders and residents about the Phase 1 key takeaways and draft policies. The presentation is provided in **Appendix C**.

★ **Pop-ups:** This outreach technique was effective for reaching sectors of the Region that might not have otherwise participated in a public planning effort. During Phase 2, the RRPC set up an information table at five events, listed below. Unlike Phase 1, no feedback was collected during the Phase 2 pop-ups. Flyers were distributed to promote the online survey.

- 1) Wells: Methodist Church Rummage Sale, Sept 27, 2024
- 2) Benson: Village Store Barn Raising, Oct 12, 2024
- 3) Chittenden: Barstow Memorial School Bake Sale/Flea Market, Oct 12, 2024
- 4) Killington: Halloween Trunk or Treat, Oct 25, 2024
- 5) Brandon: Downtown, Oct 31, 2024



Phase 2 Survey Promo





FEEDBACK SESSION #1

We're at the mid-point in the plan update and need your continued input to make sure we're on track! Attend the Feedback Session to share your thoughts on the plan's draft policies.

WEDNESDAY
September 25, 2024

6:00-7:30 PM
Refreshments provided!

Virtual via MS Teams
rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

In-Person
16 Evelyn Street, 2nd Floor

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE 2026

Feedback Session Social Media Announcement

★ **Feedback Sessions:** Given the breadth of material available for the public to review and react to, the RRPC hosted two hybrid feedback sessions, each lasting approximately 2 ½ hours. While attendance at the sessions was limited, the comments received on the draft policies were detailed. These sessions were recorded, and the videos were posted on the landing page and the RRPC YouTube channel. Input received during the sessions is provided in **Appendix C**.

★ **Stakeholder Engagement:** Building on the stakeholder engagement conducted in Phase 1, the RRPC staff shared working drafts of their chapters during Phase 2 with key stakeholders and subject matter experts to solicit informal review comments. Annette Smith, Executive Director of Vermonters for a Clean Environment, provided review comments on all draft chapters. Stakeholder engagement by chapter is provided below.

Phase 2 Stakeholder Engagement by Chapter

<p>Chapter 3: Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyle Jepson, Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region • Laura Black, Town of Shrewsbury • Arwen Turner, Come Alive Outside • Bill Moore, Brandon Assistant Town Manager • Wendy Morse, Vermont Department of Labor • Rob Stubbins, Stubbins Electrical and General Contractor • Ellen Coyle, City of Rutland • Michelle Daniels, GE Aeronautics • John Casella, Casella, Inc. • Tanner Romano, Naylor and Breen • Melissa Connor and Gwen Hagenbarth, Staffard Technical Center • David Justice and Jeff Nerney, Vermont Adult Learning • Missy Macklin, Vermont Works for Women • Andrew Jope and Pam Laser, ReSOURCE Vermont • Kim Griffin, The MINT
<p>Chapter 4: Cultural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Doyle, Preservation Trust of Vermont • Laura Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer • Lisa Mitchell, Vermont Arts Council • David Wright, Middletown Springs Historical Society • Chad Miller & Sherry White, Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe • Bill Ramage • Jess Robinson, Vermont State Archaeologist • Eileen P. Corcoran, Vermont Historical Society • Chief Don Stevens & Brian Cheney, Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe • Brad Bender, Danby Historical Society • Breanna Sheehan, Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs • Andy Kolovos, Vermont Folklife
<p>Chapter 5: Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith Dall, VTrans Planning Coordinator • Otis Munroe, VTrans Environmental Planning Coordinator • Dan Currier, VTrans Public Transit Coordinator
<p>Chapter 6: Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Cohen, Housing Trust of Rutland County



<p>Chapter 8: Enhanced Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leslie Cadwell, Energy Lawyer
<p>Chapter 9: Working Landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Willard, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets • Madeline Sharrow, Migrant Justice • Samantha Langevin and Jennifer Morton-Dow, Releaf • Meadow Squier, Squier Farms • Kenneth Gagnon, Vermont Forest Products Association • Sean Barrows, Vermont Forestry Foundation • Robert Congdon, Rutland County Agricultural Society • Philip Ackerman Leist, Regenerative Farmer • Joshua Faulkner, UVM Extension • Heidi Lynch, Vermont Farmers Food Center • Joshua Halman, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation • Jamie Fidel, Vermont Natural Resources Council • Elise Tillinghast, Northern Woodlands • Mark Raishart, County Forester • Amy Scott, BROCC • Lechelle-Antonia Gray, Hunger Free Vermont • Becka Warren, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund
<p>Chapter 10: Natural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bennet Leon, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Air Quality Division • Samantha Langevin and Jennifer Morton-Dow, Releaf • Chief Don Stevens, Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe • Joel Flewelling and James Brady, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation • Benjamin Dejon, Vermont Geological Survey • Ben Montross, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Groundwater & Drinking Water Protection Division • Jon Groveman and Jamie Fidel, Vermont Natural Resources Council • Jens Hilke, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department • Mary Beth Poli, Ducks Unlimited • Louise Duda, Shrewsbury Conservation Commission • Elizabeth Cooper, Middletown Springs Conservation Commission • Mark Raishart, County Forester
<p>Chapter 11: Climate Resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marian Wolz, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Climate Action Office • Josh Carvajal, Kyle Medash, Shannon Pytlik, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Rivers and Floodplains Programs • Emergency Management Planners from all RPCs • Walter Brownridge, Zoraya Hightower, Amy Redman, Environmental Justice Advisory Council • Abbey Willard, Andrea Wright, Kelly Klein, Vermont Climate Council • Destinee Pierce, Vermont Environmental Justice Network • Renee Bousquet, Eric Pulver, Jared Ulmer, Vermont Department of Health • Caroline Paske and Stephanie Smith, Vermont Emergency Management • Laura Calvin Bailey, Vermont Council on Rural Development • Katie Buckley and Josh Hanford, Vermont League of Cities and Towns • Daniel Fingas and Johanna Miller, Vermont Natural Resources Council



Phase 3 - Alignment

Phase 3 engagement was completed between April and June 2025, culminating with the release of a draft Plan. In this final engagement phase, the RRPC sought alignment on the draft Plan, including the 2026 Regional Future Land Use Map. Specifically, the RRPC asked the Region if 1) the Plan reflected the right community economic development priorities, and 2) whether these priorities would make the Region a desirable place to live, work, and play.

The draft Plan was several hundred pages. Recognizing that the sheer volume of material could be a barrier to engagement, the RRPC thoughtfully prepared a Plan Visualized graphic depicting regional priorities and one-page chapter summaries to make the material more accessible.

Methods of Engagement

Building on the most successful methods from Phases 1 and 2, a mix of active and passive engagement techniques was used in the third phase to inform and gather input from the Region. A concerted effort was made to ‘meet people where they are’ to ensure full public access to the planning process. A summary of the Phase 3 methods is included here.

★ **Advertising Campaign:** To inform the Region about the Phase 3 goals and opportunities for engagement, the RRPC launched a third advertising campaign. Materials directed people to the updated landing page, with links to the Plan Visualized graphic, chapter summaries, a complete draft, an online survey, and a schedule for Act 181 Trainings and town meetings. Announcements were sent to the Plan Update email list, and published in the RRPC e-Newsletter, town newsletters, on PEG-TV, and in regional newspapers (Rutland Herald, VT Digger, Mountain Times, Brandon Reporter, Lakeside News & Rutland Sun). Paid advertisements were posted on Facebook and Front Porch Forum. Physical flyers were posted in multiple locations in each municipality.



Phase 3 Survey Promo

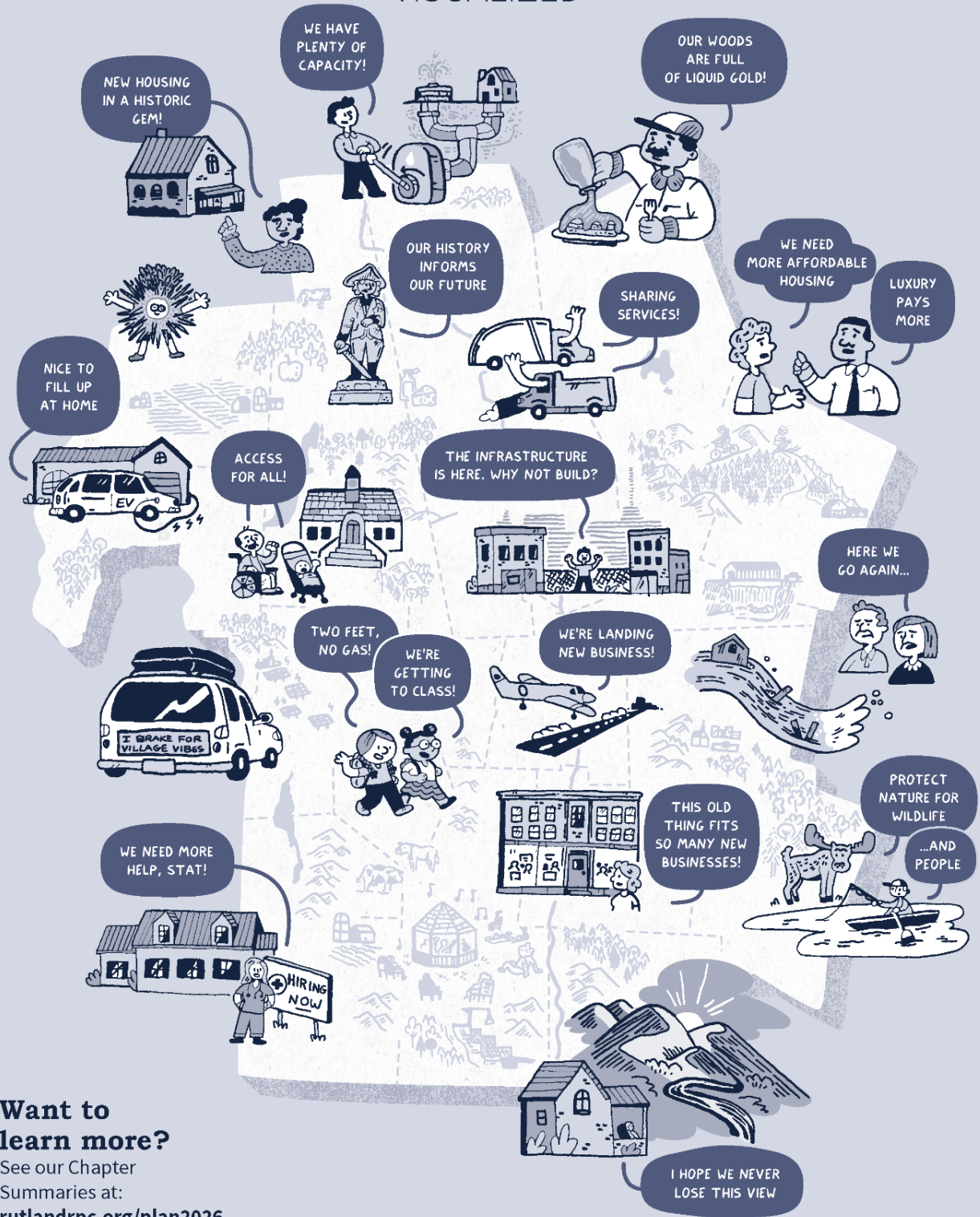
★ **Online Survey:** The online survey gathered public reaction to the Plan’s goals, policies, and actions, and whether they align with the community economic development priorities for the Region. It was open from May to June 2025. Only two questions were asked – ‘Does the Plan reflect the right community economic development priorities for the Rutland Region?’ and ‘Do these priorities make the Rutland Region a place you want to live, work, and play?’. To encourage participation, survey respondents were entered into a raffle to win a \$250 Visa gift card. The RRPC received 70 responses. Survey results are provided in **Appendix D**.

★ **Act 181 Trainings:** Act 181, passed into law in June 2024, overhauled Vermont’s land use planning framework. It modernized how Vermont directs public investments to designated areas and accelerates the transition to Act 250 location-based jurisdiction. The Act defined 11 new land use categories, updated the State Designation Program, and established location-based Act 250 tiers. It significantly changed the approach to regional planning and future land use mapping. To standardize regional future land use mapping, the Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies (VAPDA) developed a statewide methodology.

The outcome of the Alignment Phase was a draft Plan and regional future land use map that reflected a shared vision for community economic development, guided by areas designated for growth and conservation based on environmental, infrastructure, and community factors.



2026 RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN: VISUALIZED



Want to learn more?

See our Chapter Summaries at:
rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

To make the Plan more accessible, the RRPC commissioned a professional illustrator to depict regional priorities in a graphic.



The VAPDA methodology was issued in December 2024 and used by the RRPC to prepare the first draft of the Rutland Regional Future Land Use Map in January 2025.

The RRPC recognizes that effective public education is essential in encouraging meaningful participation from a broader and more representative range of members in the Region. Therefore, before the Phase 3 meetings with each town, the RRPC conducted two detailed training sessions for selectboards, planning commissions, and municipal staff on the Act 181 changes. The working draft of the regional future land use map was presented at these trainings. They occurred on April 16 and 17, 2025, with a total of 89 participants (54 virtual, 35 in-person) from 21 towns: Benson, Brandon, Castleton, Chittenden, Danby, Fair Haven, Killington, Mendon, Mount Holly, Pawlet, Pittsford, Poultney, Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, Wallingford, West Haven, and West Rutland. The sessions were recorded, and the videos were posted on the RRPC YouTube channel. The presentation is available in **Appendix D**.



Act 181 Training Flyer

★ **In-person Presentations:** To ensure the Region had a voice in developing the regional future land use map, the RRPC scheduled public meetings in each of the Region’s 27 municipalities. The meeting objectives were to: 1) discuss the Plan and its importance; 2) provide an overview of the Plan elements and how Act 181 overhauled Vermont’s land use planning framework; 3) review the new Act 181 land use categories, state designations, and location-based Act 250 jurisdiction tiers in more detail; and 4) walk through the working draft regional future land use map and highlight key changes from the 2018 map.

A substantial amount of material was covered during these meetings. To help prepare for meaningful discussions, the RRPC provided each municipality with background information several weeks before the meeting. Attendees were encouraged to share and review these materials in advance. The meetings took place in April and May 2025. They offered an opportunity to 1) review and give feedback on the draft regional future land use map, especially as it concerned the municipality, and 2) decide whether the municipality should opt into Act 250 Tier 1B jurisdiction, if eligible. Ways for the public to review and give feedback on the draft Plan were also shared. Links to all meeting

handouts were posted on the landing page for reference both before and after the meetings. Sample background information and presentation materials are included in **Appendix D**.



Pop-up at the Strawberry Festival in Middletown Springs

The RRPC held follow-up meetings with several municipalities to address questions, gather feedback, and review requested changes to the draft regional future land use map. Seventeen municipalities asked for map edits. All edits permitted under state statute were included in the final draft of the regional future land use map. The updated draft was then emailed to all municipalities and posted on the landing page.

In addition to meetings with each municipality, the RRPC staff attend meetings of the RRPC Board of Commissioners, Basin Water Quality Council, Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee, and Transportation Advisory Committee to promote Phase 3 engagement.



★ **Pop-ups:** This outreach technique was effective for reaching sectors of the Region that might not have otherwise participated in a public planning effort. During Phase 3, the RRPC set up an information table at eight events, listed below. Like Phase 2, no feedback was collected during the Phase 3 pop-ups. Flyers were distributed to promote the online survey.

- 1) Rutland City: Come Alive Outside Workshop, June 11, 2025
- 2) Shrewsbury: Summer Concert Series, June 13, 2025
- 3) Rutland City: Farmers Market, June 14, 2025
- 4) Middletown Springs: Strawberry Festival, June 15, 2025
- 5) Pittsford: Village Farm Summer Concert Series, June 17, 2025
- 6) Rutland City: Pride Festival, June 21, 2025
- 7) West Rutland: Bounce into Summer Event, June 21, 2025
- 8) Castleton: Lake Bomoseen Fly Dogs Dock Diving Competition, June 22, 2025



Pop-up at Pride Festival in Rutland City

★ **Stakeholder Engagement:** Building on the stakeholder engagement from Phases 1 and 2, the RRPC staff emailed key stakeholders and subject matter experts listed above to encourage participation in Phase 3 and request review comments on the draft Plan.

Plan Adoption

The conclusion of Phase 3 marked the end of plan drafting and the beginning of plan adoption. Feedback from Phase 3 informed the development of the 'Preapplication' draft of the Plan, which is required by the Land Use Review Board (LURB). The 'Preapplication' draft Plan and LURB Preapplication Form were presented to the RRPC Board of Commissioners at their monthly meeting on September 16, 2025.

APPENDIX A

2026 Regional Plan Community Engagement
Strategy





community engagement strategy

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

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CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

The Regional Plan (“Plan”), adopted every eight years, is guided by an overall vision or concept of the kind of place that Rutland County’s citizens want it to be in the decades ahead. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (“RRPC”) wants residents to be involved in the regional planning process and is committed to a transparent process that is informed by meaningful public consultation and community engagement. To help inform its decisions, RRPC is committed to providing:

1. ample opportunities for early and continuing participation
2. full public access to the planning process

RRPC will be engaging residents in a wide range of topics that affect their everyday lives in Rutland County:

<i>Housing</i>	<i>Wildlife & Natural Habitats</i>	<i>Roads & bridges</i>
<i>Economic Activity</i>	<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>Public transportation</i>
<i>Historical & Cultural Resources</i>	<i>Energy</i>	<i>Bicycles & Pedestrians</i>
<i>Health and Wellness</i>	<i>Emergency Management</i>	<i>Rail</i>
<i>Community Involvement</i>	<i>Flood Resiliency</i>	<i>Air services</i>
<i>Public Libraries</i>	<i>Telecommunications</i>	
<i>Education</i>	<i>Resource Extraction</i>	
<i>Child Care</i>	<i>Water & Wastewater Systems</i>	
<i>Recreation</i>	<i>Solid Waste & Recycling</i>	
<i>Agriculture & Forestry</i>		

The Community Engagement Strategy (“Strategy”) outlines a variety of methods that RRPC can utilize to engage residents with the work being undertaken. The Strategy seeks to provide residents from across the 27 towns and cities within RRPC’s jurisdiction with the information necessary to participate in and influence the planning processes.



CHAPTER 2 - EQUITY & INCLUSION

RRPC's Board of Commissioners adopted a **Declaration of Inclusion** in January 2023, which in part states: "RRPC celebrates diversity and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, veteran-status, sexual orientation, age, or disability. RRPC wants everyone to feel and be safe and welcome in the communities we serve..."

Equity and inclusion is an ongoing process that emboldens staff to increase opportunity for those people most affected by exclusion. In implementing this Strategy, staff will work to lift the voices of those who have been systemically excluded from the regional planning process, including communities with low income, persons with disabilities, and seniors.

Guiding Principles for Inclusive Engagement

The below guiding principles are rooted in the RRPC's *Declaration of Inclusion* and the overarching goal that the 2026 Plan be driven by the community, by allowing residents to meaningfully influence decision-making.

- **Effective engagement is not one-size-fits-all.**

Efforts must be tailored to each unique project and audience to enhance community engagement while making every effort to increase participation opportunities for those most impacted by past and current decisions.

- **Clear communication is essential in effective engagement.**

Public engagement must be conducted through clear and compelling communications that are appropriate for the intended audience.

- **Effective engagement requires two-way education and relationship building.**

Acknowledging the expertise that exists within a given community and boosting engagement with activities that increase mutual education fosters more productive conversations.



CHAPTER 3 - RRPC'S APPROACH FOR 2026

For the 2026 Plan, RRPC has a goal of three (3) phases of community engagement (outlined below).

PHASE NO. 1 - LEARN & ASSESS

Goal: RRPC will work with community members to make sure that the agency understand the region's concerns and needs.

★ DECEMBER 2023-MARCH 2024

PHASE NO. 2 - REPORT BACK

Goal: RRPC will seek a reaction on how they incorporated community input from the *Learn & Assess* phase.

★ SEPTEMBER 2024-NOVEMBER 2024

PHASE NO. 3 - ALIGNMENT

Goal: RRPC will seek alignment on the Plan (vision, goals, priorities, and actions).

★ MAY-JUNE 2025

In all of the phases, one of the most important items to remember is **DOCUMENTING** your efforts. Take photos of your workshops, pop-ups, and meetings. If you are taking photos of children, make sure to ask for permission from their parent/guardian. Take photos of the survey board results prior to putting them away, just in case any information gets lost during transport.



CHAPTER 4 - METHODS GROUPED BY APPROACH

PHASE NO. 1 - LEARN & ASSESS

ONLINE SURVEY Priority Level: High

A survey is an essential tool for the “Learn & Assess” phase because it will be the basis for your initial outreach; allowing staff to have a methodical way to collect feedback from residents and stakeholders. You can use flyers pointing people to the survey (and/or printed copies of the surveys) to garner that important 1st round of engagement.

Electronic survey options:

- Lower cost option - SurveyMonkey or Mentimeter
- Medium cost option - Sogolytics
- Higher cost option - PublicInput or co:census

Items to consider when choosing a platform:

- Do you want to integrate other features, like a texting option for the survey? If so, then the higher cost options will be what RRPC should explore.
- Will an interactive map be included?

Example language for advertising the online survey:

Rutland County residents are invited to provide quick feedback via an online survey designed to strengthen the vision for the region’s future.

The survey asks residents to prioritize key regional challenges related to transportation, housing, the economy and the environment – and to help identify the most effective solutions to these challenges. The results of the survey will be combined with other community feedback to shape the Rutland Regional Plan 2026, a long-range regional plan to help create a more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant Rutland County for all.



ONLINE SURVEY CONTINUED

Example questions for online survey:

[Example #1 - Georgia Mountains Regional Commission](#) (uses SurveyMonkey)

[Example #2 - Douglas County](#) (uses OnStrategyHQ)

[Example #3 - Atlanta Regional Commission](#) (uses Menti)

Ways to advertise the survey:

- Paid advertising on social media (Facebook and Instagram).
- Printed flyers with QR code that directs people to the survey. One of the most effective distribution methods for the flyers can be through partnerships with food pantries and churches by including in all of their food bags/food boxes. See collated list in Appendix A.
- Advertisements at bus shelters with the QR code and “text” information if SMS is enabled, through a provider like co:census or PublicInput.



Impact: High
Effort: High
Cost: Low-High

LANDING PAGE Priority Level: High

It is critical that RRPC has a dedicated landing page on the website that becomes a central place to house draft documents, instructions for how people participate in the survey, where they can find your next event, etc. This landing page will need to remain in effect through all of the phases.



Impact: High
Effort: Medium
Cost: Low



COMMENT LINE

Create a dedicated “comment line” that allows members of the public to participate in the process via phone. Participants can record their comments to be entered into the official record. Callers can leave Plan-related comments by calling a dedicated line set-up by RRPC.

When publicizing this “comment line,” be sure to indicate when calls will be accepted through. For example, if you are only accepting these calls during the *Learn & Assess* phase then comments would be accepted through March 1, 2024.



Impact: Medium
Effort: Low
Cost: Low

DEDICATED EMAIL

Similar to the comment line, it is important that all emailed comments be centralized in one location and not sent to a variety of staff members. All advertisements should indicate one email to address their written correspondence, something like “plan2026@rutlandrpc.org.” If a team member receives an email that should be recorded as a Plan-related comment, they should also make sure they forward said message to the dedicated email for record keeping and inclusion in your final community engagement report.



Impact: Medium
Effort: Low
Cost: Low



WORKSHOPS

Priority Level: High

One of the key aspects in setting up workshops is to offer them at varying times of the day (day/evening) and days of the week (weekday/weekend). Staff will want to spread the workshop locations throughout the Rutland County region. Consider recording a session and posting it on the RRPC website.

Suggested set-up for workshop:

- Printed poster boards that have the questions designed for attendees to respond to, leaving space for post-it notes and colored dots
- Staff at the door to greet attendees and provide them post-its, dots and pens
- Staff floating the room available to help answer questions

Example questions for workshop poster boards:

- Category - Challenges
 - What challenges do you face today? (written comments)
 - How can we work together to make the future better? (written comments)
- Category - Equity
 - How can we make the region more equitable? (written comments)
 - Do you have feedback or suggestions for the populations we should focus on? (written comments)
- Category - Community
 - It's 2034, what do you want your community to look like? (dot voting)
 - Housing that is affordable to people of all income levels
 - More parks and open space and preservation of farm lands
 - More comprehensive transit options
 - More public safety and health services
 - Better jobs closer to home
 - Any other solutions? (written comments)
- Category - Economy
 - What economic challenges do you see in the future? (written comments)
 - How can we ensure that the benefits of the growing economy area accessible to all? (written comments)
- Category - Mobility
 - It's 2034, how do you want to get around in your community? (dot voting)
 - More access to transit options
 - More comfortable routes for walking and biking
 - More destinations that can be reached by walking and biking
 - Reduced travel times regardless of mode
 - Improved street quality
 - Improved street safety
 - More incentives and infrastructure for zero emission vehicles
 - Additional comments? (written comments)



WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

Ways to increase attendance for community workshops:

- Offer food and childcare

Potential locations for workshops:

- Library
- Community/Senior Centers
- City Hall - Council Chambers
- Elementary, Middle, and High Schools



Impact: High
Effort: High
Cost: Medium

FOCUS GROUPS

Sometimes it can be hard to get the attendance numbers you are seeking when you are throwing such a wide net into the general public. Focus groups can be a really powerful tool to solicit feedback in a more structured setting. The set-up can be very similar to a workshop, using the poster boards, or can be more of a listening session where staff give a brief introduction to the topic and talk through the questions with those in attendance. The focus groups are scheduled at the organization's facility to make it convenient for those connected to the organization to participate.

Groups this could work with:

- Large employers; i.e. Rutland Regional Medical Center (listed as the largest employer in the last adopted Plan)
- Rutland Housing Authority and Housing Trust of Rutland County
 - Both have properties they manage so they could help facilitate a meeting accessible to those living in the respective buildings
- Slate Valley Unified School District and Rutland City School District
 - Partner with administration to host sessions for families [child care for this setting will be important]
- Educational Institutions
 - Open meetings on campus for all interested students or focus groups with clubs
 - Vermont State University
 - Community College of Vermont
 - UVM Extension
 - Vermont Adult Learning
 - Stafford Technical Center



Impact: High
Effort: Medium
Cost: Medium



POP-UP EVENTS

Priority Level: High

Most government agencies are finding that their best return on investment has been with pop-up events. This outreach technique affords an opportunity to reach a sector of the public that may not originally have intended to participate in a public planning exercise. For this engagement method, you want to set up in locations where people already spend time: popular parks, bus stops, shopping centers, and churches. Some locations will require you to provide advanced notice to the organization who owns the property so make sure you plan that in your overall timeline.

You can also piggyback off of an existing community event that will draw a large audience.

Options for the engagement material:

- You can consolidate your workshop poster board into a single more streamlined version, perhaps pulling from the “Community” category question that only utilizes dot voting.
- Another option could be to have a little more movement and activity in how the question is posed. For example, you can ask people to respond to multiple-choice survey questions by dropping a ball into a basket representing their answer.

Things to consider:

- Give people a reason to stop and talk to RRPC. Find fun and playful ways to draw people in to talk to you. If it's a cold day, considering handing out hot chocolate or a take-home s'mores kit. Or have branded RRPC swag items like notebooks and sunglasses that folks can spin a wheel to “win” once they engage with you.

Locations:

- Popular parks, bus stops, shopping centers, churches
- Consider organizations with foot traffic: Wonderfeet Kids' Museum and Rutland Salvation Army



Impact: High
Effort: High
Cost: Medium



PRESENTATIONS

Present to existing groups and organizations about the online survey and upcoming community workshops.

Potential venues for presentation:

- Elected officials + public meetings
- Advisory committees for the respective cities/towns
- School district board meetings
- Business or chamber group meetings



Impact: Medium
Effort: Low
Cost: Low

CBO PARTNERSHIP

Collaborating with community based organizations (CBOs) during this phase can help increase public participation. This method is used to connect with hard-to-reach residents that CBO organizations focus on. Depending on the organization, sometimes this arrangement includes a stipend to pay the community members for participating in a series of conversations.

Initial research for the region shows that the following may be classified CBOs who do this kind of work:

- BROC Community Action
- Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Hunger Free Vermont



Impact: Medium
Effort: Medium
Cost: Medium



TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

These activities are specifically tailored to a more technical audience. This workshop is meant to solicit feedback from partners and other stakeholders on how their priorities and concerns may have shifted since the last Plan adoption.

Example partners:

- *Transit* - Rutland-Southern Vermont Regional Airport, Marble Valley Regional Transit District/The Bus, and Amtrak Rutland Station
- *State Agencies* - Vermont Agency of Education, Vermont Department for Children and Families - Economic Services Division



Impact: Medium
Effort: Medium
Cost: Low

EMAIL LIST

It will be important to collect email addresses and add them to your listserv at every point of engagement because you will want to invite those same people to Stage No. 2 - Report Back.



Impact: High
Effort: Low
Cost: Low

PHYSICAL LETTERS

Physical letters should be mailed to contacts that the organization has on file notifying them of upcoming opportunities to engage in the process.



Impact: Low
Effort: Low
Cost: Low



VIRTUAL MEETINGS

RRPC should offer at least two (2) virtual meetings in the schedule of planned community meetings. This offers a way for those who cannot physically attend an in-person workshop to still engage with the material in a meaningful way.

Virtual meeting platforms like Zoom offer the ability to integrate surveys so attendees can engage with the same questions developed for the in-person workshops. You can also stream live to Facebook for maximum exposure.



Impact: Low
Effort: Low
Cost: Low

TELETOWNHALL

This is an option that could be considered in your compliment of digital/virtual methods. Using a talk-radio format, residents can ask questions live during the call, or just listen to the conversation.

Considerations for set-up:

- At least two staff members available to help during the live call (moderator and expert)
- Costs for telephone town halls can vary widely depending on the scope, however service providers for call management and data purchase (names/phone numbers) will cost at least \$5,000.

Considering RRPC's staff resources, this might not be the most effective choice but is included for management review.



Impact: Medium
Effort: High
Cost: High



PHASE NO. 2 - REPORT BACK

In addition to the items notated below, during Phase No. 2, RRPC will want to pull from their most successful approaches that were deployed in Phase 1.

OFFICE HOURS

RRPC can advertise “Virtual Office Hours” and can approach this in 1 of 2 ways. Using a platform like Microsoft Bookings or Calendly, partner agencies can set-up an appointment with certain staff to discuss specific questions about the Draft Plan in greater detail. Or, RRPC can have set days of the week with set timeframes in which a virtual meeting (i.e. Teams or Zoom) is open and people can “swing by” for a chat. Examples advertisement language for this: “Virtual Office Hours available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-2 PM join us via this link.”

} Impact: Low
Effort: Low
Cost: Low

FACEBOOK LIVE

An effective way to engage with the public during phase 2 is to start a bi-weekly Facebook Live episode which breaks the Draft Plan into “chunks” and connects the audience with what was provided via community input to what will be written into the Plan. They can be 15-20 minutes in length and feature different staff members each episode, in addition to special guests like a CBO or focus group that RRPC partnered with.

} Impact: Medium
Effort: Medium
Cost: Low



WORKSHOPS

POP-UPS

FOCUS GROUPS

PRESENTATIONS

In these settings, your objective has changed. Now, instead of having the community prioritize their needs you want to provide them a digestible summary of “what you heard.”

You are closing the feedback loop by giving them a chance to interact with and respond to the input you received from December 2023-March 2024. You will want to highlight the number of responses you received, key themes that were noticed and how this informed what you will be including in the Plan.

You can still make the setting interactive by having large printed poster boards of statements or key themes and allowing people to “agree” or “disagree” and provide alternative approaches to what has been written.

RRPC should be able to rely on learning from where they were successful in hosting meetings during Phase 1, as well as identifying any gaps in the region that need extra follow-up during this time.



Impact: High
Effort: Medium
Cost: Medium

EMAIL LIST

Send out updates to your collected email address, including information about how they can now engage with you during Phase 2.



Impact: High
Effort: Low
Cost: Low



PHASE NO. 3 - ALIGNMENT

For successful alignment, RRPC will need to clearly state how community input informed your decision-making and creation of the Rutland Regional Plan 2026.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

An important addition to the Plan will be a Community Engagement Report that contains a record of all of the comments received, from the online survey to in-person meetings. Community members took time out of their day to engage in the process so it is crucial to show that RRPC values their feedback.

} Impact: Medium
Effort: High
Cost: Low

WORKSHOPS

PRESENTATIONS

These settings will now be more informational than discussion-based. Staff will share a timeline of the community input received and how this informed the creation of the Plan. RRPC will share their goals and priorities, which have been established because of the community input.

} Impact: High
Effort: Medium
Cost: Low



FLYERS

Printed material will now be focused on encouraging residents to view the Draft Plan and thank them for their participation in this effort that helps set a vision for Rutland County for the next eight years.

Material should notify them of any last opportunity to comment and the date that it will go before the Board for adoption.



Impact: Medium
Effort: Low
Cost: Low

WEB INTERACTIONS

As residents are pointed back to the website to read the Draft Plan, it provides a final opportunity to gain feedback from the community.

See an example from the [Southern Central Massachusetts Economic Development Strategy](#) as to how they included this feature just below the download section of their website.



Impact: Medium
Effort: Low
Cost: Low

EMAIL LIST

Send out updates to your collected email address, including information about how they can now engage with you during Phase 3.



Impact: High
Effort: Low
Cost: Low



CHAPTER 5 - LOCAL MEDIA

Local media plays a role in ensuring that residents know of RRPC's ongoing efforts. Below are a list of strategies for consideration:

- Issue press release announcing the opening of the online survey and dates for the community workshops
- Conduct a media roundtable to educate reporters on the topic
- Meet with editorial staff
- Submit opinion pieces to local news media
- Coordinate interviews on radio
- Place public service announcements on radio and TV
- Negotiate inserts into local printed media

RRPC will want to start the partnership at Phase 1 - Learn & Assess.



APPENDIX A

Food Pantry Contacts:

- Castleton Cares Inc.
- BROC Rutland Food Shelf
- Fair Haven Concerned Inc.
- Green Mountain Food Pantry
- Rutland City Rescue Mission
- Rutland Community Cupboard
- Rutland Salvation Army
- Rutland United Methodist Church –
Companions in Wholeness

Transit Contacts:

- Rutland-Southern
Vermont Regional Airport
- Marble Valley Regional
Transit District/The Bus
- Amtrak Rutland Station

Worship Contacts:

- Pittsford Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
- First Congregational Church of Fair
Haven, UCC
- Grace Congregational Church, UCC
- Rutland Jewish Center
- Unitarian Universalist Church
- Gateway Church
- New Hope In Christ Fellowship
- Good Shepard Lutheran Church
- St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Rutland United Methodist Church
- Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Sherburne United Church of Christ
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- Christ the King Church
- Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Our Lady of the Mountains Church
- Saint Peters Roman Catholic Church
- St. Alphonsus Liguori Church
- St. Bridgets Catholic Church
- St. Dominic Church
- St. Raphaels Catholic Church
- Alliance Community Fellowship
- Calvary Bible Church
- Mission City Church
- All Saints' Anglican Church
- Roadside Chapel AOG
- First Baptist Church
- Green Mountain Missionary Baptist
- Reformed Bible Church



APPENDIX A (CONTINUED)

Housing Contacts:

- Rutland Housing Authority
- Housing Trust of Rutland County
- Homeless Prevention Center

Health Contacts:

- Community Care Network
- VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region
- Rutland Regional Medical Center

Higher Education & Trade School:

- Vermont State University
- Community College of Vermont
- UVM Extension
- Vermont Adult Learning
- Stafford Technical Center

Advocacy Contacts:

- BROC Community Action
- Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Hunger Free Vermont

K-12 Contacts:

- Christ the King
- Mount St. Joseph Academy
- Rutland Area Christian School
- Killington Mountain School
- Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union
- Slate Valley Unified School District
- Rutland City School District
- Wonderfeet Kids' Museum



Prepared by:



Prepared for:



APPENDIX B

Phase 1 Engagement Materials and Results

B1-Sample Advertising Materials

B2-Phase 1 Survey Results

B3-Phase 1 In-Person Meeting Presentation Slides

B4-Phase 1 Pop-up Poster Results

B5-Phase 1 Community Open House Poster Results



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026



Shape Our Future Together

A Regional Plan is our collective vision for the future of our region. It guides where homes and businesses go, protects our natural resources, and ensures that our community remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Provide your feedback on the priorities that are important to you and your family.

SEVERAL WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:



ATTEND A COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Drop-in to one of our Open House Events to learn more, ask questions, and share your opinion.



VISIT US IN THE COMMUNITY

Stop by and talk to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) as they pop-up at a location near you.

Visit the website for a complete list of planned events.



RESPOND TO OUR ONLINE SURVEY

Please scan the code to provide your feedback:



For more information visit: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026



Shape Our Future Together

YOUR

VOICE

MATTERS

A Regional Plan is our collective vision for the future of our region. It guides where homes and businesses go, protects our natural resources, and ensures that our community remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Provide your feedback on the priorities that are important to you and your family. Please take a moment to fill out our online survey by scanning the QR code.



Participate in the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's
**Rutland Regional Plan 2026
Online Survey**

Submissions will be accepted through March 31, 2024

Scan the QR code to take the online survey or visit www.rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

Phase 1 Survey Results

The Phase 1 Survey included 21 multiple-choice questions and eight open-response questions. Of the multiple-choice questions, 11 offered an “Other” option for submitting alternative responses. Questions that allowed for written answers were manually categorized into common response groups for analysis.

Question 1: What best describes your connection to the Rutland Region?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>I live in the Rutland Region</i>	95%
<i>I work but do not live in the Rutland Region</i>	1.5%
<i>I am a visitor to the Rutland Region</i>	1.5%
<i>I own a business or second home but do not live in the Rutland Region</i>	2%

Question 2: If you are a full-time resident of the Region, what Town do you live in?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Benson (Target 16)</i>	15
<i>Brandon (Target 69)</i>	89
<i>Castleton (Target 74)</i>	52
<i>Chittenden (Target 21)</i>	15
<i>Clarendon (Target 40)</i>	39
<i>Danby (Target 21)</i>	18
<i>Fair Haven (Target 45)</i>	28
<i>Hubbardton (Target 12)</i>	10
<i>Ira (Target 6)</i>	11
<i>Killington (Target 23)</i>	37
<i>Mendon (Target 19)</i>	22
<i>Middletown Springs (Target 13)</i>	18
<i>Mount Holly (Target 23)</i>	14
<i>Mount Tabor (Target 3)</i>	0
<i>Pawlet (Target 24)</i>	29
<i>Pittsford (Target 48)</i>	58
<i>Poultney (Target 50)</i>	64
<i>Proctor (Target 29)</i>	35
<i>Rutland City (Target 262)</i>	262
<i>Rutland Town (Target 65)</i>	61
<i>Shrewsbury (Target 18)</i>	33
<i>Sudbury (Target 9)</i>	21
<i>Tinmouth (Target 9)</i>	19
<i>Wallingford (Target 35)</i>	92
<i>Wells (Target 20)</i>	7
<i>West Haven (Target 4)</i>	5
<i>West Rutland (Target 37)</i>	48

Question 3: If you do not live in the Region, where do you work, own a business, or visit most often?

Open Responses	Response Frequency
<i>Brandon</i>	1
<i>Castleton</i>	2
<i>Clarendon</i>	1
<i>Danby</i>	1
<i>Fair Haven</i>	1
<i>Killington</i>	12
<i>Pawlet</i>	1
<i>Poultney</i>	6
<i>Rutland City</i>	7
<i>Rutland Town</i>	1
<i>Shrewsbury</i>	1
<i>West Rutland</i>	1

Question 4: Which statement best describes the housing situation in your community?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>We need more housing</i>	41%
<i>We need to restore our existing housing</i>	23%
<i>We only need specific types of housing (senior, multi-family, starter homes)</i>	21%
<i>We need more housing but only in certain areas</i>	8%
<i>We do not need more housing</i>	8%

Question 5: Which, if any, types of housing are most needed in the Region?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Affordable housing</i>	83%
<i>Middle-income housing</i>	67%
<i>Workforce housing</i>	56%
<i>Senior Housing</i>	46%
<i>Multi-family housing</i>	38%
<i>Accessory dwellings unit/tiny house</i>	21%

Other notable responses include a desire for improvements to existing housing, more handicapped and elderly accessible homes, and concerns regarding renting laws that are discouraging property owners from renting units

Question 6: What do you consider to be the most relevant issues related to housing in the Region?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Lack of rental units</i>	26%
<i>Old or blighted housing stock</i>	23%

<i>Homelessness</i>	20%
<i>Need for more housing stock in downtown and village centers</i>	15%
<i>Lack of senior housing and assisted living facilities</i>	12%
<i>Low/middle income housing stock</i>	4%

Many other responses included mentions of workforce housing and housing development restrictions.

Question 7: If the Region continues to grow, which areas would you like to see the most growth?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Downtowns</i>	52%
<i>Village centers</i>	22%
<i>Major corridors</i>	11%
<i>Rural areas</i>	6%
<i>Near recreation areas</i>	4%

Other responses referenced a desire for growth in existing empty space and areas that need the most improvements. Other notable responses referenced their desire for no future growth in the region.

Question 8: With respect to growth, which of the following do you consider to be the priority in your community?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Attract new businesses and employment opportunities to diversify the tax base</i>	47%
<i>Preserve natural landscape and rural character</i>	31%
<i>Attract new residents and grow the tax base</i>	15%

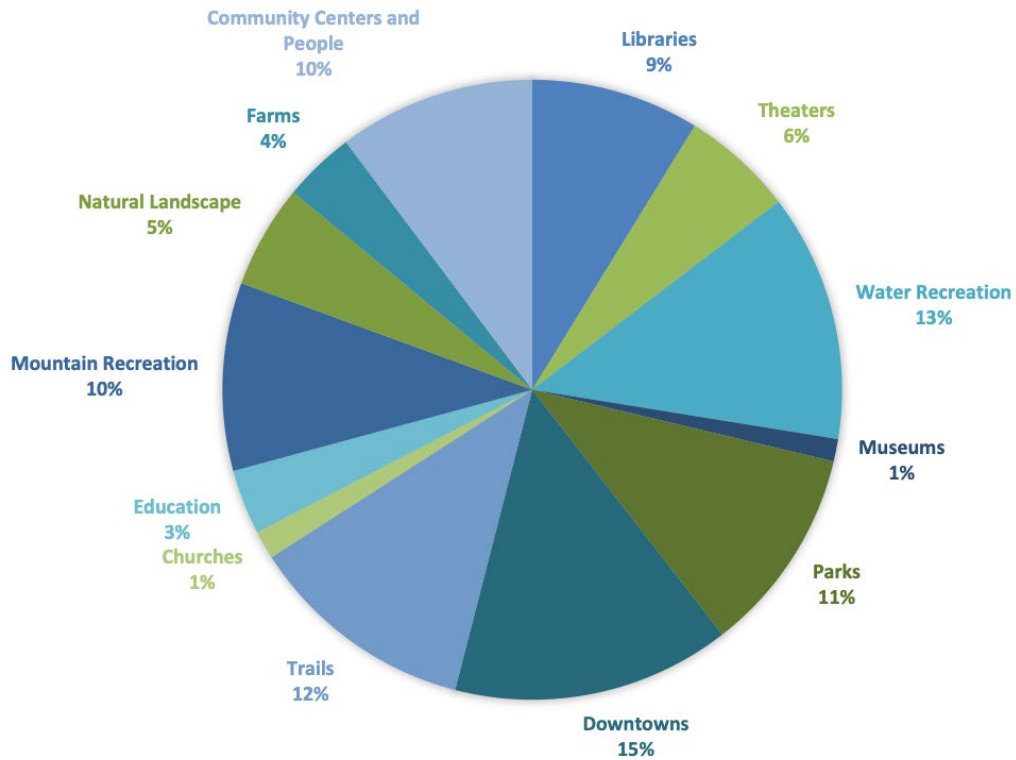
Other notable responses include attracting new residents with housing stock, sustaining an art and business culture that attracts people, and public transportation.

Question 9: Which public utilities and facilities are most important to support future growth?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Affordable childcare</i>	23%
<i>Public safety</i>	21%
<i>Schools and vocational centers</i>	20%
<i>Broadband internet</i>	20%
<i>Sewers and public water</i>	15%
<i>Recreation</i>	1%

Other notable responses include mentions of employment opportunities, increases in public transportation and transportation projects, healthcare, and cellular network.

Question 10: What are the top three cultural, historical, or recreational resources that you cherish most in your community?

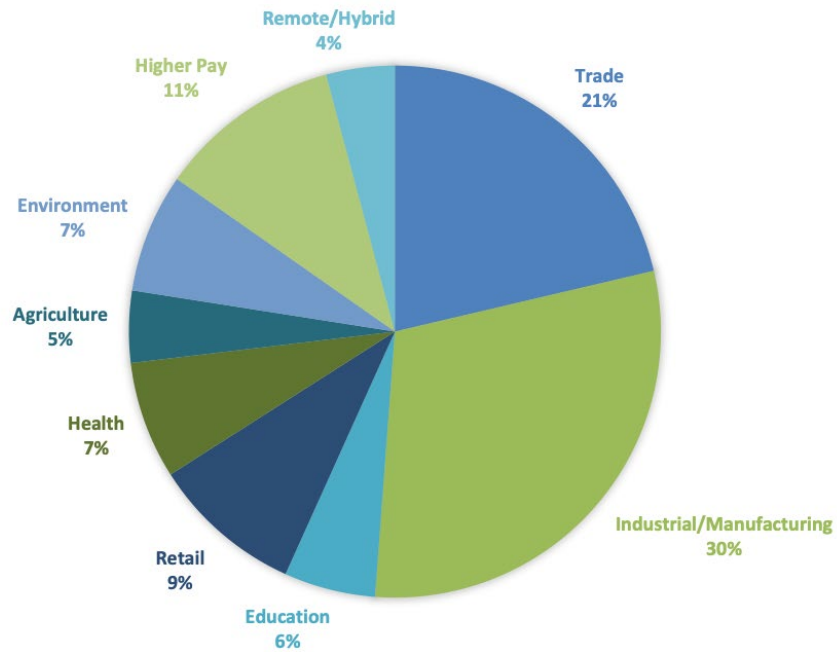


Question 11: What are the biggest issues relating to economic growth in the Region?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Lack of recruitment of new workforce and retention of younger adults</i>	43%
<i>Lack of adequate employment opportunities</i>	36%
<i>Lack of support for small businesses or entrepreneurs</i>	25%
<i>Lack of workforce development or vocational training</i>	25%
<i>Lack of commercial or industrial space</i>	14%

People expressed their concern regarding low wages in the region. Multiple people felt there were good career options, but they don't have a livable wage for the area. People also felt that their long commutes were a burden. Other issues reported included the homeless population, high taxes, and lack of affordable housing.

Question 12: Which types of jobs would you like to see expanded in the Region?



Question 13: Which workforce development programs would you be most likely to support?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Internships and externships for high school and college students</i>	34%
<i>More capacity and programming at technical centers</i>	31%
<i>In-school programs for K-12 grade students</i>	13%
<i>Job shadowing partnerships with local businesses</i>	12%

A lot of additional comments referenced support for all of these programs, or multiple of them. Other additional comments included a desire for more trade apprenticeships and more support for adults looking to switch career paths or learn more about a new career.

Question 14: How do you rate the diversity of the regional economy?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>1 Star (lowest)</i>	9%
<i>2 Stars</i>	29%
<i>3 Stars</i>	49%
<i>4 Stars</i>	10%
<i>5 Stars (highest)</i>	3%

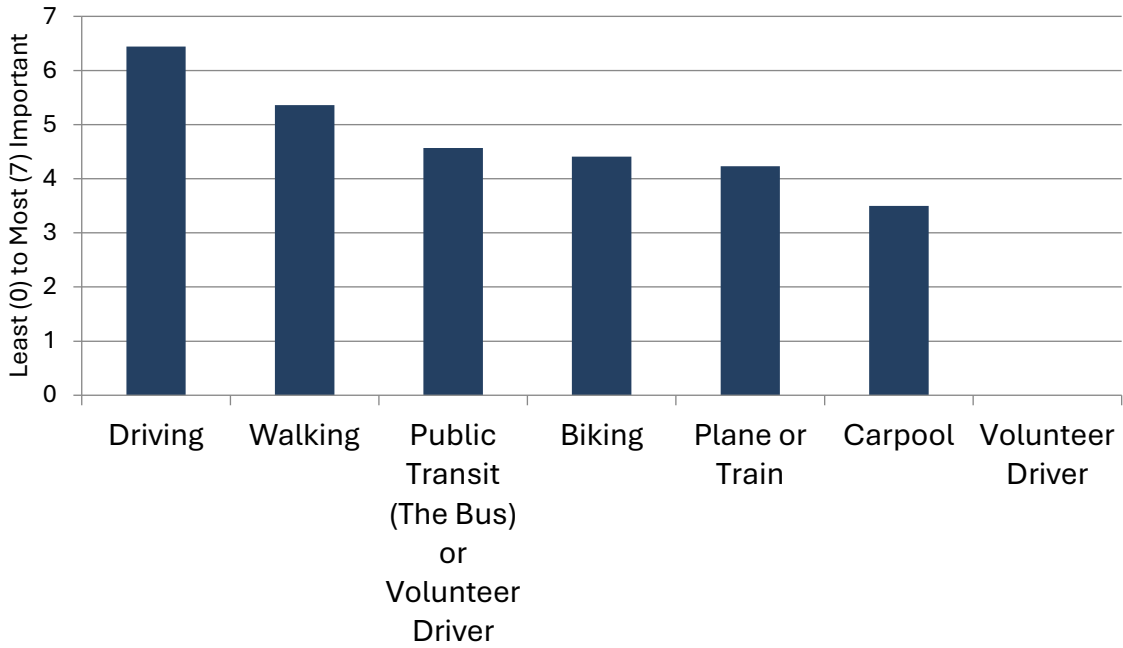
Question 15: What are the greatest transportation concerns in the Region?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Poor infrastructure</i>	31%
<i>Lack of safe walking and biking</i>	29%
<i>Speeding and lack of traffic law enforcement</i>	19%

<i>Unsafe roads and/or intersections</i>	12%
<i>Public transportation</i>	4%

Multiple people said that better driving education was needed. Multiple people also described their concern for the lack of ADA accessible infrastructure in the region.

Question 16: Rank the modes of transportation that are most important to you.



Question 17: What factors would make you more likely to use public transportation?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Better information on bus routes, schedules, and how to ride</i>	26%
<i>More routes in rural areas</i>	24%
<i>On-demand service (call or text for a ride)</i>	18%
<i>Better amenities (shelters, benches, signage, etc.)</i>	16%
<i>More weekend and evening options</i>	16%

Other notable factors that people mentioned include improved handicap accessibility, improved cleanliness, and improved safety.

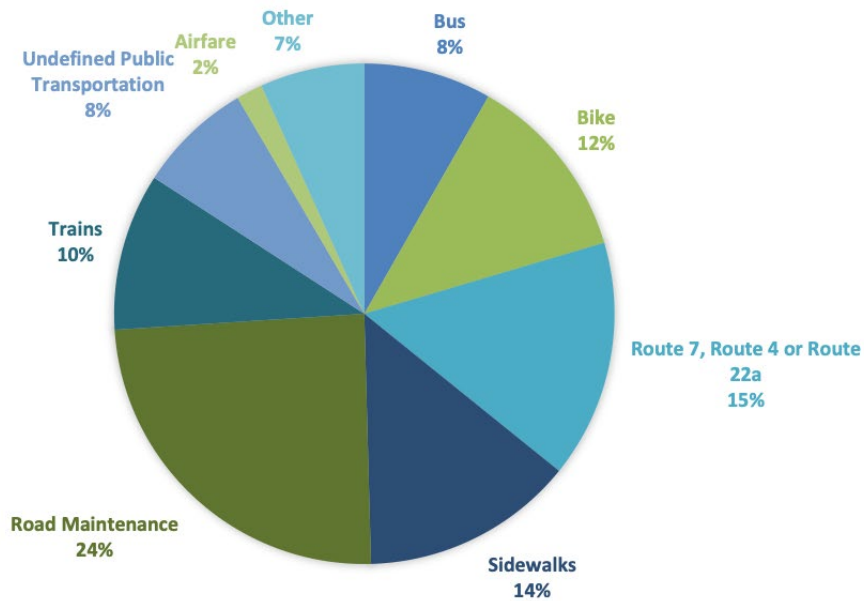
Question 18: What walking or biking improvements would you like to see in your community or Region?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>More/improved sidewalks</i>	34%
<i>More shared use paths</i>	18%
<i>More bike lanes</i>	13%
<i>Safer crosswalks</i>	9%
<i>Slower vehicle speeds</i>	9%
<i>Safer routes to school or work</i>	8%

Other comments showed support for the all the listed projects. Additional improvement projects include better lighting for people biking and walking at night, improved handicap accessibility, and improvement to the lights that are on crosswalk signs and streetlights to let drivers know when people will be crossing.

Question 19: What transportation projects would you like to see completed in the Region?

There was a wide variety of transportation projects mentioned. The most common projects included improved road maintenance and upkeep (24%) and specific improvements to major routes like Routes 4, 7, or 22a (15%). Other popular responses expressed a desire for better sidewalks (14%) and bike routes (12%) throughout the Region.



Question 20: What home energy efficiency project would you be most interested in?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Weatherization</i>	25%
<i>Heat pumps</i>	25%
<i>Solar</i>	19%
<i>New energy efficient furnace or boiler</i>	14%
<i>Energy efficient appliance</i>	6%
<i>All the above</i>	6%

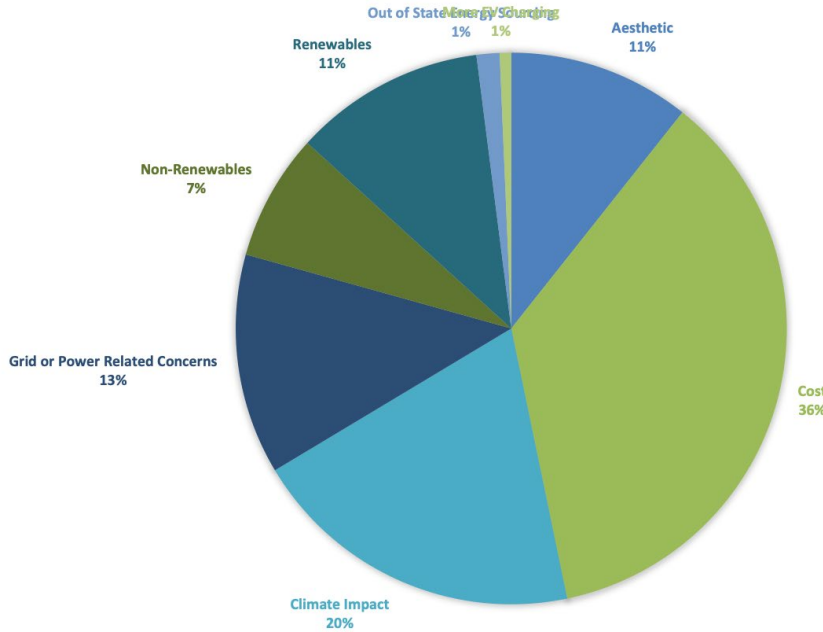
Window insulation was a frequent mention that people expressed interest in. Other responses centered around reducing the costs for energy efficient projects. 23 people stated they would not wish to participate in any of the projects.

Question 21: Rank your support for renewable large-scale energy projects.

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Solar</i>	47%
<i>Hydropower</i>	24%

Geothermal	19%
Wind	10%

Question 22: What is your biggest concern regarding energy in the Region?



Question 23: The Region is sufficiently prepared for natural disasters and has the resources to address them.

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Agree</i>	28%
<i>Disagree</i>	35%

Question 24: How important to you is the preservation or conservation of the Region's natural resources?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Very important</i>	62%
<i>Important</i>	23%
<i>Neutral</i>	10%
<i>Not important</i>	2%
<i>Very unimportant</i>	2%

Question 25: What should be done to improve access to the Region's natural resources?

Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Extend and connect bike and hike trails</i>	44%
<i>Expand accessibility for beginners and persons with disabilities</i>	31%
<i>Improve parking at parks, trailheads, boat launches, etc.</i>	27%

<i>Expand fishing, boating, and paddling public access</i>	23%
<i>Expand access to hunting on public lands</i>	13%
<i>Extend and connect snowmobile and ATV trails</i>	11%

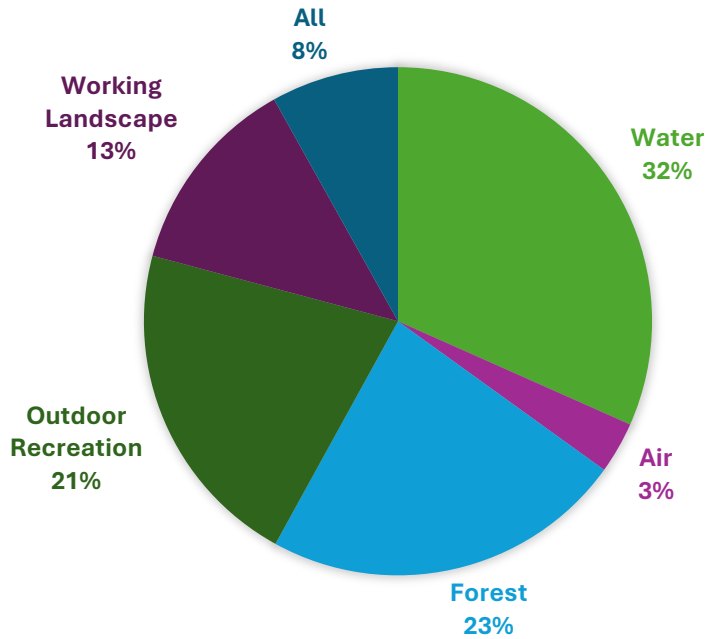
An interactive map that shows access to natural resources and public outdoor recreations sites was a mention suggestion. Other responses include building community gardens and improving access while protecting nature.

Question 26: What are the benefits of a strong agricultural system in the Region?

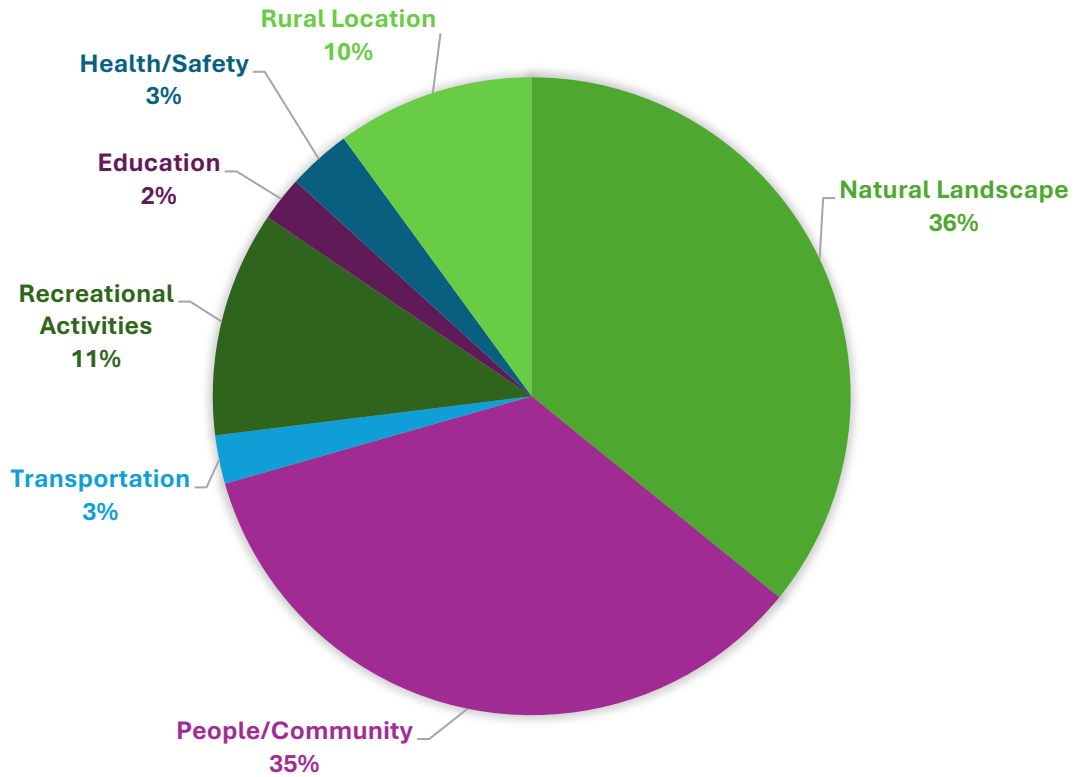
Multiple-Choice Options	Response Frequency
<i>Provides access to fresh healthy foods</i>	23%
<i>Supports CSAs, farmers market and local food</i>	21%
<i>Preserves farmland</i>	20%
<i>Boosts the local economy and provides jobs</i>	20%
<i>Provides a network for farmers to collaborate and learn</i>	17%

Other notable responses included people who felt agriculture was good for the region's natural character and that it provided food security for the region.

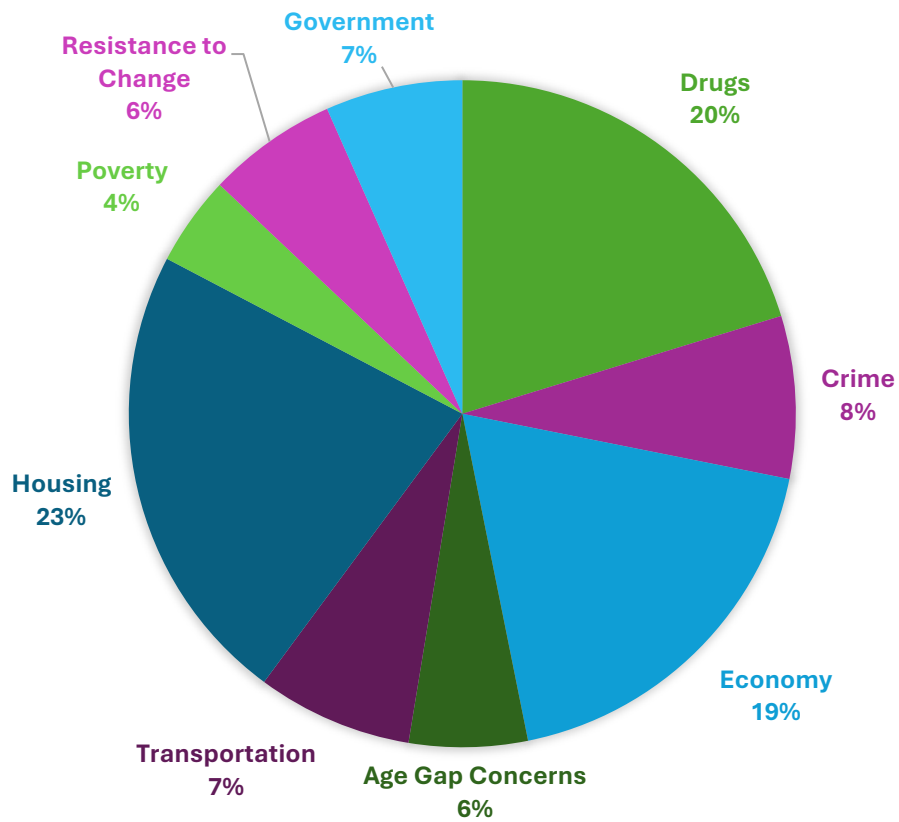
Question 27: What natural resources do you cherish most in your community?



Question 28: What do you consider to be the greatest strengths or assets of the Region?



Question 29: What do you consider to be the greatest weaknesses or threats to the Region?



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026



Shape Our Future Together



- Every eight years, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) updates its visionary plan for the future of the region
- Currently engaging the public to help us in the development of the ***2026 Plan***

Shape Our Future Together



WHAT IS THE RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN?

- A Regional Plan is our collective vision for the future of our region
- It guides where homes and businesses go, protects our natural resources, and ensures that our community remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Shape Our Future Together



Provide your feedback on the priorities that are important to you and your family

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- Attend a Community Open House
- Visit us in the community
- Respond to our online survey

Shape Our Future Together

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026



Participate in the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's
**Rutland Regional Plan 2026
Online Survey**
Submissions will be accepted through March 31, 2024

Scan the QR code to take the online survey or visit www.rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

Shape Our Future Together

YOUR **VOICE** MATTERS



plan2026@rutlandrpc.org



PO Box 430
Rutland, VT 05702
ATTN: Regional Plan 2026

Shape Our Future Together

Phase 1 Pop-up Poster Results

The Pop-up Posters were used at 20 pop-up events and five community open houses. Results of all input received are provided below.



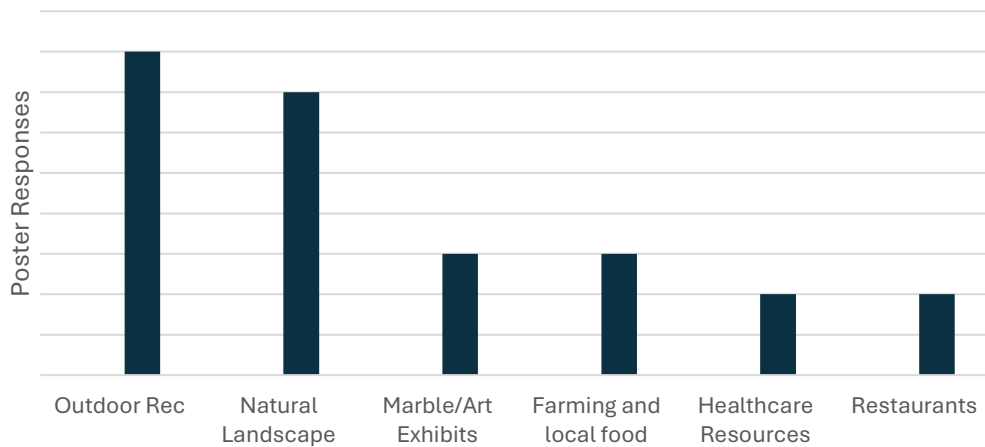


RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

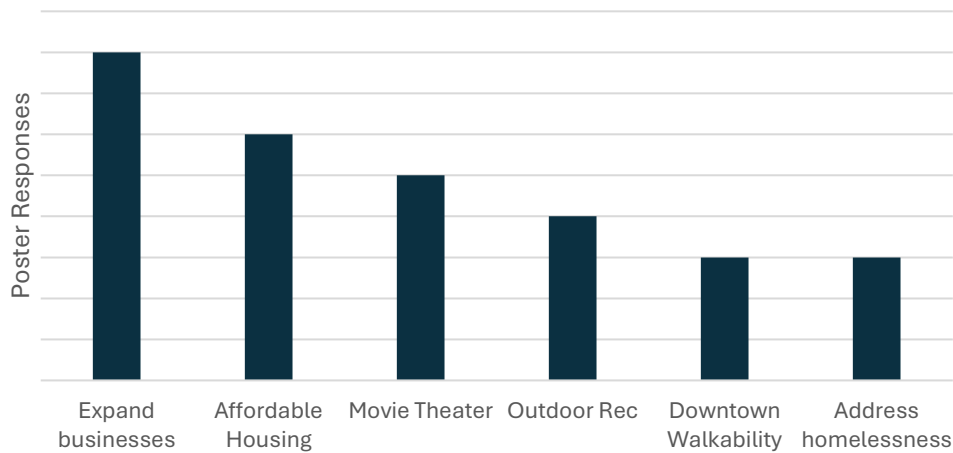
2026

SHAPE OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Which qualities of today's Rutland Region do you hope **remain** in 2034?



Which qualities of today's Rutland Region do you hope will **change** by 2034?



HAVE MORE TO SHARE?

COMPLETE THE
ONLINE SURVEY!

rutlandrpc.org/plan2026



Phase 1 Community Open House Poster Results



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026

SHAPE OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



LAND USE

What land-use do you want to grow and where?

Trail networks were the most requested growth project from the open houses, with 21% of responses. Other frequent responses included more multi-use housing developments (14%) and sidewalk improvement with walkable/bikeable town centers (17%).



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

What's most valuable to you about Rutland's economy?

22% of people felt that employment and career development opportunities for youth were the most important aspect of Rutland's economy. 19% of people said that the local businesses and circular economy that stems from Rutland's economy was the most valuable thing.



HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, SCENIC RESOURCES

How can we better promote the history of indigenous tribes in the region?

Many people (21%) felt that the best way to promote the history of indigenous tribes in the Region was by involving them in the planning process and allowing them to decide that. Participants (32%) also stated that sharing their history, particularly through schools in the Region, would be the best way to promote that history.



TRANSPORTATION

Do you feel safe traveling around Rutland County? If not what would make you feel safe?

Many people said that they do feel safe traveling in Rutland County. Of the people who do not, the most frequent response was regarding safer bike lanes, with 17% of responses. Other most frequent responses were reducing speed (13%) and improving safety.



HOUSING

How has the housing crisis affected you, your family, your friends, or your co-workers?

Most responses centered around the idea that there is a lack of apartments and affordable starter homes available for people. 19% said that they wanted to see more affordable housing, 19% said they would like to see more starter homes in the Region, 12% said that would like to see more housing near employment.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES & PUBLIC UTILITIES

What should and shouldn't be provided by your town?

Towns should provide more community centers (10%), indoor recreation sites (10%), safety (10%), and new or improved parks (10%).



ENERGY PLANNING

Do you feel you have a personal obligation to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions? Why or why not?

A large majority (85%) agreed that they do have a personal obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Reasons for this included, but were not limited to: leaving a good environment for future generations, helping keep our air clean, and reducing fossil fuel use.



WORKING LANDSCAPE

What can we do to support the Rutland Region's farms and forests for future generations?

Around 15% of people stated that buying locally grown products would be the best way to support the Region's farms and forests. People felt that towns should do a better job of promoting local farms to their communities, and local restaurants and businesses should be buying local products. 15% of people felt that schools should teach the importance and value of agriculture in schools.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Clean air and water are important to all of us. How would you rate the quality of our air and water?

Around 21% of people said that air quality and water quality were good, while 16% said that they felt water quality needed improvement.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

What part of climate change do you feel is the greatest threat to what you value most in the region?

28% of people said that increased flooding is the greatest threat, while 20% of people said that temperature changes were the greatest threat.



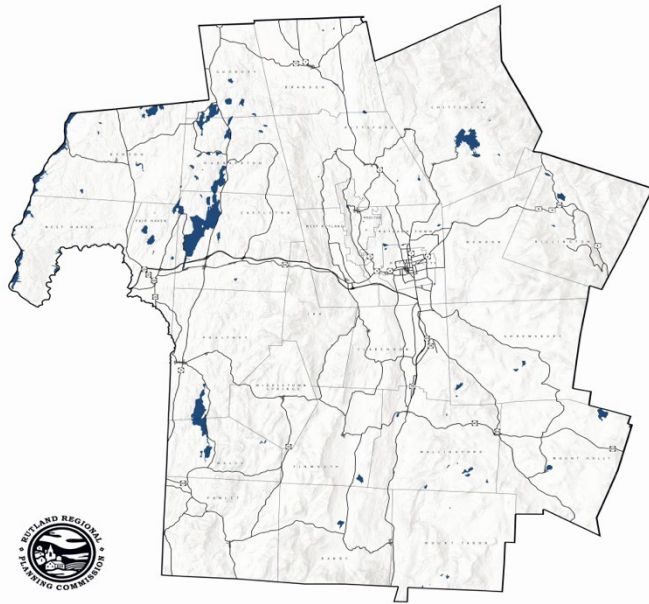
HAVE MORE TO SHARE?
COMPLETE THE
ONLINE SURVEY!

rutlandrpc.org/plan2026



- Slate Valley Trails
- Middletown Springs Mineral Springs Park
- Access to local foods and farms
- Farmers markets
- Scenic ridgetops, climate refuge for species and wildlife corridors
- Headwater streams
- Less fossil fuels, more solar
- Lake St. Catherine
- Wonderfeet Kids Museum
- Pine Hill Park
- Lakes and rivers for paddling
- Public parks and natural areas
- Wild lands with no roads
- Lake Hortonia
- Chittenden Reservoir
- Leffert Pond
- Rutland City shopping and restaurants

What Makes Rutland Region Great?



- Outdoor areas, hiking, Pine Hill, Taconic Mountain, Chittenden Reservoir, Kent Pond, Long Trail
- Rutland City, parks, police and fire departments, medical services
- Train access to diversity of places

APPENDIX C

Phase 2 Engagement Materials and Results

C1-Phase 2 Survey Results

C2-Phase 2 In-Person Meeting Presentation Slides

C3-Phase 2 Feedback Sessions Input



Phase 2 Survey Results

The Phase 2 survey included the same two questions for each of the Plan's 10 topical chapters:

- 1) Do you agree or disagree with the key takeaways and draft policies?
- 2) Is there something missing we should consider?

It also asked if respondents are a full-time resident of the Region, to indicate what town they live in.

	Response Frequency
<i>Benson</i>	7
<i>Brandon</i>	27
<i>Castleton</i>	41
<i>Chittenden</i>	6
<i>Clarendon</i>	10
<i>Danby</i>	11
<i>Fair Haven</i>	8
<i>Hubbardton</i>	6
<i>Ira</i>	2
<i>Killington</i>	7
<i>Mendon</i>	7
<i>Middletown Springs</i>	3
<i>Mount Holly</i>	4
<i>Mount Tabor</i>	1
<i>Pawlet</i>	4
<i>Pittsford</i>	9
<i>Poultney</i>	21
<i>Proctor</i>	9
<i>Rutland City</i>	61
<i>Rutland Town</i>	21
<i>Shrewsbury</i>	8
<i>Sudbury</i>	9
<i>Tinmouth</i>	12
<i>Wallingford</i>	16
<i>Wells</i>	8
<i>West Haven</i>	3
<i>West Rutland</i>	13
<i>I do not live in the Region</i>	11

Chapter 2: Land Use Answers to Question 1

Phase 1 Key Takeaways: The call for growth in downtown and village centers, improving the walkability of towns, preserving and conserving the Region’s natural landscape, and expanding trail networks. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

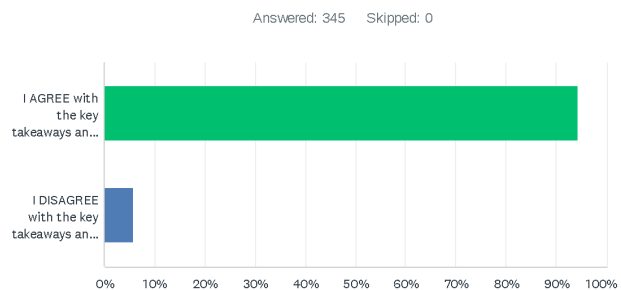
Policy 1: Increase infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of underutilized properties within Planned Growth Areas, Village Areas, Transition/Infill Areas, and Enterprise Areas.

Policy 2: Stop strip development and development of blocks of land that contain significant natural and agricultural resources, areas of high flood risk, comprise resource industries, and provide outdoor recreation/scenic beauty.

Policy 3: Most development outside Planned Growth Areas and Village Areas is clustered or otherwise designed to work with the landscape in terms of protection of ecologically sensitive areas, and conservation of farmland and agricultural soils.

Policy 4: Most public investments are in Planned Growth Areas and Village Areas and have not encouraged sprawl, or the development and/or fragmentation of significant farmland or natural resource habitat.

Policy 5: Ensure that the scale, siting, design, and management of new development is orderly by respecting the character of the natural and built environment.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	94.20% 325
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	5.80% 20
TOTAL	345

Chapter 3: Economic Development Answers to Question 1

Phase 1 Key Takeaways: The community was concerned with the Region's economy. Many people specifically called for growth in industrial/manufacturing jobs, trade positions, and jobs that pay a higher wage. There was also a desire for more capacity and programming at technical centers and more internship/externship programs for high school and college students. Concern over the lack of recruitment of new workforce and retention of young adults was expressed throughout all platforms of engagement. People valued that the Rutland's economy as a larger driver for the entire Region.

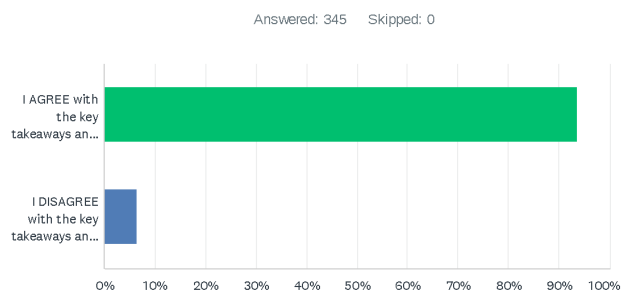
Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: Focus future growth in downtown districts and village centers.

Policy 2: Attract new businesses and employment opportunities to diversify the tax base.

Policy 3: Recruit new workers and retain younger adults.

Policy 4: Expand industrial/manufacturing and trade career opportunities.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	93.62% 323
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	6.38% 22
TOTAL	345

Chapter 4: Cultural Resources Answers to Question 1

Phase 1 Key Takeaways: The most frequently mentioned historical, cultural, and scenic resources were the Region’s Downtown districts, water recreation sites, and parks and trail systems. The natural landscape was one of the most frequently mentioned cultural and scenic resources for the Region. There was also a strong desire for

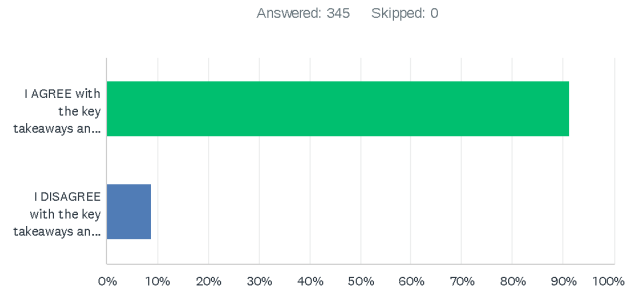
more annual festivals throughout the Region, specifically more pride festivals and centers. People thought including certain historical or culturally significant topics into school curriculums would be the best way to pass on that history. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: Preserve and restore historic buildings.

Policy 2: Strengthen the intra-organizational relationships and volunteer capacity of historical societies within the Region.

Policy 3: Recognize arts and culture as essential infrastructure for healthy, equitable, and resilient communities.

Policy 4: Prioritize the identification and preservation of Scenic Resources.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	91.30% 315
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	8.70% 30
TOTAL	345

Chapter 5: Transportation Answers to Question 1

Phase 1 Key Takeaways: Transportation engagement indicated the deep need for increased road maintenance and upkeep, as well as increased and better maintained sidewalks and bikepaths. The community highly values driving and walking in the region. In regard to public transportation, there were calls for better bus schedules, routes, and accessibility. While many people said they do feel safe, they felt their safety would be improved by reducing speeds. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: Increase implementation of Complete Streets infrastructure on both Town & State Roadways.

Policy 2: Improve resiliency of regional transportation systems in the face of increased extreme weather events.

Policy 3: Increase the development of infrastructure that supports transition to EVs.

Policy 4: Ensure the provision of convenient and cost-effective transit services that connect residential clusters with rail stations, employment, recreation, medical services, and shopping opportunities.

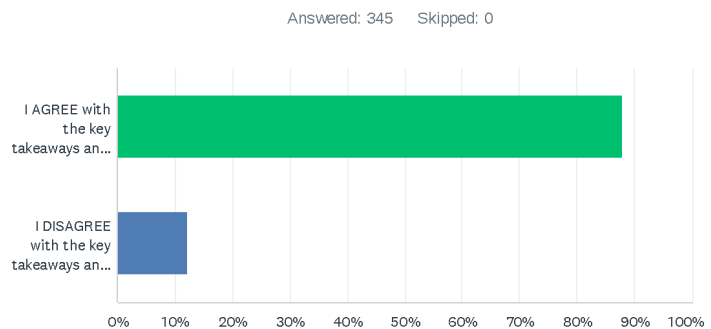
Policy 5: Apply principles of systemic safety to Regional roadway systems.

Policy 6: Protect airport airspace and runway clearance for Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport through local land use and town planning.

Policy 7: Increase passenger rail ridership and encourage expansion of rail service in Rutland Region.

Policy 8: Increase the share of regional freight tonnage which travels by rail.

Policy 9: Increase development within existing built-up areas with multimodal infrastructure.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	87.83% 303
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	12.17% 42
TOTAL	345

Chapter 6: Housing Answers to Question 1

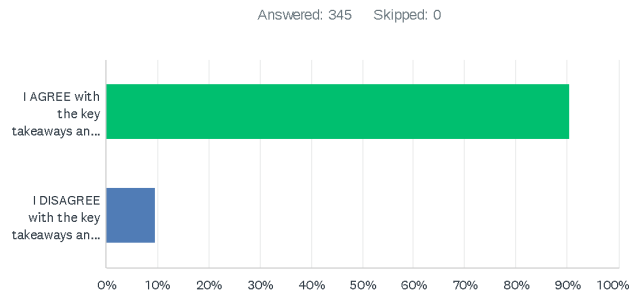
Phase 1 Key Takeaways: Affordable housing was the biggest issue throughout all the engagement efforts. Affordable housing and a lack of housing in the Region were the biggest issues identified by the priority dot poster and one of the most frequently mentioned weaknesses. Additional housing related themes included the need to address homelessness, the lack of rental units, and the need to restore old and blighted housing stock. Frustrations were also voiced regarding Act 250 and the developmental restrictions in the state. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: Target housing growth, programs, and incentives that results in spending no more than 30% of their income on housing and not more than 15% on transportation.

Policy 2: Promote construction and renovation practices, and universal design principles, that result in high-quality, energy-efficient, and safe homes that meet the needs of all.

Policy 3: Create diverse homes, with varying numbers of bedrooms, and at a price point affordable for households with varying incomes.

Policy 4: Locate housing growth primarily in Planned Growth and Village Areas.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	90.43% 312
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	9.57% 33
TOTAL	345

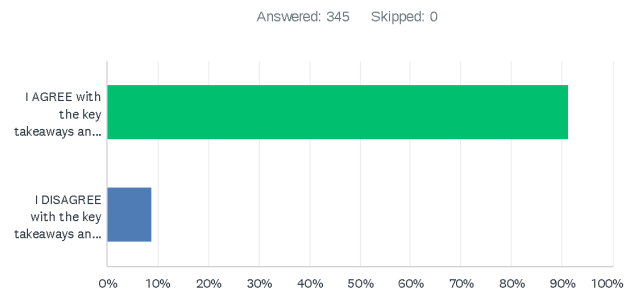
Chapter 7: Community Facilities and Public Utilities Answers to Question 1

Phase 1 Key Takeaways: Affordable childcare facilities were one of the most desired community facilities and public utilities. Other less frequent themes included a desire for more indoor and outdoor recreation, more public safety utilities and facilities (police, EMS, etc), and more community events and gathering places, such as a movie theater throughout the Region. People in the Region feel there are limited options for community events and community gathering places. Many people in the Region also felt that mental health and substance abuse resource facilities are needed for improving the Region. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: The scale and type of facilities and utilities shall support existing and future development, consistent with the future land use in this Plan.

Policy 2: Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater utilities shall be expanded, upgraded, and maintained in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner to serve areas designated in this Plan.

Policy 3: Municipal offices, garages, libraries, and other facilities should be constructed, maintained, or upgraded to serve the diverse needs of the community.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	91.30% 315
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	8.70% 30
TOTAL	345

Policy 4: Municipal shared services and resources should be considered to improve quality and reduce costs.

Policy 5: Solid waste districts and transfer stations should be coordinated to reduce costs and waste to improve efficiency and sustainability.

Policy 6: Telecommunications infrastructure and service area shall be expanded to unserved and underserved permanent residents while protecting the scenic and natural resources.

Policy 7: Energy transmission lines and substations shall be constructed to provide resilient and reliable energy while avoiding critical natural resources.

Policy 8: The construction, maintenance, and marketing of recreational trails, parks, and water resources is encouraged for all user types.

Policy 9: School construction, consolidation, and renovation should increase efficiency, reduce tax burdens, and improve equitable education.

Policy 10: Workforce programming and capacity shall be expanded in critical sectors like education, healthcare, and trades.

Policy 11: The regional network of childcare facilities and providers should be expanded to meet the current and future workforce needs in areas designated in this Plan.

Policy 12: Access to healthcare, mental health services, and recovery treatment should be centered on advancing health equity.

Chapter 8: Enhanced Energy Answers to Question 1

Phase 1 Key Takeaways: Most people felt strongly that it's important for the Region to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and begin looking at renewable energy methods. People said that they do think it's important to personally reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and stated that there was a strong preference for solar energy after being compared with other renewable sources. Many expressed a large concern for the high cost of energy, followed by the concern for climate impact of energy use. For individual homeowners and establishments, weatherization and heat pumps were the most desired energy projects. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: Demonstrate regional leadership by implementing efficiency and fuel switching actions.

Policy 2: Promote adoption of Enhanced Energy Plans to all municipalities.

Policy 3: Ensure Regional Enhanced Energy Plan is equitable.

Policy 4: Prevent forest fragmentation and preserve priority forest blocks.

Policy 5: Educate individuals and organizations about energy conservation.

Policy 6: Increase building efficiency, climate resilience, and safety.

Policy 7: Switch from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives for heating and cooling.

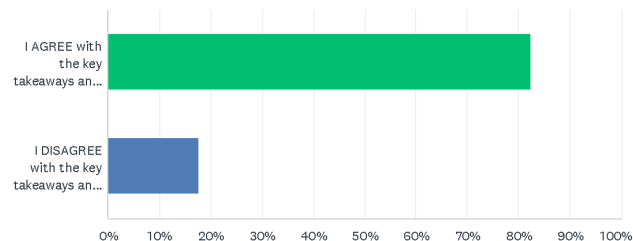
Policy 8: Review Act 250 permits for energy efficiency.

Policy 9: Switch from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives for transportation.

Policy 10: Provide education about transportation energy conservation and combustion alternatives.

Policy 11: Decrease Single Occupancy Vehicle trips.

Policy 12: Maintain existing and develop new walking and biking infrastructure.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	82.32% 284
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	17.68% 61
TOTAL	345

- Policy 13:** Ensure energy generation siting adheres to orderly development.
- Policy 14:** Review Section 248 applications to meet renewable energy targets.
- Policy 15:** Maximize the potential for renewable generation on preferred locations.

Chapter 9: Working Landscape Answers to Question 1

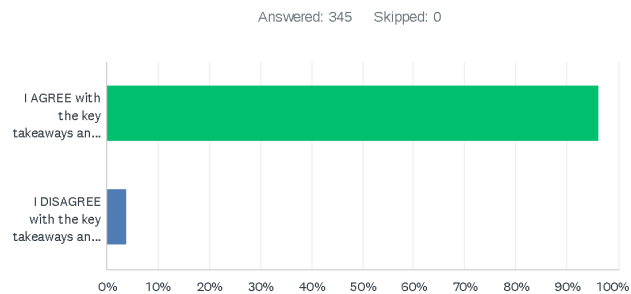
Phase 1 Key Takeaways: The community expressed that the most important aspect of a strong agricultural system in Vermont is that they provide access to fresh, healthy foods. There is a high demand for locally sourced foods, including more farmers market and community gardens. Additional benefits to a strong agricultural system were listed as how it preserves farmland and supports CSA's. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: Stop the loss of farmland and forestland to development.

Policy 2: Ensure that the working landscape (agriculture, forestry, and value-added production), is a strong asset for the Region's economy.

Policy 3: Ensure that the working landscape (agriculture, forestry, and value-added production) improves the health of residents.

Policy 4: Enhance the health and diversity of the Region's ecosystems to benefit local agriculture and forestry.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	96.23% 332
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	3.77% 13
TOTAL	345

Chapter 10: Natural Resources Answers to Question 1

Phase 1 Key Takeaways: Protecting the natural landscape was one of the most important and agreed upon topics throughout the entire engagement process. Community members especially cherish the water resources and forests in the Region. A desire to improve accessibility for beginners and persons with disabilities to natural resource sites and extend/connect hiking and biking trails was also frequently mentioned. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

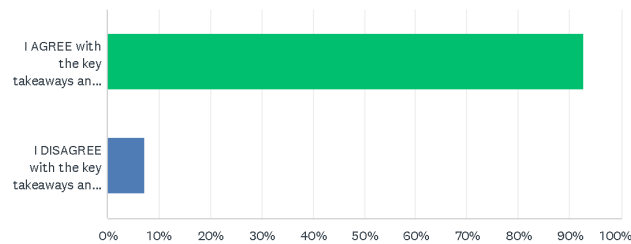
Policy 1: Safeguard groundwater and other local drinking water sources to ensure they are safe for the public.

Policy 2: Ensure that all surface waters in the Rutland Region are of high quality, free of pollutants and toxins, and suitable for recreation and aquatic life.

Policy 3: Attain no net loss of wetland acreage.

Policy 4: Increase the amount of protected shoreline buffers and riparian areas in the Region.

Policy 5: Maintain water quality to sustain existing aquatic communities and to ensure the natural diversity of aquatic species.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	92.75% 320
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	7.25% 25
TOTAL	345

Policy 6: Create a regional approach to maintaining and restoring the health of forest blocks, forest fragmentation, wildlife corridors, habitats, and biodiversity, and for conserving land in alignment with the Vermont Conservation Plan to protect 30% of the state by 2030 and 50% by 2050.

Policy 7: Be proactive about local air quality during summer ozone and winter inversion episodes by monitoring the State’s data to address those at most risk: people with heart or lung diseases (including asthma), older adults, children, and people of lower socioeconomic status.

Policy 8: Encourage the reduction of nighttime light levels to improve the health of residents and wildlife and to promote dark sky astro-tourism.

Policy 9: Promote safe and clean mineral extraction methods if appropriately managed and the public interest is clearly benefitted.

Chapter 11: Climate Resilience Answers to Question 1

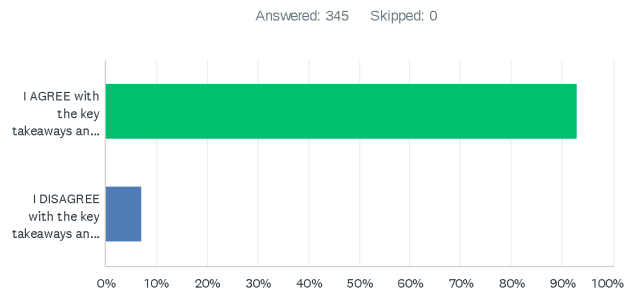
Phase 1 Key Takeaways: People said they felt neutral or disagreed that the Region is prepared for natural disasters. There were also calls for flood prevention infrastructure and expressed concern over changing winters affecting winter recreation. Flooding and temperature fluctuation were identified as the largest climate related concerns. Phase 1 Public Input helped to guide the following draft policies:

Policy 1: Assist municipalities in understanding their vulnerabilities and strategies to bolster resilience to climate change.

Policy 2: Prepare Rutland Region municipalities for longer duration, higher temperature heatwaves.

Policy 3: Implement more natural systems-based projects that will help moderate the impacts of climate change.

Policy 4: Increase social cohesion to bolster community resilience during and after extreme weather events or disasters.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I AGREE with the key takeaways and the direction of the draft policies.	93.04%	321
I DISAGREE with the key takeaways and direction of the draft policies.	6.96%	24
TOTAL		345

Chapter 2: Land Use Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	Find out why there are so many vacant homes in Rutland City. Help those homeowners get their properties habitable.	11/21/2024 3:57 PM
2	Drivers vs bikers vs walkers-size of lanes, separate bike lanes and sidewalks for walkers. Accessible on the bus route as well.	11/20/2024 9:31 PM
3	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
4	Senior housing close to facilities, care on demand, collective and safe living together, although everyone lives in his-her own apartment.	11/20/2024 12:19 PM
5	They not to make the rules so difficult that people don't even want to build	11/20/2024 9:33 AM
6	Prioritize the enhancement of historic and cultural resources.	11/19/2024 11:32 PM
7	You should consider a more precise means for gathering public input. You will learn nothing from the A/D format for long strings of text.	11/19/2024 9:44 PM
8	No well stated	11/19/2024 9:22 PM
9	No thanks	11/19/2024 5:53 PM
10	specifically increasing the scope of walkability from village/town center to nearby parks/nature areas (lake regions, etc.)	11/19/2024 5:29 PM
11	Municipal control of right-of-way public trails. Maintenance or control should not be up to private landowners even if the trail is technically on their land.	11/19/2024 5:15 PM
12	Native planting should be done as plots are developed.	11/19/2024 5:01 PM
13	Reasonable siting of solar and wind farms so as to respect the natural beauty of the area	11/19/2024 4:02 PM
14	Along with the landscape, also look at utilities (water and waste water, electricity, etc.)	11/19/2024 3:20 PM
15	Conserving prime ag parcels, and conserving farms and former farms - we are likely to need them in the future!	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
16	Add bikeability to the plan. Walkability is great, but we need to ensure safety of bikers within towns, and expand biking trails to connect Rutland to Brandon and Middlebury, and Rutland to Castleton.	11/18/2024 10:30 PM
17	Solar panels becoming the new state flower. Site planning for solar farms to consider scenic areas and managed growth.	11/18/2024 9:33 PM
18	Almost ALL of it! It's totally non business friendly not even home owner friendly. Enough with the conservation BS. Build businesses and rebuild proper infrastructure of our roads, highways, bridges, sewers. Stop wasting money!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
19	stop the solar farms ruining our pastoral landscape it's a disgrace.. The folks who say this is good are ruining our #1 source of income for the state TOURISM	11/18/2024 5:43 PM
20	Some towns have a village center that has few amenities	11/18/2024 5:18 PM
21	Restricting further development will only exacerbate the housing shortage and homelessness crisis. Whomever came up with these is woefully out of touch.	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
22	Consider using all the abandoned buildings sitting rotting around the city before we spend tax dollars on buying property to develop it. USE are laws and regulations to kick out worthless junkies who if they own property and aren't taking care of it fine them out of the city from enforcing are lawn maintenance city policy's to no leaving abandoned vehicles on property enforce these rules to get the bad people out. Stop giving the contracts to the same 2 families you have my whole life and distribute the growth around so more people are encouraged and incentivized to care about this city and what is happening here not to fuel slum lords who aren't residents of Rutland city	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
23	walkability as well as access to trailheads from residences, especially for biking. More affordability.	11/1/2024 9:55 AM

24	I encourage you to address the interaction of land use with natural hazards in addition to flooding - fluvial erosion, heat, landslide, infectious disease outbreaks, and any hazard that may cause power outages or transportation challenges. Ensure development does not increase vulnerability to natural hazards, and is aligned with Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.	10/30/2024 2:49 PM
25	Residential infill should be limited height, 3-5 storey, 4 over 1, etc, construction developing commercial/economic 'nodes' for that housing which is away from the CBD core. Net-zero housing built within existing or planned infrastructure and services that permit walking if not actually discouraging vehicular traffic. Essential day-to-day goods and services should be a walk or bike ride away from all housing.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
26	I believe we are on the right path by preserving/enhancing Vermont's natural beauty and small town communities.	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
27	I agree in principle with the goals, but believe the Planned Growth Areas are often too restrictive and would not want this to be a restriction on growth in other locations.	10/24/2024 10:21 PM
28	My agreement is qualified, as I would like to see specific language in Policy 1 that, while advocating increasing infill development within Planned Growth Areas, etc., that language should include reducing development in areas at risk of flooding. Areas of high flood risk are addressed in Policy 2 but that needs to be tied to the areas referenced in Policy 1, not just the areas mentioned in Policy 1.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
29	I don't feel qualified to assess	10/20/2024 3:18 PM
30	I would be mindful to making sure business growth is easier compared to trends of the past in Vermont. Keeping Vermont I do agree but I think sometimes we overemphasize that notion to the point where it hurts our region to compete with similar sized markets across the US.	10/20/2024 10:12 AM
31	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
32	Identify blocks of land, lots, or areas that are suitable for low to moderate income housing and or transitional housing and services for homeless.	10/18/2024 9:58 AM
33	Economic development should be encouraged- whether it is in a planned development area or not	10/18/2024 9:06 AM
34	This is all lovely as a goal but people need HOUSING and we need to make that easier NOT HARDER. Hoping to see a specific call out for this further down. Infill is great, but not enough!	10/18/2024 8:51 AM
35	Policies 3 and 4 don't appear to be policies, but rather they are statements.	10/17/2024 2:06 PM
36	Increased disincentives to development in high-risk areas (flood prone, steep terrain).	10/17/2024 9:44 AM
37	Is there any way to use development efforts to create opportunities for the local workforce and to ensure profits earned from projects are not going to developers outside the area?	10/17/2024 8:12 AM
38	This may be addressed later in this document, but affordable housing is a huge problem.	10/16/2024 6:13 PM
39	Consider if homes are being built for airbnb, which would then remove the aspect of community.	10/16/2024 6:11 PM
40	Historically significant buildings and landmarks require protection from development.	10/16/2024 5:45 PM
41	Policy statements seem ironic based on the number of huge solar fields on properties described in 2 - 3- 4-5. Furthermore, downtown businesses need to be open to serve local residents. Try to take visitors out to downtown Rutland on a Sunday afternoon- no options other than DD for a cup of coffee.	10/16/2024 2:30 PM
42	Agree with the general plan, but the solution should not be growing the admirative state and should not be in the creation more regulations and complex policies that are difficult or cumbersome for small business and family farms to comply with.	10/16/2024 10:39 AM
43	I just want to re, re, reemphasize that NO development should EVER occur on ag land, even if it's considered marginal ag land. We need all the decent food-producing land we can get. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. Also, it seems totally wrong to me that developers are allowed to strip off topsoil and sell it. Of course that makes sense where the actual building will go up, but NOT where there will be a lawn or possible garden space. I live in a house in Wallingford built in 1998 where ALL the topsoil was removed. My lawn is a subsoil rockpile. Also, NEVER allow any building, trailer parks, any housing to be built in a flood plain. Because it will get flooded eventually!! Duh! And then we taxpayers get to pay for it and lots of people become homeless.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM

	Look at all the recent river flooding in the South. Lots of poor families have been living on flood plains and now, due to climate change, are homeless after flooding.	
44	We need to focus more on our economic health and development in order to attract business to our area. We need a healthier tax base, the current base is not sufficient to meet the needs of our area and current residents are being taxed out of the area.	10/7/2024 3:36 AM
45	More emphasis on minimizing the type of flooding disaster in places such as N. Carolina which has similar terrain to VT.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
46	Flooding mitigation plans	10/6/2024 10:36 AM
47	Assure that new trail development/networks primarily benefits the interests of the residents.	10/6/2024 8:31 AM
48	Considering the new way we get storms and floods with climate change, we should be firm in not allowing development in flood zones or in ways that will cause future flooding. We don't need to pay for this in the future!	10/5/2024 8:36 PM
49	Increased traffic load in Rutland Noise increase from trucks and illegal modifications on cars. Pollution from cement and paving business emissions.	10/5/2024 7:03 PM
50	No.	10/5/2024 6:16 PM
51	Some farms, significant acreage lie very close to if not abutting villages and growth areas. How can we preserve those?	10/5/2024 5:33 PM
52	I think there still needs to be more tweaking of Act 250 regulations to allow some of the rural areas of the State to develop and not just in what you are calling Planned Growth Areas.	10/5/2024 5:18 PM
53	What people think during implementation	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
54	I do agree with fixing the roads thy desperately need it . One problem that i see though is that you keep talking about how to build on farm land. However what you should be doing is consintrating on all of these empty buildings that could be utilized for many useful things . Things like government buildings or low income housing maeby afordable eldely housing just to name a few .	10/4/2024 11:53 PM
55	It does not affect the quality of life of original residents.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
56	Redevelopment is a key issue! Glad to see it is addressed.	10/4/2024 7:42 PM
57	Fallow farmland must be appraised for its continued use as farmland.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
58	You can preserve natural resources without stifling businesses currently trying to expand,or keeping new businesses from forming. Entrepreneurship to lift native Vermonters should be encouraged. Perhaps exceptions for locals (primary address here for at least 3 years??) Not associated with huge corporations should be considered.	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
59	I think it is very important to focus attention on the redevelopment of areas that are underutilized. Especially in areas that have sat unmaintained and unused for long periods. It makes much more sense to me to try and remediate and rehabilitate areas that are already developed rather than clearing and developing previously undeveloped lands. I am thinking in the context of the village centers and in Rutland City.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM
60	Most villages and downtowns in our area are already at capacity, which makes infill difficult. Including areas immediately outside of these districts is the only way most of these towns can grow.	10/4/2024 11:03 AM
61	More is not better. Stop the encouraging of people to move here with the lack of jobs. The host is dying and we cannot afford higher taxes for those who don't have jobs or want to work. If something is working don't mess with it.	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
62	There may be room for a policy component that goes beyond avoiding additional development in floodplains and works to remove flood-incompatible land uses from those areas.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
63	In considering trail networks in rural areas, care should be taken to discourage motorized vehicle traffic on those lands to preserve habitats, water runoff and other hydrology stability issues, as well as avoidance of soil compaction and noise pollution.	9/26/2024 3:32 PM

64	Further Develop Rutland's commonwealth of natural landscapes — Keep our nature areas clean and loved— like Moon brook and TennyBrook/Otter creek for public access, education. Encourage bike riding and walking.	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
65	Disagree with Policy 4. Public investment is also needed outside of Growth Areas/Villages to protect natural resources, forest blocks, wildlife habitat, etc. and to promote agricultural enterprise or on-farm business and worker housing that does not promote sprawl.	9/24/2024 3:37 PM
66	Keeping and restoring the beauty of Rutland's historic buildings.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
67	don't let small towns over=ride these and create sprawl - I know a LOT of small towns with planning boards that are trying to get around this by creating subdivision laws that ALLOW sprawl !!!	9/16/2024 2:31 PM
68	Go up. Parking lots for solar, not farmland	9/16/2024 1:46 PM
69	No	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 3: Economic Development Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	Tech jobs: software design and engineering	12/1/2024 9:23 AM
2	Is there a continuing education component to this? What, if anything can be done at the municipal level can be done to entice graduates to stay when they can earn more and be taxed less in neighboring states?	12/1/2024 8:55 AM
3	Increased program options at Stafford for both high school and adult learners	11/25/2024 8:39 PM
4	Refurbish existing housing stock to house new employees	11/23/2024 2:43 PM
5	Consider a trade school for greener trades or business centers based o "Blue Economies" which will attract that younger component	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
6	I wish I had answers to give instead of questions to ask. I'm not sure yet how you would bring in industrial growth/manufacturing jobs that pay a higher wage without offering a tax break for say 10 years to get them here. There is absolutely NO question that the area needs more employment opportunities, and certainly we need to clean up the homeless situation. It makes me sad to see a person standing panhandling one day, and the next day strolling down the street looking much cleaner, dressed well enough to be going to work yet carrying shopping bags, and then two days later, panhandling again looking like they did previously. This is a telltale sign to me, that handing money to the panhandlers is only hurting the taxpayers even further. Why is this allowed to occur continuously?	11/22/2024 12:15 PM
7	Not all growth can be in downtown districts. Rural communities need to look at how they can add to all aspects of business growth, including industrial/manufacturing.	11/21/2024 3:57 PM
8	Figure out how to keep youth in the area. Figure out businesses that would thrive in our region.	11/20/2024 9:31 PM
9	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
10	not clear to me how expanding industrial/manufacturing jibes w. land use policies, particularly as related to environmental integrity	11/20/2024 9:44 AM
11	Consider encouraging second career job opportunities for seniors and retirees.	11/19/2024 11:32 PM
12	No Agee completely	11/19/2024 9:22 PM

13	Policy 1 makes good sense. Best way to do it. But the other three are aspirational, in the sense that nobody can make industrial jobs appear. I'm no expert but it seems to me that the best Vermont can do -- and an attractive outcome -- would be to do everything we can to encourage small (even artisanal/craft) manufacturing. That's what could work in our nice villages and small-town centers. And fits with tourism. Vermont is a place that should be right for high-skill (but low overhead) craftspeople like furniture makers and restorers, artists, weavers, potters, etc. But those aren't great employers, they're usually too small. But what about focusing on small shops that make high-quality specialty goods, American-owned and -crafted, with 6, 10, 15 employees? Are there tax or rental policies that can be deployed to encourage that kind of shop?	11/19/2024 7:05 PM
14	You are unlikely to attract new manufacturing. Why not concentrate on getting consulting firms and market-oriented companies. These offer higher salaries and create less of an impact on the environment. You have GE, why not seek suppliers to them.	11/19/2024 6:27 PM
15	How will you "retain young adults?"	11/19/2024 5:15 PM
16	Transportation for those outlying areas outside of Rutland	11/19/2024 3:20 PM
17	This seems somewhat at odds with the land use goals outlined previously and ignores the fact that businesses tend to choose cities with cultural capital because they know they'll be able to recruit and retain talent. Some manufacturing part of a healthy economy but the region also needs to attend and retain tech, remote workers, small businesses and more	11/19/2024 7:47 AM
18	VT. In general is known for its lower pay wages, not much industry and educational opportunities are challenging. Encourage growth in tech and manufacturing industry, working from home or hybrid to improve quality of life for residents.	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
19	I agree with manufacturing so long as it does not significantly pollute the area.	11/19/2024 2:42 AM
20	Creating pathways for youth to consider staying. Career and Technical Education investing in early college. Students being allowed at CTE Centers to stay at their chosen CTE centers and pursue their blend of college coursework and career goals.	11/18/2024 9:33 PM
21	PUT TRADE CLASS and Home economics, to business accounting. Wood shop, metal shop etc. 9th and 10th too. Drop common core you've made our youth 3rd world smart!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
22	housing is crucial as is child care	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
23	Available childcare	11/18/2024 5:18 PM
24	Promote recreation as a key driver for economic development	11/18/2024 5:15 PM
25	Deregulation, lower taxes, zoning reform, reduced occupational licensing and business permit barriers	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
26	Yes we need to bring jobs to Vermont to eliminate the need for creating more government jobs that are pointless. Take the homeless issue here for example it wasn't an issue until people had jobs with salaries and benefits that in order to have that position and agency needs to keep people out on the streets it makes no sense and has exponentially increased this issue and uses tax dollars to do it this city is sick of it!	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
27	Need to add the critical housing component.	11/6/2024 11:49 AM
28	Could there be consideration of training in emerging need fields - contractors and skilled trades including electricians and plumbers, those who are familiar with home weatherization and improving the resilience of existing and new housing stock? Could there also be consideration for how to support those who are interested in agricultural or natural resource management fields?	10/30/2024 2:49 PM
29	1) This sentence is not coherent: 'People valued that the Rutland's economy as a larger driver for the entire region.' 2) Health care costs are unsustainable, largely because of hospital costs. RRMC and other VT hospitals report that having to hire visiting nurses at unsustainable salaries are a large cost driver. Meanwhile, the VTSU reorganization has greatly destabilized the Castleton campus. Have region / state planners looked at adding a substantial nursing program at VTSU Castleton to build a pool of trained nurses with roots in the region who might provide staffing to the hospital at a fraction of the cost of temps? CSJ tried this and failed, but a small, private, religious college does not have the resources of a statewide institution. If we don't look at systemic changes, minor tweaks are unlikely to have sufficient effect to solve major problems.	10/30/2024 10:58 AM

30	See previous comment on increasing housing quantity and density. I have seen newspaper reports of people from outside VT, who have been recruited for jobs, coming to VT and in the end declining the job because they could not secure housing. More people will generate more people (and economic activity and jobs and wages). Build it and they will come, and work and spend, but housing should be denser and focused (see prev comment). Housing quality which is efficient in all parameters and which doesn't require car ownership to live comfortably in.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
31	And keep Vermont clean	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
32	How about small private businesses, cottage industries. Everything I see above is for "city centers and downtown areas". What about small starving towns?	10/25/2024 8:16 AM
33	Additional housing for these workers	10/24/2024 9:23 PM
34	Industrial/manufacture roles are good, but don't let it be at the expense of knowledge-generators, and don't let it be at the expense of the environment.	10/24/2024 1:54 PM
35	I cannot give blanket agreement to these four policies as a whole. For Policy 1, some of our downtown districts and village centers have flood hazard issues, and those need to be called out specifically. Vermont's traditional settlement patterns were actually settling uphill first, not down in the valleys. For Policy 2, attracting new businesses has been a tired old song that has not worked. I would replace that with encouraging entrepreneurs to create new businesses; i.e. capitalize on the existing population. I am aware of any number of people who lost their jobs due to large companies closing who went into business for themselves that added vibrancy to the Rutland region. For policy 3, sure, give it a try, but by their nature, young people, especially those who go to college, want to explore the world, and they do often return to Vermont, so maybe encouraging Vermonters who have left to return should be called out as a more likely policy to be successful. Policy 4 could be tied to encouraging entrepreneurs to start new industrial/manufacturing businesses. Expanding implies existing businesses like GE and Omya and Killington. Killington is already expanding, while it is not likely that GE and Omya would want to expand, and I wouldn't want to see policies that encourage Omya to expand. We need more plumbers and electricians and carpenters. I don't see those specifically called out in the Policies. Policy 4, mixing it with expanding industrial/manufacturing, dilutes the need to develop careers in the trades. The lack of plumbers is not a new problem. I remember people at F.W. Webb telling me in the 1990s that we were going to face a plumber shortage. I recently needed a plumber and contacted five of them and got no response.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
36	Focus on housing availability for employees for the new businesses.	10/21/2024 5:06 PM
37	I feel economic development must include focus on environmental issues	10/20/2024 3:18 PM
38	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
39	Create incentives to bring refugees and migrants to the area to increase the workforce pool.	10/18/2024 9:58 AM
40	All employment should be encouraged. For example, jobs in hospitality and finance does just as much to grow the economy as jobs in industry and manufacturing	10/18/2024 9:06 AM
41	Yes and where will these folks live? Creating small cottages or specifically for the elderly who live alone in big family homes should be another goal. Making it easier to add an adu to an existing septic system would be super helpful too. Can you fix that?	10/18/2024 8:51 AM
42	Consider middle age and older adults. We can't continue to bear the brunt of the tax load while younger adults get special considerations and yet still move away once they have their skillset.	10/17/2024 10:48 AM
43	Assist with trade career establishment of early professionals. Residents have a difficult time finding qualified trade professionals that do good work in a reasonable time. More early professionals with marketing skills could help.	10/17/2024 9:44 AM
44	Establish a business incubator (for non tech businesses, to complement existing tech-based efforts)	10/17/2024 8:12 AM
45	Creative economy	10/16/2024 10:39 PM
46	But people complain when manufacturers want to build near them. People need to realize it's needed	10/16/2024 10:17 PM
47	Policy 3 is only possible when there is more housing available.	10/16/2024 6:27 PM

48	I am delighted that a Super Walmart is coming in. I hope that BJs will reconsider, We need to be a place people come to, not drive through.	10/16/2024 6:13 PM
49	Vermont is not business friendly. We have a local government that appears more concerned with the homeless than with the working class. The amount of shoplifting that occurs in Rutland is astounding- this is a major issue that needs to be solved. Not feeling safe in downtown Rutland is a fundamental issue.	10/16/2024 2:30 PM
50	Provide incentives for development of abandoned properties for employment opportunities.	10/16/2024 1:11 PM
51	Increased capacity and program expansion in technical education is so important!!!	10/16/2024 9:02 AM
52	Affordable housing	10/12/2024 9:57 PM
53	Maybe we need a statewide/nationwide discussion on the outcome of our craving for cheap junk. The rich American CEO's have sent our manufacturing to China. There went THOUSANDS, MILLIONS?? of American jobs, all so we can have cheap clothes and other stuff. I don't believe the average American, or average Vermonter, really thinks about this trade-off we made as a nation/state. So I hope the RRPC keeps these thoughts in your awareness. Whenever there is a chance to promote local business, please do so noting the importance of keeping our physical needs met locally as much as possible to keep our local economy strong and our citizens employed.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
54	I would encourage businesses to continue to invest in infrastructure (bricks & mortar) as well as invest in developing the workforce.	10/7/2024 3:04 PM
55	I would like to see more TIF and Project based TIF opportunities for municipalities.	10/7/2024 9:38 AM
56	I've always felt that Rutland is missing out on some of the dollars that come from the tourism industry (Killington, fall foliage, VT summer destinations). Encouraging hospitality industry jobs/businesses may be a way forward for young people in Rutland (entrepreneurs, cafe owners, experience-based businesses...)	10/6/2024 7:40 PM
57	The Stafford Tech Center lacks sufficient capacity to meet the demand of non-college-bound students. Perhaps, satellite facilities, such as at OVUHS, could be added to increase capacity and minimize travel times.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
58	I am unsure that expanding industry further in this area is a best fit, but applaud the expansion/support of trade career opportunities	10/6/2024 8:31 AM
59	Promote tourism	10/6/2024 6:51 AM
60	We do like our "small" town. Let's emphasize not making our town just like those "big" towns people left because of things they didn't like, but suddenly want all "those" stores!!	10/5/2024 8:36 PM
61	Ensure apprenticeship opportunities be developed and partner with local artisans, tradespeople and construction crafts.	10/5/2024 7:03 PM
62	I don't think we should focus strictly on downtown districts and village centers.	10/5/2024 5:18 PM
63	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
64	Add training for employment positions.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
65	Businesses that pay wages that aren't high enough to keep employees off of public assistance should not be attracted or encouraged.	10/4/2024 8:43 PM
66	We have a HUGE asset in Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport and we need to cont to explore ways to evolve the community, and kids, into airport programs, jobs, etc.	10/4/2024 7:42 PM
67	Be prepared to recruit and welcome a diverse workforce.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
68	Consider encouraging unionization efforts. Often, this is the only thing that will make a company retain workers. Again, attracting new businesses is good, but a focus on locals first would help make this not a deadend state for locals with less money than some out of staters.	10/4/2024 5:35 PM

69	As a young adult who was born and grew up in Rutland City, I don't have any memories of "incentive programs" aimed at retaining young Vermonters. Since leaving Vermont and moving back, I have seen a few State incentives and one from UVM aimed at this. Understanding that this is only policy for the regional plan and limited in it's ability to "compel" much action, I feel that there is value in creating some tangible types of incentives for retaining and attracting young people to Vermont and the Rutland region.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM
70	I would rather see more smaller businesses in our area than one entity that employs many people. We have seen too many large businesses close their doors, which is devastating to the local economy.	10/4/2024 11:03 AM
71	Policy #4 is crucial, esp the trade career opportunities. We will never be able to build the housing we need with the current aging workforce.	10/4/2024 10:02 AM
72	Stop taking over flow of people from Burlington. This new mayor has destroyed Rutland	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
73	I see that housing is covered in its own section, but there may really be a need to tie the impact housing has on the ability to recruit newer individuals and industries by having something related to housing here. Perhaps something about encouraging existing and future industry to support employee housing in some way.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
74	Further grow, develop and Recruit students from Stafford Tech Center. Make it a part of the VT Community Colleges and recruit more teachers. Pay students age 19-24 to learn on the job training. Teach the next generation how to properly FIX and RESTORE our buildigs.	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
75	The role of quality education in a resilient economy. Need better schools (PK-12) and regional opportunities for higher education, post-graduate programs, etc. Support VTSU Castleton.	9/24/2024 3:37 PM
76	Ensure that infrastructure (high speed internet & cell service) supports work-from-home options, expanding work opportunities while decreasing commuting time & challenges (weather, car problems, medical issues, etc.), especially in more rural communities. Support a creative economy through "cottage" industries, artists & craftsmen, local food venues, and other kinds of small businesses that represent and expand upon Vermont's "place" & values. Recognize the value of diversity in our workforce.	9/23/2024 12:21 PM
77	The course offerings at CCV are absolutely PITIFUL. We need more classes that will fulfill general ed requirements for our children to get an affordable education with the ability to transfer to other colleges in Vermont. We look at the schedule every semester for our high schoolers and are always shocked at how little is offered.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
78	Light industry -much needed - may simply physically not fit well in the downtown areas. "Adjacent " ?	9/17/2024 8:14 AM
79	Solar panels on all new commercial construction beginning 2026	9/16/2024 1:46 PM
80	We should try to relocate more government jobs to the area from Montpelier since we don't flood like they do.	9/16/2024 12:53 PM
81	But HOW? These are great goals but not policies.	9/12/2024 7:50 PM
82	Difficult to recruit new workers and retain younger adults without higher wages and lower living expenses.	9/12/2024 3:25 PM
83	Without addressing the lack of affordable housing or the availability of housing, rental or otherwise, will continue to make it difficult to attract new businesses, or employees, or to retain our young people. Has to happen concurrently and with intentionality.	9/12/2024 1:03 PM
84	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 4: Cultural Resources Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	Create a forum where senior citizens can share their histories	11/23/2024 2:43 PM

2	support preservation of truly historic resources, however not everything that is old is historic	11/23/2024 12:34 PM
3	Food festivala thay celebrate our amazing and diverse populstion, AND our local foods and farms.	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
4	I would love to see more festivals in the area -- as a musician/artist, I can tell you that the venues available were significantly cut back due to the Covid outbreak, and those particular opportunities haven't returned. It is no longer a profitable proposition to play music, as the funding is not available to pay anyone what it might be worth to schlep all of that equipment and provide entertainment. Obviously, if you're only in it for the money, you had better get out, but overall it seems not worth it to go out anymore. If these festivals were funded by taxpayer dollars, I'm not sure that there is a gain in it for the taxpayers, myself being one of them. I have also been victim of stalking in a grocery store during a festival for diversity several years ago, and fortunately I was aware of it. I did contact the management and I WAS walked to my vehicle. That was my last encounter shopping downtown and I don't plan to return.	11/22/2024 12:15 PM
5	I think Rutland City is doing well in this area.	11/21/2024 3:57 PM
6	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
7	Towns should learn from each other or even better doing more together to make it work.	11/20/2024 12:19 PM
8	You changed the order of the responses. I agree comes first in all previous questions and here it comes second. I'm concerned people answering quickly will miss that and might check I disagree instead of agree if they miss this inconsistency.	11/20/2024 3:29 AM
9	Consider a master plan for thoughtful inclusion of public art throughout downtown and in the villages.	11/19/2024 11:32 PM
10	No	11/19/2024 9:22 PM
11	Add the important role Rutland played in early Revolutionary War. Ft Rutland. Crown Point Rd. Otter Creek. Indigenous peoples	11/19/2024 7:59 PM
12	Parks and natural resources seem far more deserving of ongoing investment than festivals. Maybe that's just me. But I think festivals sometimes have an artificial or forced aspect, a desperate plea to get people to come, for one day or one weekend. Then what happens the rest of the year. But trails and scenic beauty are for all year round, forever. (PS. If you're keeping track, please count me as one of those people who'd love to see VT prioritize walking, hiking, skiing and other carbonless human activities over snowmobiles, motorcycles, 4-wheelers and other forms of fun that rely on being strapped to a loud gas engine.	11/19/2024 7:05 PM
13	I wonder if more could be done to inform people about opportunities for outdoor recreation opportunities.	11/19/2024 6:37 PM
14	Historic buildings should be protected - BUT NOT at the cost of losing new employment opportunities.	11/19/2024 6:27 PM
15	^quick note on this question: the response order was switched. For all previous questions the response options have been 1st- "I AGREE" 2nd-"I DISAGREE"	11/19/2024 5:29 PM
16	We need a movie theatre	11/19/2024 5:01 PM
17	I would like to see a higher emphasis on the arts and production of culture throughout the region. Historical societies are great but they look to the past less than the future. Art is about dreaming the world of tomorrow	11/19/2024 7:47 AM
18	Solar and wind development in these scenic resources is not compatible with these goals	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
19	More festivals year round that bring together families and tourists. Examples- film festival, winter festival like this one every January - https://www.durango.org/events/annual-events/winter/snowdown/	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
20	Tourism that shares all the historical significance of Vermont. It's beauty and heritage is not marketed very well.	11/18/2024 9:33 PM
21	Expand trail systems and make info available on the web.	11/18/2024 6:33 PM
22	Innovation and growth!! Not stagnation and a dying State, to preserve WHAT FOR WHO???? BUILD build build business development and allow Innovation to ALL, not just a few!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM

23	I am unhappy with attending events at New Hampshire venues such as Oper North and the Lebanon Opera House. Why not the Paramount?	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
24	we're all the same don't focus on one sexual group. Teach more of the true history of the peoples who lived here before the transits of Europe escaping religious persecution.	11/18/2024 5:43 PM
25	As long as the historic buildings are usable for something that would benefit the area.	11/18/2024 5:33 PM
26	Keep the library located where it is. Use Center Street! I still think it should be blocked off and be an entertainment/dining/greenspace area.	11/18/2024 5:30 PM
27	Do not ignore the long history of hunting and fishing in the region to draw in long term residents	11/18/2024 5:08 PM
28	Every old building you refuse to tear down is another new building that can't go up. End homelessness by allowing homes to be built	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
29	More festivals	11/18/2024 12:07 PM
30	Vermont and this community rely on tourism heavily and the need to maintain are views and landscape will be incredibly important to the continued development of Vermont. While I agree more community involvement and volunteer work would be beneficial I don't think any tax dollars and or positions in government should be responsible for creating and organizing these it would be a huge and disrespectful waste of taxes dollars in this climate	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
31	Don't let this issue override affordable housing development. Better advertising of existing events.	11/1/2024 9:55 AM
32	Consider aligning natural recreational assets with areas that should be preserved and restored for other ecosystem services such as flood, wind, and noise mitigation. I think there is also some concern in the region for the public safety on existing trail systems that make those more vulnerable apprehensive about going there.	10/30/2024 2:49 PM
33	"There was also a strong desire for more annual festivals throughout the region, specifically more pride festivals and centers." "Strengthen the intra-organizational relationships and volunteer capacity of historical societies within the region." There's a gap here ... historical societies that do not connect the history of the region with its contemporary experience are somewhere between limited and doomed to eventual obsolescence. Festivals for the sake of festivals can generate tourist dollars but not build community. Cultural resources should first and foremost build a sense of community.	10/30/2024 10:58 AM
34	People who aren't spending 2-3 hours per day commuting in a car, who aren't having to devote half of their weekend free time to mowing lawns and general landscaping are going to have more money and time on their hands to engage in entertainment, educational, and cultural activities. Additionally, if they are living in Net zero housing they will have even more money on their hands, saved from more efficient utilities to spend on local cultural activities.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
35	I have an African American Heritage Trail Map that I am following. Trail such as this one are enriching to visitors and Vermonters alike.	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
36	This does fight with the first chapter, though: how do you grow downtowns and encourage infill and still preserve historic buildings?	10/24/2024 1:54 PM
37	I feel all these policy points must include an environmental focus within it.	10/20/2024 3:18 PM
38	Similar but different I would always say incorporate sports into this community measure of events. I think bringing a marketing emphasis to let's say Castleton sports teams as the Rutland Regions team for Civic Pride, or having high school based tournaments to incorporate more visitors across the region. Pipe dream could be finding a professional minor league sport franchise to make roots in Rutland like baseball, soccer, etc.	10/20/2024 10:12 AM
39	Consider reuse of historical buildings as housing and/or mixed use.	10/18/2024 5:45 PM
40	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
41	I don't understand Policy 2. What is it sayinhg?	10/18/2024 9:06 AM
42	outdoor recreation/educational opportunities should be included	10/17/2024 12:15 PM

43	Better messaging about existing trail systems, but less new development of trail systems. There are many trails I rarely see other people on, and though I would like to keep it that way it's more important to me to reduce more trail development.	10/17/2024 9:44 AM
44	You switched the order of these responses from the past questions. I initially hit disagree as it was the first choice before	10/17/2024 9:33 AM
45	I would like to see something around recreation, specifically in connecting existing resources to make them more accessible (ex. bike routes connecting different parts of the city to Pine Hill Park)	10/17/2024 8:12 AM
46	The last thing teachers need is another outside source coming with unfunded curriculum ideas. In fact, that statement show a rather lack of knowledge within the education system.	10/16/2024 2:30 PM
47	Why specifically "pride" why not all nationalities It seems someone who is working on this project is promoting their own csuse	10/16/2024 1:23 PM
48	Rutland needs a movie theater	10/16/2024 1:11 PM
49	Strongly disagree with the "public input"- the solution is not more pride festivals. Continuing to push the cultural divide and create conflict with our communities is not going to fix anything. However the draft policies do not seem devisive- at least not on the surface as it depends on how "history" is interpreted.	10/16/2024 10:39 AM
50	I would like to see more regional trail connections ie. Rail Trails	10/16/2024 10:33 AM
51	The history of native Americans living in the Rutland area before colonization and after settlement has been widely overlooked. The very first settler and family would not have made it through the first winter if it hadn't been for a native family that took them in when the roof of their cabin collapsed under the weight of the snow. We need to educate and celebrate the first people of this region	10/9/2024 3:07 PM
52	How to get EVERYONE more involved in cultural activities and appreciation of unique features of their neighborhoods? The people responding to your surveys I imagine are not living in poverty or low income. I would think they tend to be middle class and above. How to involve the very large number of people at the lower range of the bell curve? Is it possible to identify and restore/protect some areas of cultural or historic significance in the lower income areas of Rutland such as in "the gut"? Could an effort be made to find out from residents in each neighborhood some features that they would like to see honored or noted in some way? Maybe that's more a job for the historical society. I really think there needs to be buy-in from ALL types of groups.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
53	Why change up the order of Agree / Disagree in the Response area with this question?	10/8/2024 10:35 AM
54	There is a very rich cultural history to our region (Polish, Italian, etc.). The Ethnic Festival that the Downtown Rutland Partnership used to put on was a wonderful experience. Maybe look back at worked over the last 20 years and see if there is interest in replicating some of those events.	10/7/2024 3:04 PM
55	Work to become an arts destination. The Paramount is, well, paramount to this goal, but we are short on small venues, such as pubs, clubs, and a small hall (think Higher Ground in Burlington). Rutland should be on the circuit.	10/7/2024 12:36 PM
56	Public input seemed to emphasize natural resources like the Appalachian Trail corridor, rivers, lakes, etc. However, the draft policies were focused on urban renewal and support for nonprofit organizations. Finally, the emphasis should be on natural resources for environmental, recreational, and active use rather than scenic resources.	10/7/2024 11:28 AM
57	We need to address how municipalities can get federal and state funding to support these policies.	10/7/2024 9:38 AM
58	Rutland has a lot of beauty due to the character of our historic downtown - it's time we really celebrated this! Marketing campaigns and better signage pointing people off route 4 and 7 to downtown would be awesome	10/6/2024 7:40 PM
59	No more pride festivals unless we can also have straight festivals. I feel attacked and undervalued as a 47yr old straight female. Celebrating local history is wonderful. Start with the natives and work forward. Movie theaters, a community center where kids can go after-school or on the weekends for crafts, Sports and dances is needed.	10/6/2024 5:15 PM

60	The state lacks a film department that would encourage the making of Hallmark movies, like "Moonlight in Vermont" to actually be produced here. Rutland County could support the shooting of tv commercials as the NY and Boston ad agencies are only 3-4 hours away. There are also opportunities to support local documentarians to produce historical programs such as the invention of the electric motor by Thomas Davenport.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
61	Why are things such as pride festivals etc considered to be so important when a relatively small percentage of Vermont residents identify as a member of this group? How about including programs that honor veterans and other public servants.	10/6/2024 10:36 AM
62	There are more societal and culture groups than just the pride area who need representation. What about the indigenous, ethnic groups who built and contributed to the history and economy, the multiple flavors of backgrounds?	10/5/2024 11:52 PM
63	I agree with most of the input, but believe that historical focused and cultural festivals should be prioritized over pride festivals, which are not specific to the region	10/5/2024 10:30 PM
64	Social issues like pride festivals and centers do not belong in this type of plan.	10/5/2024 6:51 PM
65	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
66	Retain facilities for community art and culture.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
67	No need for pride events	10/4/2024 8:45 PM
68	Recognize the value of cultural diversity. Celebrate the art, music and foods of diverse cultures.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
69	Consider hiring someone to update locations on popular hiking apps such as Alltrails. Also maybe a kickback to locals who allow hiking trails to run through their properties. Not sure if more education is what is needed here, most people living here already treasure the historic and scenic resources around. They just need to be reassured that their opportunities won't be trampled in the process of preserving them	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
70	We should not be promoting a specific sexual organization or way of life. Also we should be financially those landowners who keep their landsc ape attractive for others to enjoy or else in years to come there will be only trees and schrubs to look at	10/4/2024 2:02 PM
71	More fundraising by the people and individuals who want to support their causes. Stop funding nonsense	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
72	For Policy 4, there may be a way to better word it by preserving viewsheds as well as scenic resources, unless that already includes viewsheds in its meaning. It would also be great to find a way to support a culture of multi-modal transportation within and between towns.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
73	Work on the relationship between all of these chapters. Teach the next generation to fix the aging buildings in our community. Keep Rutland City swimming pool, vibrant and alive offer more classes and workshops at the mint and chaffy for adults and teens. Develop more spaces/ learning jobs for our teens. How about a teenager run newspaper? Develop the public health clinics. See who is being marginalized and bring them forward. Do not let the Mercedes-driving Rich people that just moved in make all the rules To accommodate their part-time residence and resident here. Honor full-time residencies do not let Airbnb ruin and hollow out our city.	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
74	Don't just recognize arts & culture, but actually expand access to the arts in our rural communities.	9/23/2024 12:21 PM
75	I agree most with Policies 1 and 4. I would say we have plenty of parades and events. Not that that's a bad thing, just not something I think needs to be focused on expanding. Not sure if this is the appropriate place to add this concern, but the issues with people who have addiction problems and mental health issues wandering around town has become absolutely unbelievable and has grown exponentially in just a few years. The Price Chopper/Walmart parking lot is unbelievable and an embarrassment for those visiting Rutland. It does not make a good impression or encourage tourists drawn in by places like Killington to spend there money staying here or shopping and dining here. My heart goes out to those struggling with mental health or addiction and their families. Honestly, improving that situation would be my number one goal, and would accomplish many of the other policies listed to focus on.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM

76	Funding for trail maintenance.	9/17/2024 6:06 AM
77	I think that having more annual festivals is a great idea. They could be of various types such as the Pride Festival as well as things like the Whoopie Pie Festival. Long ago there was an Ethnic Festival in downtown Rutland that was wonderful.	9/16/2024 4:26 PM
78	Preserving buildings sounds good on paper when feasible but sometimes it makes more sense to replace. Dont scare away potential new businesses by forcing them to do preservation.	9/16/2024 2:23 PM
79	Invest funds into buying vacant homes & buildings to rehab to create more housing.	9/16/2024 12:53 PM
80	Development of outdoor recreation is very important.	9/13/2024 11:08 PM
81	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM
82	I think we need to work harder in some of our communities to recognize those hsitoric buildings.	9/11/2024 6:44 PM

Chapter 5: Transportation Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	Could Merchants Row be closed to vehicular traffic and turned into a pedestrian mall	11/23/2024 2:43 PM
2	Need bolder vision to get away from cars entirely. Think big. Look at other countries on how they move entire populations around their country.	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
3	I would LOVE to see increased/expanded capabilities for rail travel, more flights in and out of the airport, more services available.	11/22/2024 12:15 PM
4	Complete Streets infrastructure is not cost effective in rural communities.	11/21/2024 3:57 PM
5	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
6	More intercity buses beyond the borders of Vermont	11/20/2024 12:19 PM
7	More bike lanes; more postings discouraging littering.	11/20/2024 10:23 AM
8	Rail service should be cheaper and more plentiful.	11/19/2024 11:32 PM
9	No	11/19/2024 9:22 PM
10	I don't agree that our roads are generally too fast and need reduced speeds. But bike lanes in town -- those are awesome. I barely ride but the sense and safety of it should be clear to all. More freight by rail? If that can be done, it's a wonderful idea. Thank heavens we're no longer in a Robert Moses moment -- and with that we also don't need to swing too far in the other direction and spend money on small interventions that intentionally hobble drivers with artificially narrowed lanes, speed bumps or lane-shifts, or corners tightened by balloon-shaped pedestrian landings. We all did OK without that stuff and to many of us it feels like shortsighted overcorrection.	11/19/2024 7:05 PM
11	Improved public transportation is needed to make it possible for people to stay in Rutland County towns after they can no longer drive. Outside of Rutland City there are almost no bike paths or side walks. Riding a bike on state highways is not safe.	11/19/2024 6:37 PM
12	The airport runway desperately needs to be enlarged to handle "real" commercial aircraft, not just the smaller planes. We also need a far greater number of EV charging stations if you wish to encourage the use of them.	11/19/2024 6:27 PM
13	I am concerned with increased train cargo in particular hazardous materials and the risk of train derailment.	11/19/2024 5:46 PM
14	Along with supporting the higher number of EVs in our future, we must create a mechanism for them to pay for the infrastructure they currently use, and for the additional infrastructure needed.	11/19/2024 4:02 PM
15	Rail service is underutilized by residents, seemingly mostly used by tourists and business people. No regional transportation service available east of Killington. Rideshare services almost nonexistant in our region.	11/19/2024 12:13 PM
16	Policy 4 should be a higher priority.	11/19/2024 10:36 AM

17	Get Omnia to use a rail system and get all the Casella trucks off Route 7!	11/19/2024 9:16 AM
18	How will you these items be paid for?	11/19/2024 7:54 AM
19	Some of these policies are written in a way that is vague and difficult to parse (9 for instance) I also think widening the shoulder on roads between villages would make things safer for runners and bikers	11/19/2024 7:47 AM
20	Don't pay for these improvements that will primarily benefit the wealthy (spec. airports and EVs) or those in urban areas with taxes that are borne primarily by the working poor (those who used to be the middle class)!!	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
21	Bus transportation - https://www.ecowatch.com/electric-bus-travel-cities-us.html More frequent routes need to be added. Current system can't support transportation of residents to and from work in Rutland or surrounding towns.	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
22	Yes to complete streets! Yes to EV infrastructure!	11/19/2024 2:42 AM
23	As mentioned in comment #1, add bikeability to the plan. Walkability is great, but we need to ensure safety of bikers within towns, and expand biking trails to connect Rutland to Brandon and Middlebury, and Rutland to Castleton.	11/18/2024 10:30 PM
24	If rail was more affordable, we'd use it more. Mass transit would be wonderful if there were riders to support it, infrastructure, cost reductions, and more use.	11/18/2024 9:33 PM
25	Reducing speeds is not the answer. Police the current limits and enforce them. Without enforcement no speed limit will be honored.	11/18/2024 8:34 PM
26	Re 7 and 8, minimize RR grade crossings.	11/18/2024 6:33 PM
27	No to bike paths! Return to double lanes on Woodstock Ave. And dump that ridiculous central turning lane. All you do is WASTE taxpayers money! No and more NO to bike paths, YES, YES N YES to fully safe, completed SIDEWALKS and public transportation returned , a bus and train to BOSTON not just NYC!!!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
28	why no service to Boston?	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
29	stop the focus on EVs. If you can't keep the roads free of potholes how can you keep bike paths upkept?????? offering this As a long distance bicyclist...	11/18/2024 5:43 PM
30	We need to stop fixing roads with band-aid type solutions. Fix less per year but fix them correctly so not doing the same repairs every 3 or 4 years.	11/18/2024 5:32 PM
31	Come up with an economical, easy to use parking meter situation!	11/18/2024 5:30 PM
32	provide transportation from small villages to Rutland. Make is so seniors can get transportation to Rutland from places with no service	11/18/2024 5:18 PM
33	Consider solutions for public transportation in rural areas for elderly and home bound in particular	11/18/2024 5:08 PM
34	We do not have the population density to justify rail. We need more investment in roads and air, not in vanity and virtue signal projects. Rail is for cargo, not people, and EVs are unserious.	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
35	The state's safe roads at safe speeds winter road policy should be reconsidered. Poor road conditions are causing unnecessary accidents, injuries, and fatalities.	11/18/2024 2:10 PM
36	Policy 3- hopefully the new legislature will realize how crazy the EV mandate is. The worst thing was having rail servive from NY to Burlington giving the drug trade a convenient path	11/18/2024 12:16 PM
37	I think if we want to increase the amount of people coming in through the Rutland Amtrak station beside Walmart it would need better bag checks and police presence to many people from Troy NY and MASS coming with drugs to take advantage of are more vulnerable citizens	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
38	I believe the performance of EVs in Vt winters is a study worth considering.	11/5/2024 9:15 AM
39	More options for safe transportation if drinking. Reopen airport cafe? I don't know how effective the bike share arrows are especially when there is no corresponding bike lane. Is there a way to get more people to get the bus to killington for skiing/riding?	11/1/2024 9:55 AM

40	I agree with essentially all of the policies, some of them strongly. Two things to keep in mind: Financially viable mass transit depends upon population density of ridership. Walking, biking, and some form of intra-city/inter-neighborhood transit should be the three modes of getting around safe, efficient, pleasant towns. Second, remember that electric cars are intended to save the automotive industry, not to develop an inexpensive, efficient, resident friendly means of getting around a community nor make that community more livable nor economically stronger. A 20,000 sq ft commercial enterprises given 400,000 sq ft of car parking is not the way to improve density, necessary for viable mass transit and easily accessible businesses for people choosing active, non-car travel. Cars in cities make them dirty, noisy, and dangerous. Human communities need to prioritize the needs of their human residents, not vehicles - whether those vehicles are propelled by hydrocarbons, electrons, or positive intentions. Prevailing modern mindset is deeply mired in car dependency as the only way to get around a community, but if neighborhoods are to get cleaner, more pleasant and safer to live in and cities, towns, and villages are to get economically stronger and more resilient, they will need to cater to people and not cars.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
41	And do not support building another highway that would cut the state in half	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
42	Remember, it is easy to say EV's, but they are expensive, who has chargers in their homes? (also expensive) and what about looking at where our electricity comes from.	10/25/2024 8:16 AM
43	I dont agree with EVs	10/25/2024 7:18 AM
44	Modernize rail system on western side of Vermont, so it would take traffic off of route 7, and cut down on auto pollution, allow visitors to the state a better way to experience Vermont towns along the west side of the state.	10/24/2024 11:02 PM
45	I know this is specific and not general, but the Brixmor property serving as a gateway to Rutland from the Amtrak station is such a detriment to inviting travelers into the community.	10/24/2024 10:21 PM
46	Failure to identify the funding source for any of these items. Local mass transit has not been proven financially viable	10/24/2024 9:23 PM
47	Continue sidewalk improvements	10/24/2024 3:13 PM
48	A North - South Highway and/or Route 7 and Route 4 bypass.	10/24/2024 11:59 AM
49	I would like the Regional Plan to address the public safety issues of ATVs on public roads. This topic comes up in individual towns, but it can be a regional issue because people from one town will drive through another town to get from place to place. All available research brings to light that ATVs do not belong on public roads, especially paved roads. It would be helpful to have language in the Regional Plan that supports restricting the use of ATVs to private property and limiting the use of public roads to minimum distances to connect private property trails to one another. Also accidents, especially for young riders, are well documented and could be mentioned in the Regional Plan to support language to limit the use of ATVs to private property and not public roads.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
50	We don't have enough population density to support regional transportation systems like buses without placing the burden on taxpayers to fund these programs that operate at a deficit. New residents to Vermont often have visions of a more robust transit system but fail to take into account the low population density and the user base for such systems which are not economically viable given our population makeup.	10/22/2024 10:21 AM
51	I think finding a way to increase airport destinations in Rutland would really increase that travel in the area vs driving. Boston is great but also like a NYC destination would provide more travel destinations. I do agree the bus running on an expanded schedule especially at night on the weekends would be good to help promote night life in the area and overall safety for people. Lastly, maybe looking into increase rail in state that's a commuter from Rutland to Burlington etc.	10/20/2024 10:12 AM
52	Encourage development of more rail trails.	10/18/2024 1:52 PM
53	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
54	Work hard to overcome opposition to "road diets" in Rutland. Add bike lanes whenever possible when repairing/repaving roads.	10/18/2024 9:58 AM
55	Please help lower speed and traffic deaths along the Rt 4 corridor.	10/17/2024 8:35 PM

56	I disagree with Policy 7. Rail Service in Rutland Region. Trying to picture what this would look like and I just don't see it. Policy 4 makes sense to connect people to the rail stations, but we don't have rail roads connecting various towns and villages in the Rutland Region. I would not want to use tax dollars for something of that magnitude.	10/17/2024 2:06 PM
57	How can we support development of Uber, Lyft and the likes? Carpooling incentives?	10/17/2024 10:52 AM
58	I am not anxious to support the EV transition	10/17/2024 9:33 AM
59	I disagree with Policy 3. EV is not a sustainable solution when the policy has the person's previous vehicle destroyed in order to trade in for an EV.	10/16/2024 10:39 PM
60	I would like to see UBER, LYFT or some other single-person transportation come in. My brother and sister-in-law do not drive and she walks home often late at night after the busses have stopped running.	10/16/2024 6:13 PM
61	The new sidewalks in Castleton are a good step in the right direction---reduced speeds downtown would be another.	10/16/2024 5:45 PM
62	EV May take a lot longer to accept The concept may sound good but at this time impractical	10/16/2024 1:23 PM
63	Increase the number of carpooling parking lots in the area - along 103 and route 7	10/16/2024 1:11 PM
64	Highlight scenic byways for tourism. Address illegal truck traffic on local roads.	10/16/2024 10:33 AM
65	Quicker adaption to the need of transportation where we don't have it now	10/12/2024 9:57 PM
66	Airplanes are approaching Roland airport at lower and lower angles. This is disconcerting to those living in the flight path.	10/9/2024 8:01 PM
67	Attention to vehicles stopping for folks to cross at designated crosswalks. Vehicles are not stopping and its a safety hazard for those trying to cross the street. Gratitude for the current road improvements occurring around Rutland!	10/9/2024 12:13 PM
68	More carpooling? A few designated areas around the city where people can safely leave cars while carpooling?	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
69	Funding and regulations are huge obstacles to sidewalk infrastructure.	10/8/2024 10:49 AM
70	Infrastructure for improve EV can not happen rightaway, a need to build in with new developments and improve downtown center plans for some of the infrastructure as projects come forward over time to reach the goals	10/7/2024 3:31 PM
71	Figure out the balance between the push for EV vs. gas powered vehicles. What is the revenue replacement when you lose the shared tax base because people are using less gas? Educate the public about the use of alternate transportation and build better access and connections between counties.	10/7/2024 3:04 PM
72	I would love to see a train departing Albany in the morning and arriving mid-day in Burlington to compliment the Ethan Allen route. It would be nice to get to Burlington in time to enjoy the day.	10/7/2024 1:58 PM
73	Generally in agreement, particularly with the need to ensure rail service improvements and airport viability. Need more emphasis on expansion of bussing options to accommodate job commuters and to allow the use of public transportation for evening and weekend recreational activities.	10/7/2024 11:28 AM
74	We need more "Rail Trails" bike and pedestrian paths and less bike lanes and road diets on our streets and highways.	10/7/2024 9:38 AM
75	It is incredible that the bus system is free (this could be better advertised!), but some of the timing of buses is pretty useless for working people. My car-less coworker has a hard time getting to work by 8 and home after 5 due to a lack of buses before and after those times, when they are probably most needed. We also have no functional taxi/rideshare services, which might be a nice industry to encourage.	10/6/2024 7:40 PM
76	Air connections to the NYC-area would increase value of Rutland airport.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
77	With the amount of pollution EVs are responsible for in their production and disposal not sure if this should be included unless an unbiased study without political ramifications can clear show that EV's in their entirety really are less polluting than other vehicles	10/6/2024 10:36 AM

78	I agree with all except policy 3. EVs have had extensive challenges, and infrastructure cost is significant. This doesn't seem to be of the it most importance to prioritize with a technology that has not yet proven reliable, and is ever changing due to its nuance especially in many of this regions rural communities.	10/6/2024 8:31 AM
79	Increase the hours after 4pm the MVRT bus operates. People need to get to and from places after that. Increase stops and bus coverage past dunkin donuts on Woodstock. Forbid disparaging remarks on the bus about disabled people using it.	10/5/2024 11:52 PM
80	increasing availability and utilization of public transportation is critical, but improving the flow of traffic through Rutland would also be highly advantageous	10/5/2024 10:30 PM
81	The 40+ seat passenger bus is underutilized as most of the time only a few people ride that. Could it be more efficient using mini-bus or passenger vans. A review if schools can use "The Bus" in lieu of having so many school buses that sit idle most of the time as a cost saving for some of the routes. This would address the plight of many the regional buses being underused.	10/5/2024 10:09 PM
82	Taxes have gone up a lot! Good ideas but please don't spend so much to get everything that taxes run out people living here!	10/5/2024 8:36 PM
83	Ensure safety is prioritized for rail crossings and also for pedestrian crossings.	10/5/2024 7:03 PM
84	#3 is low priority... lower than public transportation	10/5/2024 6:26 PM
85	Do not focus on EVs, it's a dead end except for trucking and public transport. Promote PHEV and build out the public transport system comprehensively (ie over capacity not under - that encourages an eventual usage shift)	10/5/2024 6:08 PM
86	I feel way too much attention has been focused on bike paths. For at least 5 months a year, no one can use them. I also do not support any further subsidies for EVs. I like increasing rail service and public transit systems.	10/5/2024 5:18 PM
87	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
88	I totally agree with fixing the roads and sidewalks also increasing accessibility to public and rail transportation . However I completely disagree with lowering the speed limits because Vermont is so rural intakes you an hour and a half to get anywhere. We are one of the most rural states and have the lowest speed limit . I also disagree with changing the roads to suit EVs again Vermont is so rural hat EVs don't really work well here because everything is so spread out not to mention all of the hills . It is bad enough he way that they ruined rout 7 in Rutland changing it from 4 lanes to 3 . You never had any trouble turning before and now it's more dangerous if you get stuck behind someone going 10 miles an hour you can't even go around them without the possibility of a head on collision.	10/4/2024 11:53 PM
89	Complete transportation facilities and equipment.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
90	Don't worry about ev's. Worry about quality roads for all to drive on.	10/4/2024 8:45 PM
91	The push for EVs is a little ridiculous considering two things-the process of manufacturing the lithium batteries needed is quite a bit more environmentally destructive than gas vehicles (not to mention the slave labor typically used to mine it) AND the unreliability of EVs in cold weather. Sure,encourage research into it. But the current direction seems to have been penalizing gas vehicles,making it harder for vermonters to afford the reliable transportation that they need.	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
92	Reduce truck traffic on Route 7 Rail for Omya	10/4/2024 5:19 PM
93	I would happily pay extra property tax to fix the roads. This would save hundreds in car repairs that I pay annually.	10/4/2024 12:21 PM
94	I really only slightly disagree with policy 3. I think EVs are still a long ways away from being available and affordable for a large portion of the community in the Rutland region and the building up of infrastructure is mostly only going to help tourists and smaller portions of the community. I don't know if it's the best place to be spending time and money.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM
95	Get Rt 22A widened and then do Rt 7 south of Wallingford.	10/4/2024 10:02 AM
96	You CANNOT increase the use of ev's without FIRST upgrading the power grid. That should be priority one.	10/4/2024 9:41 AM

97	I would add the need to work on an economical way to serve the small rural communities with public transportation options. The city and larger small towns depend on the more rural community's residents for their business, there needs to be a way to provide service to those communities knowing it will never be "economically feasible"	10/4/2024 9:19 AM
98	EV's are a joke in this climate. Stop developing things that need to be maintained. The new traffic patterns are horrible and quite dangerous. Bicycles are not a priority for many people who need to shop, do laundry transport children and elders and bringing people to and from the hospital or other appointments. Get some common sense and stop trying to be vogue when it is not working	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
99	I really like Policy 2. Policy 4 should also mention using transit to connect people with education as well as employment, etc. We may also be missing an opportunity to start folding Vision Zero into the Regional Plan here. I think this would support or at least be in line with Policy 1 and Policy 5. I'm wondering if there is an opportunity to include some sort of policy like, "For non-commercial transportation, reduce the miles completed by fossil-fueled passenger vehicles."	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
100	Keep the budget balanced. I have lived in my house for 20 years and have walked on a crooked sidewalk the whole time. I do not want to see my taxes go up because there is an urgency to get something fixed. That is not urgent. Please do not raise my taxes	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
101	Really would love bike/walking paths (like the footpaths in the UK) to improve safety & recreation, for both residential health & tourism. Route 30, e.g., is a beautiful corridor but hazardous for bikers. It would be great if our plan included development of connecting links between some of the existing natural areas & villages.	9/23/2024 12:21 PM
102	We appreciate the road improvements being made, but I have never seen the extreme conditions that the roads were left with in between the work being done. There was a huge ditch left near Aldi for several days. Completely understandable, but why was there NO signage indicating that there was a HUGE "Bump" ahead. People would see it coming at the last minute and slam on the brakes creating a very dangerous situation for the line of cars piling up in a panic stop behind them. And that ditch was beyond what should have been left for our cars to drive over, as well as the things sticking up out of the street for cars to dodge way to high to safely drive over. I think all of our cars suffered unnecessary damage that could have been solved with proper signage.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
103	Getting back to "the Bus".... It's use for people who work... and we always say we want more working people.... Most people can use the bus to get to work but little access for returning home after their shift.... And there are many shifts.... Not everyone can afford a car these days.....	9/18/2024 1:01 PM
104	more accessibility for disabled and elderly people, later bus routes / more times especially the killington commuter in the off season. i think a way to solve public transport in extremely rural vermont is to adopt a subsidized 'uber/lyft' like service but instead of it being a gig job make it a real state job....	9/17/2024 9:56 PM
105	I do not support or see a need for the bike paths on Woodstock Avenue or North Main Street. It is ludicrous that the bike lanes abruptly stop with absolutely no warning.	9/17/2024 3:13 PM
106	I hope that we can have better support like these for people who do not own cars and are unable to work due to that. Giving people with options of ways to get to a job is a great goal. I hope that we proceed carefully when moving forward with electric vehicles. I question if we are really ready for this at the level that is pushed in Vermont. (Acronyms are sometimes hard to understand. Example: EV. Many people may not know what this means, so spelling it out is important. Thanks.)	9/16/2024 4:26 PM
107	I have told the Airport officials more needs to be done to provide steady reliable transportation for the passengers we are attracting. Sundays there is NO service offered for transfer to Rutland etc. from the Airport.	9/16/2024 2:23 PM
108	Better public transportation in rural areas. Trains are cool, but buses are practical. Whistle stop in Brandon for Amtrak	9/16/2024 1:46 PM
109	EV's are NOT the answer. Increase the utilization of the airport. More airlines.	9/14/2024 6:36 AM
110	Where would the money come from for these initiatives?	9/12/2024 3:25 PM

111	With the rapid, exciting advancement in hybrid and EV technology, I think it would be wise to hold off on the development of infrastructure that supports a technology that may be obsolete by the time it is in place.	9/12/2024 7:15 AM
112	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 6: Housing Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	Is there a policy lever for encouraging owners of blighted or otherwise disused stock to sell or rent?	12/1/2024 8:55 AM
2	Facilities that are kept nice and not slumlords run or trailer parks	12/1/2024 1:50 AM
3	Need to think post-capitalism policy to end multiple house ownership by airbnb folks and absentee wall street landlords. Repurpose existing buildings. I don't know how this would work but look to other countries and housing cooperatives and cooperative funding institutions like Cooperative Fund of Northeast/New England for guidance. Banks are not going to help you with this. though. We must move away from current bank-led model which leaves marginalized people out of ownership equation, and favors the rich.	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
4	Are there not buildings throughout the city that are abandoned/up for tax sale, that maybe could be renovated into living facilities to transition the homeless? I'm sure there is much more to this than a simple yes or no, but you offered me this opportunity, so I'm asking. I maintain a rental building, and I keep it in tip top shape. I am always receiving notices of who I need to let in for inspections, and I have always cooperated. I DO however, get tenants applying who tell me of the rat infested/mold ridden/no locks on doors/unsafe and unkept premises that they're coming FROM, (one owned by an ATTORNEY who does not respond to the calls from the tenants...) and I can't understand why I am the one always having the inspections. I don't mind, I am in compliance. But how is this happening within the city? I am fortunate that my turnover is low, which is probably because I DO respond, and fortunately there are not many issues. Cause and effect....	11/22/2024 12:15 PM
5	We need to keep single family homes of all sizes. People should be able to design and build their own homes without universal design principles.	11/21/2024 3:57 PM
6	Look into tiny home zoning and options to build options for people to add dwellings on space that they own for family members (aging safely next to younger family members)	11/21/2024 8:05 AM
7	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
8	except Policy 1, 30% and 15% doesn't make sense in a over all policy target	11/20/2024 12:19 PM
9	Allow auxiliary dwellings to be added on suburban housing lots, like "Tiny houses", for example.	11/20/2024 10:23 AM
10	Utilize existing buildings for apartments. Maintain environmental integrity.	11/20/2024 9:44 AM
11	Career training in green building industries is needed. Consider partnership with Yestermorrow Design/Build School in Waitsfield.	11/19/2024 11:32 PM
12	No	11/19/2024 9:22 PM
13	All 4 policies sound like perfect planning policies! Let's do it! Especially infill and restoring existing housing stock to use! Density in village/town centers is such good medicine for so many ills!	11/19/2024 7:05 PM
14	Accomplishing these goals will cost money. But it will be money well spent.	11/19/2024 6:37 PM
15	Tax out of state property owners more / place some of burden on them regarding the housing shortage. I live year round in a seasonal community and it is heartbreaking to see how many homes remain empty most of the year while people are without shelter. "More" is not always the answer; how can we use what is already built and developed?	11/19/2024 5:15 PM

16	Rentals are severely needed, too.	11/19/2024 5:01 PM
17	Although a lofty goal, it is not essential that all housing be "high quality". This drives the lack of affordability for people. They need clean, decent, efficient housing at a reasonable cost. We don't need to create more subsidies, just decent affordable housing, like the rest of us have.	11/19/2024 4:02 PM
18	Too much to add here in regards to housing - although I agree with the key takeaways, there needs to be a regional agreement with helping those trying to help (low interest loans) and the state needs to look at the laws that do not prohibit landlords from not being able to evict those who are not paying rent and at the same time destroying the property that they are inhabiting.	11/19/2024 3:20 PM
19	Development of comprehensive temporary emergency housing utilizing low cost traditional building techniques like stackwood, adobe, etc bypassing the expense of milled lumber and empowering people unhoused in the building these structures.	11/19/2024 12:13 PM
20	My suggestion - priorities should be in order: Policy One Policy Four Policy Three Policy Two	11/19/2024 10:36 AM
21	I see value is considering incentivizing and/or taxing landlords who have multiple homes they rent and choose to use them all for short-term rentals. People who own multiple homes, more than one is used as a rental property, should be incentivized to do long-term rentals vs using Air Bnb etc.	11/19/2024 9:50 AM
22	Less is more when it comes to affordable. Smaller homes.	11/19/2024 9:16 AM
23	Lets focus on adequate, basic housing with rent to own options being part of the plan. We need housing options with low burden of entry that are intended to be, primarily, low cost and, secondarily, to meet other goals.	11/19/2024 8:57 AM
24	Increasing senior housing.	11/19/2024 7:54 AM
25	Great	11/19/2024 7:47 AM
26	Again don't pay for it with taxes on the working poor!	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
27	Affordable housing for workers and their families is key. Build community housing using shipping containers. Example- https://www.giantcontainers.com/posts/revolutionizing-affordable-housing-the-power-of-shipping-containers	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
28	Address the problem of housing being bought up by wealthy new-to-the-area residents, who telecommute to jobs outside the state - like Silicon Valley. Prioritize housing accessibility for residents who have lived in the area prior to the COVID pandemic (which is when there was an explosion of remote workers moving to VT). Ensure that housing is not bought up by investors looking to turn a profit, and thereby jacking up the median home price.	11/18/2024 10:30 PM
29	Act 250 should not be scrapped. There needs to be control over the type of building and how it fits with the environment. Without restrictions or regulations you risk losing why people move to Vermont. Allowing unchecked development will destroy the state.	11/18/2024 8:34 PM
30	Find out whether frustrations about Act 250 arise because the District Environmental Commission acts too slowly or because it has to wait for other branches of the state, like the Agency of Natural Resources, to weigh in on permit applications. When I was on the District Environmental Commissions, ANR was the main source of delay.	11/18/2024 6:33 PM
31	How about get current LAND LORDS to update and keep their PROPERTY LEGAL and safe for tenants, at a reasonable rate! I own! It's ridiculous the cost of everything now. Affordable housing you say. How about fix what IS and offer permanent housing, where people can OWN not just rent and be sucked dry by LL and the system. Empowerment comes from OWNING something you now have a true investment in!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
32	control short-term rental takeovers	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
33	If we want to recruit a younger workforce we need to embrace and expand the outdoor adventure opportunities in our region. We also need affordable housing in desirable areas for young professionals as well as middle class families.	11/18/2024 6:00 PM
34	Workforce handling is needed	11/18/2024 5:18 PM
35	Towns should address and allow diverse housing types in zoning . Get rid of SFH districts	11/18/2024 5:15 PM
36	Consider confusing opportunities	11/18/2024 5:08 PM

37	Just reduce (or eliminate) zoning restrictions, and lower taxes, especially property taxes. Supply and demand is pretty basic.	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
38	Providing affordable housing does not cure the drug and crime problems that have overwhelmed Rutland in the last decade.	11/18/2024 2:10 PM
39	where is the money coming from to build high quality homes for low income that will pay 30% of their income????? Who is doing the building and who is financing?	11/18/2024 12:16 PM
40	Because of the housing trust and a few families owning a majority of homes in this city due to the collusion of many city officials over the years in rutland it has simply out priced homes for working people if you aren't on welfare or state assistance you can't afford an apartment or home in VT anymore and the answer definitely isn't using tax dollars to fund it. My taxes are already giving out to, to many of these corrupt people and organizations who abuse the money NO MORE	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
41	I would like to see focus on expanding Planned Growth and Village areas where it makes sense.	11/6/2024 11:49 AM
42	I struggle with the concept of creating affordable homes for households with varying incomes. Are we proposing subsidies of some sort with an income cap?	11/5/2024 9:15 AM
43	incentivize affordable development	11/1/2024 9:55 AM
44	It is important to bring natural hazards and climate change into the conversation on housing. We need to be planning housing development in safe locations - ideally we can do this in areas that are still connected to our historic development patterns and downtowns, but we can't depend on swift water rescue and volunteers to muck out homes every time it floods. It is also important to highlight that one of the only ways to reduce long-term vulnerability in our communities is to reduce the number of people who are unhoused or in unsafe housing. Those who are unhoused are the most exposed and vulnerable to hazard events.	10/30/2024 2:49 PM
45	Yes. Housing should be constructed out of 100-year lifetime materials and methods. Building code(s) needs to mandate energy efficient structures, (passive house, Net zero, etc). Housing needs to be built that has a designed-in level of features, efficiency, safety, and longevity of expected life that affords the inhabitants housing that does not move them into a structure which is going to continue to be, on into the future, expensive to maintain, to insure, to make livable.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
46	Encourage restoration or demolition of abandoned homes Also limit AirBNB type rental properties	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
47	It is easy to say these are our goals, but another thing when 4 sheets of particle board cost over \$200.00. DO you know how many sheets it takes to build a house?	10/25/2024 8:16 AM
48	Housing is a problem because there isn't enough industry to support the economic growth needed to create the housing. Housing will always be too expensive, because the jobs are not here to provide the income needed for those wishing to live in Rutland County, putting the cart before the horse!	10/24/2024 11:02 PM
49	Is there a way to tax AirBNB properties?	10/24/2024 4:28 PM
50	I agree with some caveats. In particular, Policy 4. Some rural Rutland County towns had a fair amount of development, historically, in places where it would still make sense but are not called out as Planned Growth or Village Areas. However, I will point out that unless the Regional Plan language meets the regulatory standards, I'm not sure it matters because the language as proposed is visionary and not regulatory and therefore is not meaningful in Act 250 where housing development outside of exempt areas might be looked at and where regulatory language would apply.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM

51	This problem has existed for a long time here and was exacerbated by the pandemic housing boom where out of state persons bought up housing stock for non long term rental/occupancy. Wage suppression in the state is also a factor in the housing crisis. Wages are lower than across the border in NY for the same job (teachers, etc.). Creating affordable housing is a lofty goal but will be very hard to achieve while a lack of housing exists at the same time. Developers are not going to want to invest and then charge less than market rates without some sort of incentive which is again a double edged sword of increased taxes on our low population state.	10/22/2024 10:21 AM
52	Focus on housing for employees of new businesses as well as the homeless population.	10/21/2024 5:06 PM
53	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
54	Identify houses that are prime candidates for purchase and rehabilitation. Design programs to get municipalities involved in paying for those homes to be rehabbed and get them back into the housing market at reasonable costs.	10/18/2024 9:58 AM
55	Make it easier and cheaper to site and build!	10/18/2024 8:51 AM
56	Address blight and irresponsible apartment building owners.	10/18/2024 8:34 AM
57	I don't understand Policy 1. No more than 30% of whose income? The person renting or buying or the person who is creating the growth. How does transportation fit into housing? What is the connection?	10/17/2024 2:06 PM
58	Could we offer incentives to current land, lords, to rent to section 8 housing? Or incentivize housing the homeless?	10/17/2024 12:15 PM
59	Make it easier for folks to rent out "apartment" in their too large home. Maybe grants for renovations for small bath kitchen spaces to make it own livable space?	10/17/2024 10:52 AM
60	I support Act 250, but really enjoy the rollback of those provisions in high density areas (already developed areas).	10/17/2024 9:44 AM
61	Airbnbcan we do something to regulate?	10/16/2024 10:39 PM
62	But we need people to move here and there is no reason.	10/16/2024 10:17 PM
63	dont forget the middle working class 60-90k salary and their needs	10/16/2024 9:02 PM
64	Is it possible to put a cap on short-term rental units so further development of apartments/homes won't be put to that use?	10/16/2024 6:27 PM
65	Can we have some mixed-use dwellings? Especially in blighted properties in Rutland.	10/16/2024 6:13 PM
66	Act 250 allows local municipalities a degree of oversight within their community. I would ask how did our homeless population grow so astronomically in 3-4 years. And why has housing stock become old and blighted. There was a time where owners had pride in home and rental ownership - why has that changed?	10/16/2024 2:30 PM
67	Who pays any rent after 30% limit has been reached We cannot have a community survive on renters only paying 30 % of their income and not being able to earn over \$1400 per month	10/16/2024 1:23 PM
68	The elephant in the room it is the cost of the regulatory burden in creating these rental units combined with high tax rates is what drives up the rent. In order to convert an existing building into a rental the cost is too high to comply with all of the regulations that the investor/homeowner cannot afford to convert into a rental and still maintain low rent. Additionally, the tax structure penalizes for this conversion. I would like to convert some properties into affordable housing, but after complying with all the regulations and increase in my taxes there is no way that is feasible...and NO, offering subsidies is not the solution - this will only increases taxes more - we need deregulation!	10/16/2024 10:39 AM
69	Placing limits on the number of existing housing units used as short term rentals.	10/16/2024 9:02 AM

70	I agree that affordable housing is and needs to continue being the biggest concern. Not only do we need more housing options but more people in the region need to accept housing vouchers!!! Building more low income housing takes time, time that a lot of families do not have to wait. If more landlords excepted housing vouchers for already existing homes/ apartments then there would be actual movement on waiting lists instead of families being stuck for 2 years. I know so many people who received vouchers and were in turn never able to use them in the 80 day time frame because so many landlords don't take vouchers. This is something that has even impacted me personally, I received an emergency housing voucher, was told by landlord they accepted vouchers, moved into the apartment and then was told after submitting all the final paperwork my rent was 150\$ above the monthly aloud rate and landlord refused to even speak with me about lowering the rent by 150\$ so I could use the voucher, I was then locked into a one year lease and could not take my voucher somewheres else, and now stuck in an apartment I can not afford. Rutland NEEDS to do better!!! Both me and my partner work and can not afford these rental prices.	10/10/2024 11:45 AM
71	Generally agree, however we need good new houses and apartments for middle to high income people and families too. Only looking at low income and homeless is short sighted and becomes a waste	10/9/2024 8:01 PM
72	The location of this housing seems to be a factor with many folks who would live nearby. Safety concerns become an issue. Folks are fearful of increased crime in these areas. Although I agree with all of the above and these folks desperately need somewhere safe to live, it seems that no one wants them as neighbors.	10/9/2024 12:13 PM
73	Explore purposefully creating mixed-age housing to encourage extended family living of real families or enough variety of ages that it's like having an extended family around. this might help with child care. Many benefits in a mixture of ages. The idea is to promote Community.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
74	I do not see a plan to improve old neighborhood, preseveration of neighborhood identity and growth for family homes and small business growth (corner stores and services)	10/7/2024 3:31 PM
75	Use existing downtown for housing. Encourage and support changing underused office space to housing. A living downtown has people living in it.	10/7/2024 12:36 PM
76	I think we need something that addresses Air B&B's and the drain it places on our housing stocks. Also, would like to see something that helps developers build more affordable condominiums to accommodate workforce and retirees.	10/7/2024 9:38 AM
77	There also needs to be a focus on cleaning up abandoned property which makes streets and neighborhoods less attractive to potential residents.	10/7/2024 3:36 AM
78	I agree primarily with Policy 4. It seems exceedingly difficult to incentivize and enforce 1-3, but I think there is a lot of room for renovating existing housing stock and encouraging densification of existing neighborhoods.	10/6/2024 7:40 PM
79	The goal should be building smaller, net zero housing walkable to downtowns.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
80	As a former out of State landlord in Rutland County who would rather leave my house vacant than rent to anymore deadbeats who have little respect for the property pf others I would like to see more assistance for landlords who rent the property they own to others.	10/6/2024 10:36 AM
81	Increase education in housing about sexual harassment from other tenants.	10/5/2024 11:52 PM
82	I believe that housing vouchers given by the state to be used in motels are not improving the situation in the long term and are costing taxpayers far too much money - consider stimulating renovations and construction through tax breaks instead	10/5/2024 10:30 PM
83	Encourage alternative housing that uses mixed development, tiny housing, shared housing and mother/daughter units including small apartments in addition to primary residential structure. Increase density at appropriate planned areas that utilize existing or reasonable planned infrastructure extensions or development.	10/5/2024 10:09 PM
84	Is spending 30% on housing even possible anymore? Who is going to make up the difference? Policy 1 worries me.	10/5/2024 8:36 PM
85	To assist in freeing up housing that may be inhabited by one/two elderly persons, create affordable community housing for the growing elderly population.	10/5/2024 7:03 PM
86	Interfering with housing market is bad economics.	10/5/2024 6:08 PM

87	Explore public/private partnerships for housing development	10/5/2024 5:51 PM
88	Housing targeted for those with medical, mental health and related needs should be close to public transportation to facilitate those residents access to these services.	10/5/2024 5:33 PM
89	I would rather see efforts for market based housing increased as well as affordable housing. I think it is a very good idea to have existing housing stock get funding to put those units back on the market. I do not agree that these units need to be in Planned Growth and Village Areas.	10/5/2024 5:18 PM
90	repurposing old buildings for subsidized/affordable housing, like old factories, wasted/open space above businesses downtown. It's sad to see open spaces above restaurants and businesses downtown that could house those currently homeless	10/5/2024 8:11 AM
91	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
92	Provide diversified housing unit types.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
93	Act 250 should be totally repealed.. it's on a case by case basis and the adjoining landowners have more rights than the permit owners or applicants. Failed system.	10/4/2024 8:45 PM
94	Look to the esthetic of traditional Vermont architecture for inspiration for new development. Don't turn Vermont into Colorado.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
95	In regards to policy 1,make sure this includes those who want to own homes. Perhaps include major tax benefits to people who are buying homes as primary residences (especially locals!) Most people want to not be beholden to a landlord for the rest of their lives.	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
96	I disagree with npolicy #1Putting caps on rental income will only decrease the number of units for rent.	10/4/2024 2:02 PM
97	Like my comment for the Land Use section, I feel it's incredibly important and useful to start with buildings that already exist and renovating and rehabilitating them to provide housing.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM
98	There also needs to be a focus on respecting the historic character of properties being renovated or built within village centers. Older homes should not be butchered just to achieve some "economical" standard. Preservation and efficiency can go hand in hand. It just takes a bit more thought and care towards the details.	10/4/2024 9:19 AM
99	I agree: With everything but item 1. No smart people want to move to a place where basic amenities are not available for them, where decent jobs are available and the place is over run with panhandlers and drug thieves	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
100	I think there could or should be more emphasis placed on getting existing housing stock back into the pool of available housing. Underutilized existing buildings represent some of the quickest opportunities to get people into houses, reduce the competition for existing housing, and help address the cost of housing. Abundant housing is affordable housing. There may be room for a policy that focuses on ensuring people have housing near their place of work if they want it. Seeing people who work in Rutland and want to live here settle for buying or renting in places like Brandon and Poultney is unfortunate and adds to unnecessary commuting miles.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
101	A lot of pretty words. Like universal design let's just use our brains and common sense. Teach people to renovate the houses with the building materials that are now three times as more expensive as they were in the past. The housing Crisis Reflects the economic trouble of the country and the city should not take on that burden. The idea is to understand the bigger picture and to apply a methodical approach. We are not going to solve this problem overnight in other words, but if we pick and target a few houses to renovate with reclaimed materials, and perhaps free labor of people who are learning we will be able to accomplish this, this is a long-term plan that needs to be planned and implemented	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
102	Leverage more home improvement rebates & grants for renters.	9/23/2024 12:21 PM
103	The property and rent prices have gotten out of control over the entire state. Affordable housing for the working class is definitely needed, and the situation of people with addictions and mental health issues wandering the streets (especially the Price Chopper/Walmart parking lot is shockingly out of control. Remedying this situation would be my number one priority for improving Rutland and will also work towards progress on many of the other goals listed.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
104	The planned growth areas could be further out of the town center if there was reliable public transportation to and from work.... Affordable housing goes hand and hand with transportation	9/18/2024 1:01 PM

105	the elephant in the room is airbnbs and second home owners. theres plenty of homes. the rich out of staters are hoarding them.	9/17/2024 9:56 PM
106	The housing market has been impacted by the prices that can be obtained when you sell your home. Covid started the mass increase of out of staters paying top dollar for many of the homes that would have previously been affordable for locals. You can't blame a seller for wanting the most he/she can get but this created the lack of availability. You also can not prevent out of staters from buying locally but it might be interesting to look at the number of homes purchased by out of staters and now are VRBOs.	9/17/2024 3:13 PM
107	Perhaps raise transportation percentage so to allow smaller towns in outlying areas near larger population have increased home building or multiplex homes.	9/17/2024 10:01 AM
108	Great!!!	9/16/2024 4:26 PM
109	there is nothing wrong with having places with large rooms and then shared common areas like kitchens this would help some lower income people and is often the preferred way to live in other countries not everyone needs a whole house	9/16/2024 2:31 PM
110	Our region lacks in Manufactured Home parks. There are parks, but not enough. New parks that except Doublewide Manufactured Homes for 55+ would be highly desirable.	9/16/2024 2:23 PM
111	Place restrictions on STR and Airbnb	9/16/2024 1:46 PM
112	Invest and seek more funding to purchase and renovate vacant houses/buildings to create and resell more housing - at all price points.	9/16/2024 12:53 PM
113	The issue is that the maintenance of buildings, water, taxes are TOO HIGH and landlords have to make a living so rents are high. Rutland makes it expensive to support and own a building and if it is a rental those costs are passed on to tenants. No other way around it.	9/14/2024 6:36 AM
114	Act 250 revisions have been in front of the legislature for years. It is definitely an impediment to some business growth. Where would the funds come from to create the diverse homes?	9/12/2024 3:25 PM
115	These policies need to be enacted ASAP.	9/12/2024 1:03 PM
116	Please, please do not use Act 250 as an excuse. All of these policies can be accomplished within the parameters of Act 250. Are the reasons this development law was enacted no longer important to us in Vermont? Don't allow it to be an excuse!	9/12/2024 7:15 AM
117	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 7: Community Facilities and Public Utilities Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	Please be sure in all of these but especially in policy 8 that the development of parks, and trails takes into consideration the residents surrounding these projects. And that the development doesn't not impact them negatively.	12/2/2024 12:50 AM
2	Policy 9 focuses on efficiency and tax burdens, not on what is best for students and teachers	12/1/2024 9:23 AM
3	Underground utilities in new developments.	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
4	Unfortunately this is probably regulated at a much higher level. Healthcare in general is not being provided to the entire nation, and therapy -- everyone should have it as an essential part of their healthcare. The generation ages 0-30 are in desperate need, and our nation provides nothing. We all need to take lessons from European nations....	11/22/2024 12:15 PM
5	Need to look at the justice system seems that people who break the laws here often are not held responsible and are let go go to consistently allowed to be allowed to a pattern of reoccurrence. Domestic violence and petty theft dwis and continued drug use etc	11/21/2024 8:05 AM
6	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
7	No	11/19/2024 9:22 PM

8	It feels like there is some mismatch between the public input section at the head of this item 6 -- and the 12 policy proposals that follow. Biggest example: childcare leads as the most-desired service ...then is just one of the policies, and is positioned at number 11 at that. Affordable child care is one of the most basic and powerful ways toward more equality and more opportunity for work and advancement. Those who can't afford child care can't seek jobs. Or can't have kids. The US lags so far behind other developed Western countries in this regard -- and I don't expect that to change soon...but Vermont can try to address that problem inside our own borders! We'll be much the better for it.	11/19/2024 7:05 PM
9	Again, these initiatives will cost money. It should not all come from the property tax.	11/19/2024 6:37 PM
10	You need to promote school consolidations regardless of the pressure of some to keep them. Academic progress needs to be a higher goal than sports or team mottos!	11/19/2024 6:27 PM
11	I am concerned with the potential location of cell towers and high voltage power lines being built near residential areas that could potentially harm human health.	11/19/2024 5:46 PM
12	Access to rehab facilities to help with drug addiction are scarce in our state.	11/19/2024 5:10 PM
13	Microchip factory development should be considered here	11/19/2024 5:01 PM
14	Every community has quite a number of gathering places. They just are not communicated well. Please consider our schools a key resource.	11/19/2024 4:02 PM
15	Again - too much to say on this subject. I could have a huge laundry list.	11/19/2024 3:20 PM
16	Our school systems should recognize the realities of today's lifestyle and combine child care, etc. that serves our working households every day and quits shifting children from schools to daycare centers, and children that are not school age each day to satisfy that need!	11/19/2024 9:16 AM
17	All savings achieved through efficiency programs should be returned directly to taxpayers that paid their taxes.	11/19/2024 8:57 AM
18	More parking garages? Look at the one we have!	11/19/2024 8:33 AM
19	How will these upgrades be paid for?	11/19/2024 7:54 AM
20	Also, can we make parking in downtown Rutland free 2h?? The kiosks are trash and nobody (less of all older folks) want to download an app. Let's not punish people for shopping downtown	11/19/2024 7:47 AM
21	Once again don't pay for it with taxes on the working poor. And don't make child care available to people who aren't working - use a sliding scale to benefit all parents who need it, especially those who are working!	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
22	Outdoor gyms in parks for all to utilize year round- https://fitlot.org/aarp/ Blue zone city idea- https://info.bluezonesproject.com/home Movie theatre idea. Example- https://drafthouse.com/denver/theater/littleton	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
23	Consolidation of municipal services in multiple buildings. Communication capacities shared among municipal users and services. Eliminate redundencies within communities.	11/18/2024 9:33 PM
24	Quality childcare should be the minimum requirement. Allowing anyone to open childcare facilities without proper training and monitoring is dangerous. Early Learning Centers would be a benefit to childcare and base education. Consolidation of the school system would enable improved efficiency and cost control which would help manage the tax burden.	11/18/2024 8:34 PM
25	What exactly is HEALTH equity??? How about just bring more decent professionals back with incentives to STAY. We once had, 3 movie theaters, and a drive in and a decent size shopping mall. Since late 90s on, the entire area has plummeted . Who dropped the ball?	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
26	make student loans deductible for doctors, teachers and other needed skills who commit to staying in Vermont	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
27	I would be concerned about school consolidation, depending on what it looks like.	11/18/2024 6:00 PM
28	movie theaters are cess pools of germs,,,,,NOOOOOO! reduce our high RE taxes we get NOTHING in return	11/18/2024 5:43 PM
29	This is all great, but should be private sector, not public sector.	11/18/2024 4:56 PM

30	Too much DEI. There is a new sheriff in town and it will be merit, not DEI. Policy 6 and 7 are important. Policy 10 should focus on efficiency, not expanding.	11/18/2024 12:16 PM
31	I definitely don't think are government should be incentivizing big pharmaceutical companies to push more drugs onto children going through puberty by the time I graduated in 2021 most of my peers we on Antidepressants anti anxiety birth control Xanax Adderall all prescribed by doctors and this trend has only gotten worse we can not list mental health issues as something that needs drugs being pumped into are children for profit	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
32	Don't see community events or gathering spaces addressed in these policies.	11/6/2024 11:49 AM
33	Policy #9... I do not agree with. the others are fine.	11/6/2024 10:15 AM
34	Would love to see a movie theatre locally!	11/1/2024 9:55 AM
35	Combining these policies w/ the desire to preserve historic buildings (see previous section) puts undue stress on those municipal resources housed in old, often outdated buildings. Recognizing this, we need to have supports in place so that libraries (for example) aren't trapped in unsuitable buildings they cannot afford to maintain or renovate just because the building is old. An effort needs to be made to differentiate a building that may be worth preserving from its use.	10/30/2024 10:58 AM
36	There is a lot there, but yes, I agree generally. All the watercourses in Rutland City should become recreation corridors, with pedestrian, bike, etc pathways on both sides, and these corridors should connect all of the existing recreational park land and such recreational parkland should, over time, be expanded to incorporate those buildings and houses which are in areas most vulnerable to flooding.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
37	I would hope there would be federal monies for these projects	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
38	I would like information on how the aforementioned improvements will be funded. Privately? Higher taxes? What is the path to achieving these goals?	10/25/2024 8:47 AM
39	I agree, but as a tax payer, I wonder where the funding is going to come from for all these programs and improvements?	10/24/2024 11:02 PM
40	Municipal ownership of water and wastewater facilities	10/24/2024 9:23 PM
41	I'm going to disagree because of a couple of the specific policies (it's hard to do this agree/disagree response as a block). Policies 6, 7 and 8 are problematic. Since broadband is being built out, what Policy 6 really is pointing to is more cell towers and antennas. These types of projects are increasingly being opposed by members of the public concerned about health issues (that are barred from being addressed through regulation due to the 1996 telecommunications act), and unless the scenic and natural resources are specifically also identified in this plan that are to be protected, the general language will not protect anything but will result in the approval of new towers and antennas. Starlink now enables anyone to have cell service, and anyone with fiber optic service can use wifi for cell phones. Starlink just launched a new batch of satellites for their satellite-to-cell phone service which may make new towers obsolete. I strongly recommend modifying the language to minimize the desire to expand ugly telecommunications infrastructure (towers) and instead state that the need for increased telecommunications infrastructure must be met with the latest technology that minimizes and/or eliminates the need for ugly cell towers. There is one in Clarendon on a ridgeline that dominates the beautiful mountain, and there are some in West Rutland/Grandpa's Knob, that really stand out and distract from the beauty of the area. Let's not add to them. Anyone who claims that cell towers are ubiquitous and people accept them as part of the scenery has not seen the community reaction when a new one is proposed. Policy 7 could and should acknowledge that transmission and distribution lines can be buried to provide more resilient and reliable energy. Policy 8 should add a qualifier that recognizes that recreational trails need to be sited to address the needs of wildlife and avoid environmentally sensitive areas; i.e. "imagine how you would feel if people were traipsing through your bedroom" (said the fox, coyote, fisher, moose, bobcat, etc.).	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
42	Renewable energy projects should be encouraged/required on new building projects instead of using arable land for large scale solar.	10/22/2024 10:21 AM
43	I feel all these policy points must include an environmental focus within it.	10/20/2024 3:18 PM
44	Definitely a movie theater and other community events. Also should hone in on promoting night life and not shun it across the region. Gives motivation for younger people to want to stay in the area.	10/20/2024 10:12 AM

45	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
46	Emphasize #8. Also, schools in small rural towns are often the heart and soul of the community. Consolidation efforts need to consider the vital role these local schools play in the community and not remove a key institution from these villages.	10/18/2024 9:58 AM
47	I don't believe policies labelled 11 and 12 should be at the end. They are crucial to our future health and development.	10/17/2024 8:35 PM
48	Policy 9: All I hear is that we have fewer students, therefore, "school construction" isn't necessary. Renovation to schools is going to increase taxes. You might not want to say "reduce tax burdens" when the policy is going to increase taxes. Policy 12: seems to be a bigger issue than regional. Can you be more definitive of "access." Is access transportation to these services or increased service providers? What do you mean by "advancing health equity." My interpretation is more taxes and i don't believe most of us can handle that.	10/17/2024 2:06 PM
49	There needs to be more trash bins on the sidewalks of downtown Rutland. There has been a huge increase in litter, which is extremely unsightly and lends itself to a decrease in pride for our community.	10/17/2024 12:15 PM
50	Movie theatre. Maybe Walmart developers in old mall want to take it on? Or in old Walmart plaza	10/17/2024 10:52 AM
51	Consolidation of schools and transfer stations should be a high priority but will need communication/education of the benefits if the community is expected to support that. I feel there are plenty of community gathering places, they are just not well-marketed.	10/17/2024 9:44 AM
52	I think the jury is still out on shared municipal services and school consolidation. Do we really want to say we support this until the legislative committees review and make their recommendations?	10/17/2024 9:33 AM
53	The Policies don't address the need for indoor recreational spaces, which really need to be added for teens and young (and any) adults!	10/16/2024 11:32 PM
54	Policy 3 - I disagree with new construction of facilities.	10/16/2024 10:39 PM
55	9 should add "additional opportunities for non-athletic clubs and spaces for advanced classes in STEAM centered fields"	10/16/2024 9:02 PM
56	Universal public preschool for 3 and 4 year olds (I think almost every town does have this already?)	10/16/2024 6:27 PM
57	Don't force towns to abandon their schools.	10/16/2024 6:11 PM
58	The majority of these policies are currently happening.	10/16/2024 2:30 PM
59	Need for cell towers in the downtown area	10/12/2024 9:57 PM
60	Policy 3 should emphasize sustainability: "Municipal offices, garages, libraries, and other facilities should be constructed, maintained, or upgraded in an environmentally sustainable manner to serve the diverse needs of the community."	10/11/2024 9:15 AM
61	I think we need much more than just a movie theater, there is nothing to ever do, especially once winter hits and limits things like going to the pool, park, riding bikes ect. I think it's crucial for people to be able to go out in the community and partake in safe activities. I feel like having indoor places to go and do things will decrease people from turning to alcohol/partying/drugs. I think alot of those issues stem from people being SO bored, isolated ect. The younger generations deserve a better chance.	10/10/2024 11:45 AM
62	Maintain rutland library in its present historical location. Communities should combine services rather than having separate police and fire and similar	10/9/2024 8:01 PM
63	The above is so comprehensive!	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
64	Indoor/outdoor recreational facilities are desperately needed for our area. The arena is in dire need of repairs, and should be upgraded to a safe, clean facility for both kids and adults. It could be used year-round, if planned and designed properly, giving young children, teens, families and adults many opportunities for healthy and fun sporting activities.	10/8/2024 8:38 AM

65	need to protect the public water supply for the future, a need to start at the residential level Renters and non-owners of housing how to recycle, compost, and solid waste management infrastructure in the homes and small businesses, a need for education public and need to make easier for landowners build in with remodeling home a waste management system one step system from use to collect containers, colored code system. Educated the children now which will the future homeowners or renters	10/7/2024 3:31 PM
66	I'm not sure why the telecommunications infrastructure policy called out serving permanent residents. This feels like a jab at seasonal residents and others who provide a considerable portion of the tax base and economic input that allows Rutland County to operate. Also, where is any mention of supporting solar energy, small scale hydro, and other programs as means to provide environmental benefits, and improve resilience?	10/7/2024 11:28 AM
67	State requirements for childcare facilities has driven most of them out of business. GMP should accelerate its goal of making individual towns their own microgrid to limit wider power outages.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
68	I agreed wholeheartedly with the input summary of utility and facility needs, but it appears that the resulting draft policies hardly touch on the facilities mentioned in the input phase. While municipal buildings, water utilities, solid waste facilities, telecommunication and energy lines are crucial, public meeting spaces are also crucial to achieving overall goals of community health and safety. Mainly, providing and encouraging spaces that do not require large sums of money and that do not focus on intoxicants, like bars or costly cafes. It does not align with the other goals of the regional plan that the public library should be moved from a historic and central location, where it is easily accessible and free of charge, and where it makes use of a large building that would otherwise become another abandoned blight and safety hazard. Municipal buildings and public service buildings should be required to stay in the immediate downtown area to bolster the public's perception that city officials care about maintaining an active presence in Rutland's most populated areas, and that they are not leaving further buildings to rot and detract from the perceived safety and aesthetic draw of the downtown area. Public parks are not safe, due to the presence of dangerous discarded waste (needles, etc) and also due to the presence of specifically volatile individuals experiencing homelessness. Draft policies 1-7, which were not the highest priority subjects mentioned during public input, are spoken of in definite terms, while the final 5 draft policies are written without clear direction or indication of follow through.	10/6/2024 1:17 PM
69	Storm water mitigation is a major problem in the Town of Mt. Tabor where I own a house.	10/6/2024 10:36 AM
70	Affordable healthcare is a major concern aside from provider availability.	10/6/2024 8:31 AM
71	Too many small municipalities within this region do not have the ability or resources to properly serve the community they govern. Consolidation and merging of municipalities should be considered to better serve residents especially in terms of safety and delivery of essential services.	10/5/2024 10:09 PM
72	But again, this is very ambitious and expensive. Taxes have gone up a lot and education is supposed to need more. Don't get our taxes too high. Some of this may need to wait until we get some more taxpayers.	10/5/2024 8:36 PM
73	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
74	Provide diversified fitness facilities.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
75	Vermont is a great state for homeschoolers. Consider allowing school choice/voucher programs that will help those who choose to educate their children at home. While childcare is necessary for many people,you have to consider 2 things-one,many people would prefer to have a parent stay at home, so this cannot make it harder for that. Two,these child care facilities need to take into account the high variability in shifts scheduled for workers. Child care open til late should be available.	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
76	Child care facilities should be for the working families and not for families that live on taxpayer expense.	10/4/2024 2:02 PM
77	Strongly agree with Policy 6, 9, 10 and 11	10/4/2024 10:02 AM

78	Emphasis should be on energy efficiency and energy cost effectiveness and NOT specifically on the switch from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives for heating and cooling. Energy must stay affordable for all without subsidies.	10/4/2024 9:21 AM
79	You have put major needs into a box with wants. Way too many policies are lumped together. Child care should be the responsibility of the parents not those who don't have children and those who have already paid for the ones they have supported. Being the be all end all to everyone has been the biggest problem government has made in the last decades. Let people live as they want.	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
80	Several of these policies could be improved by specifically including a need to improve redundance, resistance, and resilience in the face of extreme weather. I think this especially applies to Policy 2.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
81	Repair and develop the public infrastructure of telecommunications waste, water drinking water And roads and municipal buildings.	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
82	Too many draft policies. Narrow down and prioritize. Consider age/condition of basic utility infrastructure (water and power) and, where feasible, invest in maintenance first/new facilities second.	9/24/2024 3:37 PM
83	Everything possible should be done to keep the library in its current location. It is a beautiful and historic treasure that makes Rutland what it is and there is no other capacity in which it could be enjoyed by everyone. Health care and mental health resources are one piece of the puzzle to help with the shocking and growing problems of folks wandering the streets. It is only a matter of time before we begin seeing very serious crimes. We need to solve this problem BEFORE that happens. Recreation opportunities, especially for our teenagers would be a huge benefit, and would draw so many people from a huge area because of Rutland's location, and would infuse a much needed boost in employment and growing businesses, as well as reduce crime and retain our young people.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
84	we were spoiled with little schools all over - we DO need to consolidate so that tax rates don't keep increasing faster than salaries	9/16/2024 2:31 PM
85	Mental health care facilities are non existent. We need them. Also repurposing existing structures rather than new builds. Dollar generals do not build community!	9/16/2024 1:46 PM
86	Invest more in growth of top tier programs like Head Start and Early Head Start which have the highest employee standards and salary rates and which should be expanded across the county	9/16/2024 12:53 PM
87	These are all now and future-oriented items that will hopefully, if addressed properly, make a big shift in making the region a healthier and more vibrant place to live.	9/12/2024 7:50 PM
88	Policy 2 - Where will the funds come from? Policy 5 - There is one solid waste district and one solid waste alliance in Rutland County with numerous transfer stations. What does SWDs and transfer stations should be "coordinated"?	9/12/2024 3:25 PM
89	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 8: Enhanced Energy Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	In all of the above please take great care to keep energy affordable for all income levels.	12/2/2024 12:50 AM
2	I really think their should be much more emphasis on CONSERVING resources	11/23/2024 2:43 PM
3	Need bolder vision. See comments on transportation. Look to other countries for better vision. Lookup Blue Economies and post-carbon solutions beyond Solar.	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
4	Good luck -- the next four years are going to go against the grain of everything listed above.	11/22/2024 12:15 PM
5	The switch from fossil fuels needs to be on a longer timeline. Existing infrastructure should not have to comply to new standards just for demonstrating that we are implementing efficiency. A more practical, long range, plan to get there would be more cost effective. Decrease Single Occupancy Vehicle trips?	11/21/2024 3:57 PM

6	Yes	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
7	Policy 7: need MASSIVE incentives to switch (tear out old furnace, tank, radiation/ductwork? Replace with ... ?). What if we give better incentives for EVs, Heat Pumps, and Buttoning up all our ancient housing stock? That used to be mockingly referred to as "low hanging fruit", but it ALL still remains to be done. That would reduce fossil fuel use tremendously! Policy 13: Ensure that the electricity all these solar sites we are hosting in Rutland generate, DIRECTLY benefit Rutland Regional residents and is NOT being sent out of the region. We frequently hear the argument "we are a small State, our efforts hardly matter" but, it seems to me If ALL these things were done (keep all the electricity we generate here, button up every house, everyone possible drive an EV, everyone install Heat Pumps) that WOULD make a difference!	11/20/2024 6:29 AM
8	Consider adding safe biking and walking options along Route 30 between villages.	11/19/2024 11:32 PM
9	Do it before we run out of time.	11/19/2024 6:44 PM
10	I think number 11 is unrealistic.	11/19/2024 5:46 PM
11	There is too much pressure to go solar and EV. There are limited ways to dispose of those sources when we are done with them, and the related damage to our planet in other ways.	11/19/2024 4:02 PM
12	Again, GMP does a great job with rebates, but some may have trouble coming up with the initial cost up front to do projects such as heat pumps.	11/19/2024 3:20 PM
13	wind power!	11/19/2024 11:06 AM
14	At this time I believe this is not a priority. Yes we want to promote non fossil fuel energy, however there are more immediate needs and limited economics.	11/19/2024 10:36 AM
15	Be mindful of any energy efficiency initiatives which would result in a significant increase in home heating fuel costs.	11/19/2024 9:36 AM
16	The reality is most households are struggling to meet their basic needs now, and any home efficiency programs cost money. Money they don't have! And, they would still need a back up fossil fuel or wood system in very, very cold conditions!	11/19/2024 9:16 AM
17	Whatever happened to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE? Our first priority on energy use is to use less to begin with, regardless of how energy efficient we become.	11/19/2024 8:57 AM
18	Where is the funding coming from?	11/19/2024 8:33 AM
19	Let's build solar arrays over every parking lot to generate energy and keep our cars nice, shady and dry	11/19/2024 7:47 AM
20	I agree with some but not all. The first key word in the public input needs to be REDUCE. Therefore I disagree with items 7, 9 and 14 as this is incentivising continued conspicuous consumption. We need to stop this message that we can continue to consume rampantly as long as we use the politically correct "fuels" to do it!	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
21	See comment #1. Also, increase homeowners' education about and access to instant water heaters. This will entail increasing the number of plumbers willing/able to install these types of water heaters. Provide incentives for landlords to install tankless water heaters in their rental units.	11/18/2024 10:30 PM
22	Consider wind energy but how do we store power without destroying earth to make battery resources. Also consider battery disposal....	11/18/2024 9:33 PM
23	Wind, hydroelectric power should be key. Solar in its current form is not the answer. The carbon footprint of car batteries and solar panels is not being evaluated as government pushes the use of EV and solar panels. Destroying the countryside with thousands of panels is counterproductive. The technology of current EV is not efficient enough.	11/18/2024 8:34 PM
24	Are you JOKING!!! More fossil fuels needed, drill baby drill and nuclear!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
25	Start with GHG in other countries not VERMONT, china, eastern europe, india who know who,	11/18/2024 5:43 PM
26	Any solution that does not include nuclear is unserious at best and dangerous at worst	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
27	Let us keep wood heat, oil and propane heating.	11/18/2024 4:55 PM

28	Energy solutions means creating alternatives and allowing competitive markets to drive costs down. Unnecessary taxes and regulation against traditional fuel sources like heating fuel drive costs higher and limit people's options.	11/18/2024 2:10 PM
29	hopefully the new legislature will come to their senses and realize Act 250 is insane. What happened to our lovely rural Vermont??????	11/18/2024 12:16 PM
30	While I agree we need to look at the future and renewable energy sources I just don't want our city to be rushed into anything when we don't know if we have the available infrastructure to be able to support the added influx to our power grid	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
31	I don't see Vermonters, on the whole, supporting a "switch from fossil fuels" for heating & cooling or transportation.	11/5/2024 9:15 AM
32	Local renewable energy ie. solar panels on houses as opposed to large scale solar where have to develop land then transmit the energy over distance.	11/1/2024 9:55 AM
33	Have existing building codes for slope roofed structures to, wherever possible, have a slope oriented to the south. Is it required that all south facing sloped roofs have no piping nor venting, that it be by design vented on north sloped roofs. Are flat-roofed commercial structures required, by code, to be able to withstand the load requirements for placement of solar collectors.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
34	Again, I hope federal agencies will support these endeavors	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
35	Be careful. the majority of Vermonters are poor. We cannot afford to have our houses upgraded and remodeled. So to say we will "switch" from fossil fuels to renewable energy - make sure you can support what you are mandating!	10/25/2024 8:16 AM
36	We must stop having the energy credits sold out of state for the renewable energy projects being built in Vermont, those credits do not count for our in states mandated renewable energy goals, plus buying that energy raises the cost of electricity in Vermont, which is already high, making more people having to spend a higher percentage of their income on energy!	10/24/2024 11:02 PM
37	Do not give Act 250 more oversight and control. Unfortunately its morphed into a way to slow needed development instead of improving it.	10/24/2024 10:21 PM
38	Disagree with number 9 unless the alternatives are also cost effective	10/24/2024 9:23 PM
39	If in Policy 7 & 9, means going to electric, Vermont is not a good state for Electric vehicle. The electric grid wouldn't be able to handle this and the climate isn't conducive for it.	10/24/2024 11:59 AM
40	I suggest modifying Policies 2 and 3 to assure that they contain regulatory language that is useful to the PUC, using words "must" and "shall", containing specific policies, identifying specific scenic resources and areas that are priorities for conservation. Unless these Enhanced Energy Plans contains specific language, they are useless to the PUC. I highly recommend adding Policy 16: Prohibit Industrial Wind turbines in the Rutland Region. Perhaps that will be in the Enhanced Energy chapter of the plan. If it is not, why not? This region dealt with two huge proposals between 2009 and 2012 and people know how divisive and environmentally and socially destructive these types of development are. The Regional Plan is the place to stop it in its tracks if anyone tries again. Please do not make us go through it again.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
41	Require new multi-use buildings to be energy neutral by installing solar and battery infrastructure on site during construction.	10/22/2024 10:21 AM
42	I think renewables are smart but being mindful of pricing is really key for this. Affordable energy	10/20/2024 10:12 AM
43	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
44	Encourage individuals and municipalities to bite the bullet now and spend money to reduce greenhouse gasses and build resilient infrastructure to help avoid future flooding like Irene and the storms of July 2023 and 2024.	10/18/2024 9:58 AM
45	Affordability is also important to consider when making these goals-a goal around educating and advocating for programs and funding that improve affordability for low-moderate income Vermonters to make these changes.	10/18/2024 8:51 AM
46	Connect to federal government and state government grants.	10/18/2024 8:34 AM

47	Policy 7: Instead of saying "switch from fossil fuels" I suggest "reducing fossil fuels....." Policy 11: I suggest instead the policy be "Increase public transportation." Even more helpful to the region would be to have public transportation that connects all of the towns and villages. Policies 13 and 15, maybe write those so that people know what you are talking about.	10/17/2024 2:06 PM
48	Policy 11: Vermont is rural. Schedules vary. I hope it doesn't come to laying guilt trips on those who must drive single occupancy trips.	10/17/2024 10:48 AM
49	Good ideas but finding the money to pay for it will be a major roadblock	10/17/2024 9:33 AM
50	I'm neutral on 7, 9, and 11.	10/17/2024 7:54 AM
51	Also, we need to add: increase infrastructure for EV drivers to encourage smart choices in how people travel. This includes charging stations in city outskirts and centers (why doesn't every gas station have charging stations?).	10/16/2024 11:32 PM
52	"Sustainable alternatives " leave it very open though. See Standing Trees activism.	10/16/2024 10:39 PM
53	green is good but it adds cost, there is a balance	10/16/2024 9:02 PM
54	Increase and encourage the use of public transit, even for those who have a car.	10/16/2024 8:03 PM
55	I think this needs to be taught in school. There is a sustainable magnet school in Burlington that should be emulated.	10/16/2024 6:13 PM
56	Mountaintops and ridges need to be off limits for any and all development,	10/16/2024 5:45 PM
57	Really - policy 11.	10/16/2024 2:30 PM
58	Currently alternative sources of energy are not practical some are good ideas but the long term strategy is not there	10/16/2024 1:23 PM
59	additional park and ride lots and weatherization grants.	10/16/2024 1:11 PM
60	Increasing the requirements and restrictions of prop250 is not the solution for anything- this system is already burdensome and requires extensive investment in attorneys and PR management to get a project completed - leaving only the wealthy and largest investors to be able to participate. Alternative fuel must be broader than solar and mandating EV's- this is profoundly short sighted.. must consider and lead the way in other options like: hydrogen, fuel cells, geothermal etc. it is already abundantly clear that solar cannot support the grid in the NE and that lithium batteries are not sustainable long term.	10/16/2024 10:39 AM
61	If the energy isn't cheap then people will not switch	10/12/2024 9:57 PM
62	I strongly agree with the need to minimize forest fragmentation, although I don't think that it belongs in this section. May be better to emphasize more strongly in Working Lands and Natural Resources sections.	10/11/2024 9:15 AM
63	The fossil fuel issue only switches from fossil fuel sources to electricity. Most electricity in US is generated from fossil fuels or nuclear. From my experience in the industry switching to all electric in buildings leads to higher energy use	10/9/2024 8:01 PM
64	A simple thing, but consider house design so that clotheslines can be put up in logical places to catch the most sun AND sited for privacy, which is important for many people. Also, design porches so clotheslines can be strung across them.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
65	Fossil fuels are necessary. There is a large investment for change over that is just not affordable to all individuals.	10/7/2024 10:21 PM
66	I'm afraid I have to disagree with some of the policies, it will take time for the public to accept, and how will it affect income and cost It will take a process to move from one energy source to new systems, a need to improve the electric power grid to handle the large need for electric energy Need to move in that direction, but with solid steps, not giant leaps	10/7/2024 3:31 PM
67	I would caution eliminating reliance on fossil fuels completely until it is proven that solar, wind, hydro can adequately sustain the needs of large and small communities.	10/7/2024 3:04 PM
68	I think all new buildings should have roofs that can be used for future Solar panel installations. I think a progressive energy tax should be a possibility. The more carbon based energy that is used the higher the tax rate to encourage use of alternative energy sources	10/7/2024 1:58 PM

69	Missing is an item regarding maintaining policy and regulatory pressure on utility companies to continue encouragement of solar adoption by homeowners, farmers, and other businesses.	10/7/2024 11:28 AM
70	There should be an energy efficient biomass policy option to address our energy needs.	10/7/2024 9:38 AM
71	Electric cars are not good for the environment. Flooding will cause these vehicles to explode as witnessed in FL and NC recently. More research needs to be done and the vehicles/batteries/engines/charging stations need to be altered to allow for 1) all components of electric vehicles to be mined/obtained through US soils. 2) the power grid needs to be restructured to accommodate the additional demand. 3) the vehicles need to be safer in crash/flooding situations. 4) there needs to be more towtrucks available for moving disabled or stuck vehicles.	10/6/2024 5:15 PM
72	The PUC restricts siting of solar sites on preferred, adjacent properties even when there is different land ownership and different renewable developers. If the goal is to increase renewable energy while reducing carbon fuel use, that makes no sense.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
73	Switching from fossil fuel powered vehicles to other forms of energy is laudable, however this is not something that can occur overnight given the high cost of EV vehicles and lack of the infrastructure for this in Vermont	10/6/2024 10:36 AM
74	So many of these energy policies are not feasible with current rural infrastructure. Relying on "clean" electric is not a possibility when regular power outages in a town are common. Becoming reliant on electric/more "efficient" systems compromises our community resiliency in disaster situations and day to day activity. This is not a one size fits all.	10/6/2024 8:31 AM
75	7 and 9. What are the alternatives? How sustainable?	10/5/2024 11:52 PM
76	increase tax rebates or incentives for improvements to energy efficiency, reduce initial costs to switch to solar	10/5/2024 10:30 PM
77	Review if mini-nuclear generation is a viable energy option should it become a reasonable energy source with current or future technological development find it a useful alternative.	10/5/2024 10:09 PM
78	Plans are good but the dates we have to have this done by are not realistic. I heard they are going to sue because we did not reach our goals in time. Crazy!! Don't set goals that we can get sued over!!!	10/5/2024 8:36 PM
79	Reducing single occupancy vehicle trips need to be supported with bus transport that has peak service expanded.	10/5/2024 7:03 PM
80	This comes at too high a cost for the small impact it would have.	10/5/2024 6:51 PM
81	#12...YES!	10/5/2024 6:26 PM
82	That with an unreliable electrical grid - particularly in rural areas- heating with electricity is short sighted and dangerous .	10/5/2024 6:16 PM
83	Climate issues are not purely a result of continuing emissions, but accumulated emission. Focus on CCS	10/5/2024 6:08 PM
84	Work with Local Emergency Planning Committees to create town plans/ mitigation strategies around effects of climate change.	10/5/2024 5:51 PM
85	I am very worried that solar farms, which to my knowledge are leased and operated by out of state entities, and from which GMP does not purchase a substantial portion of its energy, will blight the lovely landscapes that draw tourism dollars to Vermont. Driving up Route 7 is becoming an eyesore. We need to be really careful with siting solar farms.	10/5/2024 5:33 PM
86	We need to slow our desire to get rid of fossil fuels. The rush to electricity is not a good plan. There needs to be a slower pace to our change away from fossil fuels. The Clean Heat Standard should be voted down.	10/5/2024 5:18 PM
87	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
88	Optimize personal living energy.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM

89	Provide for EV charging at major intersections and at hotel sites. Encourage transition to dual fuel heating systems because of the vulnerability of existing electricity infrastructure.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
90	1-heat pumps don't work as a sole source of heat in Vermont winters 2-solar etc are currently more damaging to the environment and not cost effective (don't even get me started on the mass bird killers,wind mills) 3 do not penalize the reliance on fossil fuels,encourage the research needed to transform solar etc to something sustainable 4 nuclear power plants are extremely safe and a reliable,environmentally friendly source of energy 5 any attempts to decrease single occupancy vehicle trips (other than tax kickbacks for people with fewer vehicles??) should be viewed as a serious infringement on people's way of life	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
91	Admittedly knowing very little about energy, I think natural gas and thermal energy networks (geothermal) should be considered options.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM
92	Fix the power grid!!!!	10/4/2024 9:41 AM
93	Solar energy projects should NOT use open greenspace and should rather focus on the use of parking lots, rooftops and existing developed areas. Emphasis should be on energy efficiency and energy cost effectiveness and NOT specifically on the switch from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives for heating and cooling. Energy must stay affordable for all without subsidies.	10/4/2024 9:21 AM
94	Stop lining the pockets of politicians who have invested money in the development and use solely for solar. It is not designed for use in VT where you can die without heat and electricity	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
95	No one is talking about what impact it has on homeowners insurance. You have to have oil or lp as primary source of heat fyi with most companies in order to be insured. We are also in Vermont we can't just rely on on heat pumps or wood stoves for upper floors in homes!	10/4/2024 8:46 AM
96	When deciding to move away from fossil fuels, not all alternative energy solutions work for every project. It should be evaluated to see what alternatives can serve best. Solar isn't always the answer. Our hydro electric possibilities are under utilized.	10/4/2024 8:41 AM
97	There may be an opportunity to promote sustainable/ ecological forestry to reduce the volume of wood product imported from other areas.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
98	Build city-sponsored solar panels to charge the vehicles.	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
99	These are all wonderful things to do, but with limited funds, we have much more urgent problems that need to be addressed first. Public transportation would be improved by offering more services to outlying locations in the county to come to Rutland. (Proctor, Pittsford, Rutland Town, etc. The biggest thing that would help more people access the transportation system is to educate us on the routes and how to use it. Mailers to outlying areas with all the information we need to know to utilize it and navigate it would be a huge benefit. That is the exact reason I have never used public transportation. I feel clueless and don't want to get stuck in Rutland with my kids.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
100	I mostly agree but when doing switching from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives one does have to keep on mind the cost.... We have so many homes that use these fuels and switching, yes is important, but to what and at what cost is also important.... Reliable is the key word here.... What powers the heat pumps? Who maintains the solar panels, who pays for the change.....	9/18/2024 1:01 PM
101	more hydropower	9/17/2024 9:56 PM
102	Stop charging solar energy homes a monthly fee when most of the time, we feed energy INTO the system	9/16/2024 1:46 PM
103	Disagree with 7 and 8	9/14/2024 7:40 AM
104	Climate change is a farse. The earth goes in natural cycles of heating and cooling and you cannot change that. EV's are not the answer. Solar is UGLY all over our landscape and expensive for homeowners.	9/14/2024 6:36 AM
105	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 9: Working Landscape Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	I agree with these policies but not to the overburdening of our downtown districts.	11/21/2024 3:57 PM
2	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
3	Review 'grandfathered' farms to reduce runoff pollution.	11/20/2024 10:23 AM
4	Stop the Current Use Program that pays for out of states taxes, and stop taking the money out of the Education Fund	11/20/2024 9:33 AM
5	Few farmers can make a reasonable living. What can we do to support them?	11/19/2024 6:37 PM
6	Agriculture is a deminishing practice statewide, dairy farming is the only practical form that should be encouraged.	11/19/2024 6:27 PM
7	The loss of the working lands is a matter of economics and personal choice.	11/19/2024 4:02 PM
8	The trick is making LOCAL as affordable as the super market!	11/19/2024 9:16 AM
9	In general, what is missing is the role of individuals in helping to make all this happen. What sacrifices, commitments, energy did people offer or mention in the public responses?	11/19/2024 8:57 AM
10	Strongly agree with that and would support tax breaks and incentives for small local farms.	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
11	Build more greenhouses that feed communities locally- https://www.agritecture.com/blog/2019/10/24/urban-greenhouses-and-the-future-of-food Iceland tomato growing year round feeds most of the country- https://fridheimar.is/en/	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
12	Leave the farmers alone!!! Give them what they need, not more regulations!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
13	build agricultural infrastructure. support the Vermont Farmers Food Center	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
14	stop putting solar farms on fertile land to grow food, pasture food sources..... allow wood burning for heat source	11/18/2024 5:43 PM
15	We need more development of housing and industry, not less. As technology, including automation, better farming practices, GMOs, and other advances are created, much less land is needed for farming	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
16	Continue to use forestry as a viable land use	11/18/2024 2:10 PM
17	Give grants and tax cuts to regenerative farmers to support the farmers that are helping feed their communities and keeping the environment and land that will grow on safe and fertile for unlimited generations to come teach and educate more Vermonters on this and limit chemicals they are allowed to use	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
18	Allow local farms to sell produe/meat easily. Limit agrotourism (farms for weddings etc without any agricultural use)	11/1/2024 9:55 AM
19	See note above related to employment opportunities and training.	10/30/2024 2:49 PM
20	Policy 1: Maybe aim to 'limit' (not stop - though that would be nice) the loss of farmland and forestland to development - more realistic Policy 3: Add ...improves the health 'and well-being' of residents.	10/30/2024 9:46 AM
21	Yes. Rutland has nearby a significant amount of agricultural land, which would be capable of producing high value, perishable crops. Low food miles. Existing NGOs need to be encouraged and assisted to continue their work in transfer of land tenure and getting new, young farmers onto this land and feed Rutland County.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
22	We love and support our farmers markets	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
23	This is not an agrarian society despite the postcard image. The goals sound great, but I don't know if they are the right fit as priorities for the 21st century. I don't see farms and forests disappearing simply because there is a regional desire to have rolling hillsides. Local 4-H participation by youth is an example of how this is not something that is a central to our culture any longer.	10/24/2024 10:21 PM
24	Farm losses are due to the inability to make a living on the farm	10/24/2024 9:23 PM

25	I would like to see the plan acknowledge that there is a benefit to leaving some forests alone, not included logging, to benefit wildlife and water resources.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
26	Farmland and forest should not be developed into solar farms.	10/22/2024 10:21 AM
27	Wish something was included about regenerative farming	10/20/2024 3:18 PM
28	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
29	I would also like to see a policy similar to #3: ensure the techniques and management of the working landscape improve the health of the land and ecosystems	10/17/2024 8:12 AM
30	Education as well on this topic for humans who eat.	10/16/2024 10:39 PM
31	Stop placing huge solar farms on ag property.	10/16/2024 2:30 PM
32	why would we not consider creating a food distribution system and stop relying on national grocery stores and large vendors for transportation- the issue is not necessarily the lack of farm land but the farmers have limited access to sell their products and must provide their own transportation to several small farmers markets with minimal attendance- why do not mandate grocery stores is sell local? and then provide a distribution system for farm to market? why not have distribution hub for farmers to pool resources and get there products to a larger market?	10/16/2024 10:39 AM
33	Please add note on the importance of preventing forest fragmentation in this section.	10/11/2024 9:15 AM
34	I agree but preserving farmland as at the same time we are losing farms?	10/9/2024 8:01 PM
35	Require all new housing, including housing developments, have garden space included, WITH THE TOPSOIL LEFT ON, so people can have the opportunity to garden and grow their own food. We aren't getting food from California forever. The garden space should be south-facing.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
36	Our local, state, and federal elected officials and reps should coordinate to get good agriculture laws. Too often, Big Ag pushes for and gets laws passed that strongly favor huge farms and monoculture. Those corporations have a place much like massive manufacturing, and are part of the international trade economy. They are not, and cannot be, in Vermont. But they often are legally considered family businesses and even small farms, and pass laws that allow them to farm with poor regulation, thus often inadequate conditions for their employees, animals, neighbors, environment (topsoil, waterways, groundwater, air quality...). Federal ag laws often work to the detriment of community agriculture, family farms, farm workers, diverse landscapes, etc. We need some good regional laws (remember the Northeast dairy compact) and protection from some of the Big Ag laws that neither help nor even make sense in our farming landscape.	10/7/2024 12:36 PM
37	While this is a noble and attractive sentiment the economics of farming make this particular goal unrealistic. The economies of scale required to be financially successful are not attainable in our area and physical environment.	10/7/2024 3:36 AM
38	Promote local farming by reducing their tax burden if they donate a percentage of their harvest to local foodbanks.	10/6/2024 5:15 PM
39	Putting agricultural fields long out of use which have reverted to wetlands should be a priority in being allowed for farming.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
40	There is so much opportunity for more support of local agriculture and appropriate access of community members to these products.	10/6/2024 8:31 AM
41	Farming and agricultural business must adopt "best practices" to ensure soil health and sustainability. Taxing farms and agri-business should be at a level or rate that does not injure the business of a farm or cause a farmer to sell land just to pay taxes. Any sale of reduced assessed farm land to a more valuable ratable shall have a "claw-back" provision to capture the diminished tax that the farmer/agri-business saved.	10/5/2024 10:09 PM
42	There is plenty of ag land for non-dairy production. We need more land for housing as dairy goes out.	10/5/2024 6:16 PM
43	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
44	Establish a protected farmland base.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM

45	Support for agriculture should favor those forms of agriculture which cause the least environmental and social damage. Dairy farming which results in phosphorus discharges, relies heavily on illegal migrant labor, and puts dangerous, overweight equipment on State highways should no longer be the sacred cow that small scale dairy was in days past when it had numerous positive social and environmental benefits.	10/4/2024 8:43 PM
46	Evaluate fallow farmland in or near village centers for housing or business use.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
47	Deregulation needs to happen on the limiting of how much raw milk can be sold. The demand far outstrips the supply, and health and safety considerations are already taken care of. Farming should be encouraged, but lowering taxes on equipment used in businesses and on property will be a major mover in helping farmers.	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
48	There would be substantial value in workforce programming for agriculture and forestry in the Rutland Region. Revitalizing the Smokey House Center in Danby specifically would be good place to start.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM
49	Solar energy projects should NOT use open greenspace and should rather focus on the use of parking lots, rooftops and existing developed areas.	10/4/2024 9:21 AM
50	Stop urban sprawl, even if the developers are rich and have connections	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
51	Maybe this is the place to promote sustainable/ ecological forestry to reduce the volume of wood product imported from other areas. And maybe a recognition that forest preservation is not the silver bullet to address climate change that some activists argue it is.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
52	Consideration should be given to tradeoffs regarding carbon sequestration of old growth trees, vs. so-called "managed" forests and logging.	9/26/2024 3:32 PM
53	Further develop and build networks that keep everyone fed. Encourage trading bartering And harvesting of food like apples and crab apples that are littering the streets right now	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
54	Ensure that farmers, foresters, and other working landowners have the resources they need to implement Best Management Practices while remaining financially solvent. For example, expand grants & training for waterway phosphorus reduction projects; expand opportunities for product diversification (nut trees, biofuels, cheeses, mushrooms, botanicals, etc.) Ensure that our vital migrant workers are treated fairly with safe living conditions and inclusion.	9/23/2024 12:21 PM
55	I am a farmer in Proctor and have close connections with other farmers in the area. We need a place to reliably get our produce into people's hands other than the farmer's market. We need a hub that we can bring what we grow and know it will be bought. Not sit in our farm stands or be shuffled back and forth to the farmer's market only to have the unsold produce become food waste. We have more than enough to supply a food shelf, a farm fresh store sponsored by Rutland to buy our produce and get it into the hands of low income folks that would benefit from nutrient dense food at an affordable price. As farmers, we are all struggling. If we have to quit and sell out, our beautiful Vermont landscape that makes our state so special and such a draw to tourists, will very quickly vanish and become unaffordable to the average Vermonter. There will be no way to reverse that change.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
56	Policy 1 is contradictory to earlier policies. If you develop, you have to build somewhere. I think we must be realistic that growth means building from businesses to homes.	9/17/2024 10:01 AM
57	Also allow for economic reality...if it pays more to have a solar farm than to grow hay, farmers should be able to pursue the profitable uses of their land	9/17/2024 8:14 AM
58	I strongly agree with this. One of the strongest features about Vermont is its farmland and forestland. We need to sustain it for humans, but also for all of the creatures.	9/16/2024 4:26 PM
59	don't forget the small hobby farms ! Collectively - they give a LOT to their communities - but they are often forgotten in policy - yet they keep the area working and rural - and it is DIFFICULT to keep fruit, nuts and berries, eggs and herbs and veggies going - but hobby farms always sell or share a LOT each and every year - there should be some sort of medium tax break for this type of place	9/16/2024 2:31 PM
60	Tourists come to Vermont to see farmland, cows, fields- not dollar generals. Restrict commercial building	9/16/2024 1:46 PM
61	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 10: Natural Resources Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	Have stringent septic/waste water requirements for shoreline development	11/23/2024 2:43 PM
2	Policy 3 should be no loss of any existing, not "no net loss" . Policy nine-stronger policy on extractive policies for minerals that sees the Earth in ways of indigenous philosophy. Bring Indigenous populations from Adirondack region in as guides, with views like scientist/naturalist Robin Kimmerer.	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
3	I agree -- but let's take care of the water problems we already have within the city limits so we don't have to be advised that there are contaminants constantly. There is no discount when the warnings come out, we still pay full price -- let's fix these problems first.	11/22/2024 12:15 PM
4	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
5	Review regulations to reduce runoff pollution from 'grandfathered' agricultural facilities.	11/20/2024 10:23 AM
6	Except Policy 8. "Dark sky astro tourism?" Step outside city limits for that. ALL our streets need to be better lit at night for safety of pedestrians and drivers alike. Try walking up Royce Street after 9 pm on uneven sidewalks. On rainy nights road glare and headlight glare are especially dangerous through downtown.	11/20/2024 6:29 AM
7	Policies 3, 4 & 5 need to be adapted to support historic and current use of large recreational lakes. For instance, Lake St. Catherine's Little Lake should not be allowed to convert to a wetland. Dredging and other measures to reverse infill by aquatic plants should be permitted and pursued.	11/19/2024 11:32 PM
8	How do we protect our natural resources without unduly complicating and slowing the permitting process?	11/19/2024 6:37 PM
9	I am not sure what is meant by being proactive about local air quality, How? Also regarding reducing light pollution I generally agree with but not if it affects safety of residents.	11/19/2024 5:46 PM
10	Expanding Policy 2: address invasive species (Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, spiny waterflea) particularly in lake waters with environmentally safe substances that will promote the overall health of lake/water channels in Rutland county.	11/19/2024 5:29 PM
11	Conservation Corp style work / jobs can help retain young adults	11/19/2024 5:15 PM
12	Deal w invasives.	11/19/2024 5:01 PM
13	Maybe not #9 but heck yeah to cutting down light pollution and gold star across the board	11/19/2024 7:47 AM
14	Re: lakefront property and other resort/short-term rental use consider harm reduction to our shorelines by not allowing over-use of previously seasonal camps. We must recognize that this is likely as much or more of the cause of pollution to our lakes than is "farm runoff".	11/19/2024 7:21 AM
15	Trees- https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200504-which-trees-reduce-air-pollution-best	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
16	Innovative!!! That's won't happen with your STAGNATION PLANS!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
17	Land conservation is important but 50% of lands conserved seems at odds with allowing for any appreciable growth in the state.	11/18/2024 2:10 PM
18	Policy 8 is utter craziness.	11/18/2024 12:16 PM
19	Let nature do what nature does limit pointless developments give credit and incentives instead to develop abandoned lots	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
20	Astro-tourism seems a bit of a reach for a majority of people that appreciate well lit areas for safety. What areas are being targeted for nighttime light reduction?	11/5/2024 9:15 AM
21	emphasize local parks/nature as well as accessible to many folks. Car lot lights or sooo bright. Curious in the health of otter creek	11/1/2024 9:55 AM
22	Support training and education for local planning commissions on forest blocks, phosphorous reduction, and other subjects relevant to land use planning in Municipal Plans. Maintain vegetative buffers between industrial uses and residential land uses. Consider natural hazards and ecosystem services in all natural resource decisions.	10/30/2024 2:49 PM

23	Attention needs to devoted toward hardening the resilience of Rutland County waterways, specifically to slow the flow of runoff from surrounding mountains due to any catastrophic rain fall events. It is going to rain again. And again. In amounts none of us have ever experienced. If County waterways have designed-in retention capacity and if, in built up areas, enterprises and housing has been located out of the flood plain land and has further flood plains have been developed into recreational land catastrophic rain events will be less likely to be economic catastrophies and human tragedies.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
24	An idea Let the diamond Run Mall dissolve and go back to a natural wetland!	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
25	I have some reservations about Policy 6, putting 50% of land into conservation seems excessive.	10/24/2024 10:21 PM
26	Policy 6 seems excessive.	10/24/2024 11:59 AM
27	I have a little concern with Policy 9, unless "the public interest" is defined. I would prefer to see that policy end after the word managed.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
28	I disagree with policy 4 regarding shoreline buffers. I question the science calling for a 50 foot buffer, for instance, where less would suffice. Also, buffers must include access points which account for public desire to get close to the water.	10/18/2024 1:52 PM
29	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
30	Clean rivers to manage flooding.	10/18/2024 8:34 AM
31	I suggest rewording Policy 9: As written, I interpret this to mean someone does not need to worry about safe and clean mineral extraction methods at all times.	10/17/2024 2:06 PM
32	Similar to my previous comment, I would like to see something along the lines of encouraging local agriculture producers to implement regenerative practices (USDA has programs to help)	10/17/2024 8:12 AM
33	What is Policy 9 about? What is being extracted?	10/16/2024 10:39 PM
34	Consider noise pollution in planning.	10/16/2024 5:45 PM
35	I disagree with policy 8	10/16/2024 10:33 AM
36	Recommend re-wording Policy 6. As it currently reads, it looks like we are maintaining or restoring forest fragmentation. Perhaps: "Create a regional approach to prevent forest fragmentation and maintain and restore the health of forest block, wildlife corridors....."	10/11/2024 9:15 AM
37	The only benefit of low light is for criminal activity and the destruction of downtown areas.	10/9/2024 12:52 PM
38	Nighttime lighting on all street lights and houses should be required to be shaded downward to maximize the benefit of the light and to prevent lighting up the sky above.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
39	I especially agree with Policy #8. Light pollution from the downtown area ruins our nighttime skies. There are energy-efficient lights that aim downward which could assist in reducing light pollution in our area.	10/8/2024 8:38 AM
40	New industries and businesses should have to provide proof that manufacturing of their products will not harm our environment before they can get permits.	10/7/2024 1:58 PM
41	The policies suggested don't seem to align very well with the public input gathered. While they are admirable policies, I'm not sure the general public had any input here.	10/7/2024 11:28 AM
42	Allow some marginal wetland areas to be put back into use if offset by protecting an equal amount of acreage.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
43	I agree with the key takeaways of the regional natural resource goals, but I do not see any that address the public's desire for more accessible outdoor spaces, trails, etc.	10/6/2024 1:17 PM
44	Provide groundwater testing for residents. Arsenic is major and often unknown contaminant in this region and support for testing/treatment directly improves quality of life.	10/6/2024 8:31 AM
45	Develop a plan to acquire critical stream corridors and wetlands/ waterbodies with protective easements or purchases of land to provide buffers from development and also provide access to the public for recreational uses of these natural resurces.	10/5/2024 10:09 PM
46	Dark sky programs are like asking for road free regions. It's a consequence of a developed society.	10/5/2024 6:08 PM

47	I am completely opposed to the Vermont Conservation Plan of 30% of the state by 2030 and 50% by 2050. The rest of the proposed polices seem ok.	10/5/2024 5:18 PM
48	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
49	Improve the monitoring mechanism for protecting water resources.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
50	Reduce invasive species in lakes and streams.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
51	Take out prop 6's last sentence and you're good. Also ban dumping of pesticides in lakes.	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
52	I am disappointed to see nothing on here about protecting and supporting hunting, fishing, and wild edible foraging. These practices are a part of who we are as humans and Vermonters and they also serve to reconnect us to our environment.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM
53	Light pollution is a large problem in greater Rutland and should be minimized by dark sky friendly lighting requirements particularly for parking lots and other developed areas.	10/4/2024 9:21 AM
54	Using herbicide in the lakes and ponds should be banned. If you don't like weeds, which are necessary for a healthy aqua ecosystem build a damned pool	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
55	Policy #8 is specific to what areas?	10/3/2024 11:12 PM
56	Policies 1, 2, and 5 might benefit from referencing the state's water quality standards. If you aren't already connected, consider reaching out to The Nature Conservancy in VT and inquire about supporting an effort they were involved in to conserve 30% of Vermont's water as well.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
57	Encourage the reduction of noise. Noise is a huge stressor. Get rid of the cars that have no muffler and get rid of gas powered blowers, and huge lawnmowers that have no business mowing a tiny little lawn and disrupting the neighborhoods noise level. Discourage speeding down streets. I would be willing to have a speed bump installed on E. Washington St. because many pets and kids have been threatened from speeding cars.	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
58	Eliminate herbicide & other pesticide use in lakes, ponds, streams & rivers except as a last resort in emergency situations. Reduce runoff & seepage into waterways by improving road management strategies (e.g. buffers, salt reduction, lower speed limits on dirt roads) and grants/incentives/regulations to upgrade failing septic systems. Reduce or eliminate reliance on land-use pesticides and adopt eco-friendly management on all public lands (e.g. organic practices, rain gardens, edible landscaping, native plants/pollinator gardens),	9/23/2024 12:21 PM
59	Otter Creek runs right next to our cornfield. Being short on time and money, our "beach" at Otter Creek gives my kids an unbeatable spot to enjoy swimming that would otherwise be unreachable for us. People warn us all the time that we should not be swimming or fishing in Otter Creek because of contaminants. I have no idea if this is true or not. If it's not, we need that information to be distributed. Mailers with information about water quality would be a huge benefit to change that public perception of Otter Creek being dirty and unsafe. If it IS true, then that's something we need to know and be warned about what signage and mailers.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
60	more emphasis on protecting the night sky, it doesnt get enough attention. i think more public education on the topic is needed.	9/17/2024 9:56 PM
61	Establish an Eco-tourism group to better promote and advance protection of the areas trails and natural spaces.	9/16/2024 12:53 PM
62	But not to the detriment of businesses. Vermont makes it very difficult for business to come here because of all the environmental laws	9/14/2024 6:36 AM
63	How to ensure groundwater quality when taking pfa's into consideration?	9/12/2024 3:25 PM
64	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

Chapter 11: Climate Resilience Answers to Question 2

#	IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING THAT WE SHOULD CONSIDER?	DATE
1	That climate resiliency is closely tied to local food economies	11/23/2024 6:17 AM
2	No	11/20/2024 2:19 PM
3	Not only assist municipalities in understanding but give them a hand to do what has to be done. Maybe more towns should work in teams to make it work.	11/20/2024 12:19 PM

4	Prevent new and reduce existing flood plain development.	11/20/2024 10:23 AM
5	Rlver flooding is here. Not just a concern for some future time. Policy 3 seems especially important. And Vermont is a place where we have enough land and low enough pop density that we actually have a chance at making natural systems work! (I'm not sure what can be done for steep-grade river areas and tight river valleys, but I bet somebody in the field does know!)	11/19/2024 7:05 PM
6	Be honest with the public if this is all just window dressing.	11/19/2024 6:44 PM
7	Towns, roads and houses are in flood zones. What can we do?	11/19/2024 6:37 PM
8	This is basically a state and national issue that local localities have little impact on.	11/19/2024 6:27 PM
9	Provide safe spaces for people in weather events	11/19/2024 5:01 PM
10	We do need to provide flood prevention infrastructure. Either that, or we will be left to relive each flood disaster again and again.	11/19/2024 4:02 PM
11	If adequate resources are available, social cohesion is relatively easy to achieve. When resources are scarce, divisions develop and generosity drops. This is why I believe it is important to set goals based on a standard of "adequate" and "enough". This is the safety net we need. Beyond that, we need to focus on equality of opportunity (not equality of outcome) and not getting in the way of what individuals can create if not stifled.	11/19/2024 8:57 AM
12	Encourage green construction to include home renovations. Paving- https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/using-cool-pavements-reduce-heat-islands	11/19/2024 5:20 AM
13	You lost me at CLIMATE CHANGE, liberal bs, the world's been changing constantly since it's conception. We cannot hurt the planet as we can all living life. The planet was here eons before us and will be after us. Where just another species that will fade away as 99% of all have! You underestimate our planet. The EGO of humans is astonishing!	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
14	prepare for more rain events	11/18/2024 6:01 PM
15	This is in contrast with your environmental proposals above	11/18/2024 4:56 PM
16	Climate change is a joke. Follow the money.....	11/18/2024 12:16 PM
17	We don't have to many extreme weather events in Vermont and every single one I've seen all the government has ever done is get in the way of the locals who actually make things happen	11/7/2024 12:42 PM
18	reveg, add natural woddy debris to streams for flood resilience instead of dredging. Possible to encourage more natural landsaping for less runoff.	11/1/2024 9:55 AM
19	Everything I said above!	10/30/2024 2:49 PM
20	Neighborhood cooling centers need to be developed; libraries, schools, etc. Municipal buildings need to be 'hardened' such that they are intact and able to serve as refuges and shelters.	10/29/2024 8:52 PM
21	Good ideas	10/29/2024 8:50 AM
22	The communities in the county are not homogeneous in their risk and/or preparedness.	10/24/2024 9:23 PM
23	Move development out of floodplains. Do not rebuild structures destroyed by flooding	10/24/2024 3:13 PM
24	Higher winds are also something we experienced last winter that caused damage in the region.	10/24/2024 11:16 AM
25	No	10/18/2024 10:23 AM
26	The future is now and the effects of climate change are already upon us. Important to stress the need for SWIFT action on climate resiliency.	10/18/2024 9:58 AM
27	Again, the availability of money will drive this area	10/17/2024 9:33 AM
28	I'm neutral on 1 and 3	10/17/2024 7:54 AM
29	Have classes where people are taught simple things they can do to make their homes more resilient to climate change. There are ways to make roads less hot in the summer.	10/16/2024 6:13 PM
30	Encourage municipalities to adopt stronger river corridor and flood hazard regulations and to take advantage of opportunities to buy out properties in flood prone areas.	10/16/2024 1:11 PM
31	In light of the NC disaster and the incompetency of the federal response, it is abundantly clear that, in the event of a disaster, we are on our own and must build this resilience at the	10/16/2024 10:39 AM

	community level - this action is very important and urgent	
32	Recognizing that climate resilience is different from climate change prevention, I believe that any discussion (section) on climate should include points regarding the need to reduce the burning of fossil fuels.	10/11/2024 9:15 AM
33	More work for someone to do! I'd love to see more education showing with maps or graphs how climate has changed in Rutland County since, say, the 1970's. Maybe a screen showing changes in snowfall, rainfall, and temperature ranges right along Merchant's Row in the GMP building. Something people could look at while walking along on the sidewalk. People learn most quickly and easily with simple visual depictions rather than reading paragraphs.	10/8/2024 10:44 PM
34	Let RRPC continue to assist towns with LEMPs.	10/8/2024 10:49 AM
35	Would really like to see the focus on Policy 1. For years, selectboards have been nickel and diming the municipalities to "keep tax rates low for the tax payer" and, in the end, system failures are costing significantly more to repair than if there had been regular and routine maintenance performed.	10/7/2024 3:04 PM
36	Of course, more solar and wind and geothermal, as well as small hydro, will help us deal with hotter summers and also keep us warm in winter, as we switch to heat pumps for most of our heating and cooling. Support, encourage, subsidize this. Get in on the federal money, funnel it to where it can do the most good. We need more LI HEAP type programs; heat pumps and rooftop solar in schools and daycares, and in new and updated housing; same for all new construction; including refitting municipal offices, jail, commercial spaces.	10/7/2024 12:36 PM
37	Policies suggested don't seem to focus at all on flood infrastructure.	10/7/2024 11:28 AM
38	Policy needed to cover the sheltering of community during extreme heat or cold events during power outages. This may be included in policy #4.	10/7/2024 9:38 AM
39	Flooding and wind events are occurring frequently and areas in which excess rainfall can be diverted are needed as well as increasing the amount of local battery storage.	10/6/2024 1:27 PM
40	Much of the land was altered decades ago, leaving the flood and erosion risk higher. Can we reverse that by reconstructing the previous land conditions from before those changes	10/5/2024 11:52 PM
41	Adopt FEMA flood hazard mitigation measures for new construction or redevelopment (+50% value increase) as part of site planning and building codes. Review of site plans and development in flood zones or within a certain distance to a waterway or feature to either permit or deny development per FEMA building standards or other land use /building codes, etc.	10/5/2024 10:09 PM
42	Your last question as what town I live in. You don't get a space to say I own a second home somewhere. I really think that should be addressed!	10/5/2024 8:09 PM
43	Number 1 concern is get flash water deluges managed - review and reengineer culverts top to bottom not in an uncoordinated bit by bit manner.	10/5/2024 6:08 PM
44	Flexibility in implementation.	10/4/2024 11:56 PM
45	Increase the coverage rate of green plants.	10/4/2024 9:50 PM
46	Homeowner insurance increases related to climate change are a significant social and economic vulnerability. Consider how regional planning can produce zones or programs for affordable insurance.	10/4/2024 8:43 PM
47	Consider flooding from future storms in redevelopment and new development. Relocate housing and infrastructure near flood risk areas. Redo flood maps to reflect increased risk.	10/4/2024 5:44 PM
48	What do you mean by increasing social cohesion? There is already a huge volunteer presence after disasters. Perhaps study what the Chinese do after floods and why it takes them a quarter of the amount of time to repair damage than it takes us	10/4/2024 5:35 PM
49	Maybe this would fall under policy 4 but I think we should encourage neighborhood groups and organizations that work to educate people on preparedness and self-reliance. This would provide opportunities for people to learn these skills while simultaneously building community at a neighborhood or neighbor to neighbor level.	10/4/2024 11:08 AM

50	The emphasis is on natural systems-based projects and NOT through climate modification through artificial means.	10/4/2024 9:21 AM
51	Create a network of trained Municipal highway workers who can assist smaller rural towns with less capacity while they are undertaking larger projects that need more manpower. Sort of like a work share program, where larger towns with a full contingent of workers can lend them out to smaller town's for limited time projects. A mutual aid system designed to fill in gaps and ensure smaller towns can meet their environmental upgrade requirements.	10/4/2024 9:19 AM
52	The Earth is a dynamic entity it is not static. If the Earth was static we would still be dealing with dinosaurs and be connected to Africa	10/4/2024 8:58 AM
53	We should avoid using engineering solutions to resist things like flooding that result in a positive feedback loop of engineering and expense. For example. things like levies can create an artificial sense of security. This can lead to additional construction in floodprone areas. This can lead to the need for more significant levies to protect the new infrastructure.	10/3/2024 11:02 PM
54	Flooding is the biggest natural disaster we have dealt with in recent years. It's probably the most important thing to mitigate. What can we do about the downtown basements that get flooded every time it rains?	9/26/2024 8:57 AM
55	More clearly word Policy 3 to achieve it. More greenspaces, parks, trees, and vegetation that will survive in built out areas. Policy 1: Help first responders too.	9/24/2024 3:37 PM
56	Provide assistance to residents relying on private wells that are failing due to drought or contamination.	9/23/2024 12:21 PM
57	These are all great ideas, but a very long term project, and there are much more urgent problems we need to tackle first.	9/20/2024 8:49 AM
58	more stormwater drainage thats designed for the wetter future we are predicted to receive	9/17/2024 9:56 PM
59	Push for food maps that incorporate climate change realities. Also,if we lose maple and skiing, we should be Looking at "next" industries now	9/17/2024 8:14 AM
60	Underground electric wires	9/16/2024 6:30 PM
61	More focus on flood preparation and mitigation	9/16/2024 12:53 PM
62	Policy 2 - include flooding	9/12/2024 3:25 PM
63	N/A	9/11/2024 9:26 PM

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026



PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

REPORT BACK

RRPC Launches Second Phase of Public Engagement for 2026 Regional Plan

Phase 2, Report Back, invites you to see how your invaluable feedback from Phase 1, Learn & Assess, has influenced our draft plan policies. Phase 2 aims to achieve two main goals:

1 Gather your reaction to what we learned from you in Phase 1

2 Seek your thoughts on the Plan's draft policies

For more information visit: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

Presentation OVERVIEW

Phase 1: Learn & Assess Recap

Summary of engagement activities completed across the Rutland Region

Phase 2: Report Back Activities

Summary of engagement activities planned for September through November 2024

Plan Draft Policies

What we heard in Phase 1 and how it helped inform the Plan's draft policies



Learn & Assess



Report Back

What is the Rutland Regional Plan?

A comprehensive 8-year (2026-2034) plan to guide and accomplish coordinated and efficient community economic development in the region that balances economic development with social, cultural, and environmental priorities.

Shape Our Future Together!

Phase 1 RECAP

Completed between January and April 2024

During Phase 1, we reached out to you, residents, and stakeholders across all 27 towns in the Rutland Region. Through a dynamic mix of engagement opportunities, we listened closely to your thoughts, concerns, and hopes for the future.



Phase 1 engagement results available at: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

Shape Our Future Together!

Phase 2

ACTIVITIES

We have a robust lineup of engagement opportunities planned. These events are designed to make it easy and convenient for you to participate and share your thoughts.

Scheduled from September through November 2024



Video Presentations available at: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

Shape Our Future Together!

Phase 2 GOALS

We're at the mid-point in the plan development process and need your continued engagement to ensure we're on the right track!

1 Gather your reaction to what we learned from you in Phase 1

We've summarized the key takeaways from Phase 1 by chapter. We're reporting back to you what we heard and seeking your reaction to what we learned from you....

**Do you agree with the key takeaways?
Is something missing that we should consider?**

2 Seek your thoughts on the Plan's draft policies

The Regional Plan's policies are an expression of how the RRPC will meet the region's goals for community economic development. We want to hear from you about the draft policies....

**Do you agree with the direction of the draft policy?
Is something missing that we should consider?**

Shape Our Future Together!

Learn More & Share Your Thoughts



rutlandrpc.org/plan2026



plan2026@rutlandrpc.org

Together we're crafting a collaborative guide for a healthy, equitable, and resilient region with strategies to achieve coordinated and efficient community economic development.

LAND USE



GOALS

Maintain historic settlement pattern of compact village-urban center separated by rural countryside

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Focus future growth in downtown districts and village centers.
- Improve the walkability of towns.
- Preserve and conserve the region's natural landscape.
- Expand trail networks in the region.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Increase infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of underutilized properties within Planned Growth Areas, Village Areas, Transition/Infill Areas, and Enterprise Areas.
- Policy 2: Stop strip development and development of blocks of land that contain: significant natural and agricultural resources, areas of high flood risk, comprise resource industries, and provide outdoor recreation/scenic beauty.
- Policy 3: Most development outside Planned Growth Areas and Village Areas is clustered or otherwise designed to work with the landscape in terms of protection of ecologically sensitive areas, and conservation of farmland and agricultural soils.
- Policy 4: Most public investments are in Planned Growth Areas and Village Areas that are clustered, or area a part of a cluster of buildings.
- Policy 5: Ensure the scale, siting, design, and management of new development is orderly by respecting the character of the natural and built environment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



GOALS

Provide for a strong and diverse regional economy

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Focus future growth in downtown districts and village centers.
- Attract new businesses and employment opportunities to diversity the tax base.
- Recruit new workers and retain younger adults.
- Expand industrial/manufacturing and trade career opportunities.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Focus future growth in downtown districts and village centers.
- Policy 2: Attract new businesses and employment opportunities to diversify the tax base.
- Policy 3: Recruit new workers and retain younger adults.
- Policy 4: Expand industrial/manufacturing and trade career opportunities.

CULTURAL RESOURCES



GOALS

Identify, protect, and promote important historic, cultural, archeological, and scenic features and resources.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Most frequently mentioned resources that people value were Downtown districts, water recreation sites, and parks and trail systems.
- Natural landscape was a frequently noted cultural and scenic resource.
- Strong desire for more annual festivals, especially pride festivals and centers.
- Including certain historic or culturally significant topics in school curriculum was recommended as a way to pass on our region's history.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Preserve and restore historic buildings.
- Policy 2: Strengthen the intra-organizational relationships and volunteer capacity of historical societies in the region.
- Policy 3: Recognize arts and culture as essential infrastructure for healthy, equitable, and resilient communities.
- Policy 4: Prioritize the identification and preservation of scenic resources.

TRANSPORTATION



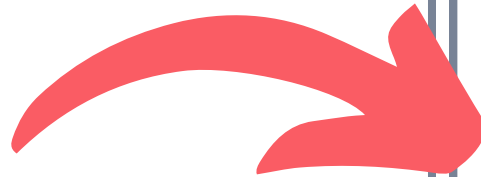
GOALS

Provide for safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient regional transportation systems.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Deep need for increased road maintenance and upkeep.
- Expanded and better maintained sidewalks and bike paths.
- Driving and walking are highly valued.
- Calls for better public transit schedules, routes, and accessibility.
- While many people said they felt safe traveling on roads in the region, they felt safety would be improved by reducing vehicle speeds.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Increase implementation of Complete Streets infrastructure on both Town and State roadways.
- Policy 2: Improve resiliency of regional transportation systems for increased extreme weather events.
- Policy 3: Increase the development of infrastructure that supports transition to electric vehicles.
- Policy 4: Ensure the provision of convenient and cost-effective public transit services that connect residential clusters with rail stations, employment, recreation, medical services, and shopping.
- Policy 5: Apply principles of systemic safety to regional roadway systems.
- Policy 6: Protect airport airspace and runway clearance for Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport through local land use and town planning.
- Policy 7: Increase passenger rail ridership and encourage expansion of rail service in the region.
- Policy 8: Increase the share of regional freight tonnage that travels by rail.
- Policy 9: Increase development within existing built-up areas with multimodal infrastructure.

HOUSING



Provide for high-quality, diverse, safe, affordable, conveniently located, and energy-efficient housing in the region

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Affordable housing and a lack of housing in the region are significant issues.
- Need to address homelessness and the lack of rental units.
- Need to restore old, blighted housing stock.
- Frustrations voiced regarding Act 250 and development restrictions in the state.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Target housing growth, programs, and incentives that result in people spending no more than 30% of their income on housing and not more than 15% on transportation.
- Policy 2: Promote construction and renovation practices, and universal design principles, that result in high-quality, energy-efficient, and safe homes that meet the needs of all.
- Policy 3: Create diverse homes, with varying numbers of bedrooms, and at a price point affordable for households with varying incomes.
- Policy 4: Locate housing growth primarily in Planned Growth and Village Areas.

FACILITIES & UTILITIES



GOALS

Broaden access to educational and vocational training; Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities; Plan for, finance, and provide efficient system of public facilities and services; Ensure availability of safe and affordable childcare.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Affordable childcare is one of the most highly desired community facilities.
- Extend and improve connections for hiking and biking trail networks in the region.
- Some support for more indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; more public safety (police, EMS, etc.); more community events and gathering places - such as a movie theater.
- People feel there are limited options for community events and gathering places.
- Improve mental health and substance abuse resource facilities.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: The scale and type of facilities and utilities shall support existing and future development, consistent with the future land use in this Plan.
- Policy 2: Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater utilities shall be expanded, upgraded, and maintained in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner to serve areas designated in this Plan.
- Policy 3: Municipal offices, garages, libraries, and other facilities should be constructed, maintained, or upgraded to serve the diverse needs of the community.
- Policy 4: Municipal shared services and resources should be considered to improve quality and reduce costs.
- Policy 5: Solid waste districts and transfer stations should be coordinated to reduce costs and waste to improve efficiency and sustainability.
- Policy 6: Telecommunications infrastructure and service area shall be expanded to unserved and underserved permanent residents while protecting the scenic and natural resources.
- Policy 7: Energy transmission lines and substations shall be constructed to provide resilient and reliable energy while avoiding critical natural resources.
- Policy 8: The construction, maintenance, and marketing of recreational trails, parks, and water resources is encouraged for all user types.
- Policy 9: School construction, consolidation, and renovation should increase efficiency, reduce tax burdens, and improve equitable education.
- Policy 10: Workforce programming and capacity shall be expanded in critical sectors like education, healthcare, and trades.
- Policy 11: The regional network of childcare facilities and providers should be expanded to meet the current and future workforce needs in areas designated in this Plan.
- Policy 12: Access to healthcare, mental health services, and recovery treatment should be centered on advancing health equity.

ENHANCED ENERGY



GOALS

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide for renewable energy, and make efficient use of energy.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- There is strong support to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and begin looking at renewable energy options.
- People said it's important to do their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Strong preference for solar energy as compared to other renewable sources.
- Many expressed significant concern for the high cost of energy, followed by concern about the climate impacts of energy use.
- Most desired energy projects among homeowners are weatherization and heat pumps.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Demonstrate regional leadership by implementing efficiency and fuel switching actions.
- Policy 2: Promote adoption of Enhanced Energy Plans to all municipalities in the region.
- Policy 3: Ensure Regional Enhanced Energy Plan is equitable.
- Policy 4: Prevent forest fragmentation and preserve priority forest blocks.
- Policy 5: Educate individuals and organizations about energy conservation.
- Policy 6: Increase building efficiency, climate resilience, and safety.
- Policy 7: Switch from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives for heating and cooling and transportation.
- Policy 8: Provide education about transportation energy conservation and combustion alternatives.
- Policy 9: Decrease single occupancy vehicle trips.
- Policy 10: Maintain existing and develop new walking and biking infrastructure.
- Policy 11: Ensure energy generation siting adheres to orderly development.
- Policy 12: Review Act 250 permits for energy efficiency and Section 248 applications to meet renewable targets.
- Policy 13: Maximize potential for renewable generation on preferred locations.

WORKING LANDS



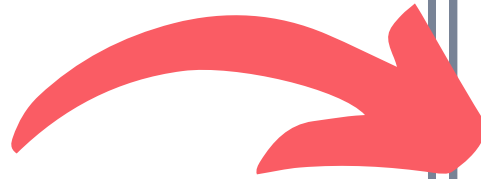
GOALS

Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- High demand for locally sourced foods, including farmers market, community gardens, and community supported agriculture (CSAs).
- Strong agricultural system in Vermont provides access to locally sourced foods and preserves farmland.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Stop the loss of farmland and forestland to development.
- Policy 2: Ensure that the working landscape (agriculture, forestry, and value-added production) is a strong asset for the region's economy.
- Policy 3: Ensure that the working landscape (agriculture, forestry, and value-added production) improves the health of residents.
- Policy 4: Enhance the health and diversity of the region's ecosystems to benefit local agriculture and forestry.

NATURAL RESOURCES



GOALS

Maintain and improve quality of natural resources.
Provide for wise and efficient use of natural and earth resources.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Protecting the natural landscape was one of the most important and agreed upon topics.
- Water resources and forests are cherished.
- Improve accessibility for beginners and persons with disabilities to natural resource sites.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Safeguard groundwater and other local drinking water sources to ensure they are safe for the public.
- Policy 2: Ensure that all surface waters in the Rutland Region are of high quality, free of pollutants and toxins, and suitable for recreation and aquatic life.
- Policy 3: Attain no net loss of wetland acreage.
- Policy 4: Increase the amount of protected shoreline buffers and riparian areas in the region.
- Policy 5: Maintain water quality to sustain existing aquatic communities and to ensure the natural diversity of aquatic species.
- Policy 6: Create a regional approach to maintaining and restoring the health of forest blocks, forest fragmentation, wildlife corridors, habitats, and biodiversity, and for conserving land in alignment with the Vermont Conservation Plan to protect 30% of the state by 2030 and 50% by 2050.
- Policy 7: Be proactive about local air quality during summer ozone and winter inversion episodes by monitoring the State's data to address those at most risk: people with heart or lung diseases (including asthma), older adults, children, and people of lower socioeconomic status.
- Policy 8: Encourage the reduction of nighttime light levels to improve the health of residents and wildlife and to promote dark sky astro-tourism.
- Policy 9: Promote safe and clean mineral extraction methods if appropriately managed and the public interest is clearly benefitted.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE



GOALS

Encourage climate resilient communities.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- Many people do not feel the region is prepared for natural disasters.
- Calls for flood prevention infrastructure.
- Concerns over changing winters negatively affecting winter recreation.
- Flooding and temperature fluctuation were the highest climate-related concerns.



How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1: Assist municipalities in understanding their vulnerabilities and strategies to bolster resilience to climate change.
- Policy 2: Prepare municipalities for longer duration, higher temperature heatwaves.
- Policy 3: Implement more natural systems-based projects that will help moderate the impacts of climate change.
- Policy 4: Increase social cohesion to bolster community resilience during and after extreme weather events or disasters.

Phase 2 Feedback Sessions Input

The Phase 2 Feedback Sessions utilized Microsoft Whiteboard to capture input on the key takeaways from Phase 1 and draft Plan policies. All RRPC staff involved in writing the Plan update attended the Feedback Sessions. The lead author provided an overview of their chapter, followed by a discussion with attendees. Input from both sessions, organized by chapter, is provided below.

Chapter 2: Land Use

Steffanie Bourque
Clarify infill development

Steffanie Bourque
Consider growing vertically vs. out

Steffanie Bourque
General support of goal and direction of policies

Steffanie Bourque
TIF districts

Steffanie Bourque
UVM flood tool - interactive flood map if expanded for our region would be helpful

Steffanie Bourque
mythology that village centers exist because of historic settlement patterns - not always accurate

Steffanie Bourque
Preserve farmland

Steffanie Bourque
Is the future land use map complete?

Steffanie Bourque
Danby was not originally developed as a compact village center - these policies don't address all areas,

Steffanie Bourque
With all increase in flooding, more houses will be uninhabitable in floodplains - these people will need to

Steffanie Bourque
Has RRPC looked at other countries for ideas regarding land use and development?

Steffanie Bourque
Collaboration with Act 18 - Critical Natural Resources Map?

Chapter 3: Economic Development

Steffanie Bourque
Promote previously developed industrial areas for new industrial parks

Steffanie Bourque
propose incentives for employers to hire apprentices to retain younger workers

Steffanie Bourque
Need to encourage entrepreneurs, small business - these policies feel too outdated

Steffanie Bourque
Pawlet opportunity for development of industrial park

Steffanie Bourque
tension between retaining lower-paying jobs and attracting higher paying jobs

Steffanie Bourque
Need balance of jobs that are in-person vs remote - call center example to provide opportunity for

Steffanie Bourque
Act 250 is a limiting factor to job growth - Walmart Superstore example

LAND USE
GOALS Maintain historic settlement pattern of compact village-urban center separated by rural countryside

In the Land Use chapter, we...
outline a vision for vibrant compact centers separated by rural countryside.

The chapter describes current land use patterns and planning opportunities, as well as provides a regional Future Land Use map that can be used as a planning tool to encourage land use patterns that will achieve the character and quality of life that is important to the region.

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Focus future growth in downtown districts and village centers.
- Improve the walkability of towns.
- Preserve and conserve the region's natural landscape.
- Expand trail networks in the region.

LAND USE
GOALS Maintain historic settlement pattern of compact village-urban center separated by rural countryside

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1:** Increase infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of underutilized properties within Planned Growth Areas, Village Areas, Transition/Infill Areas, and Enterprise Areas.
- Policy 2:** Stop strip development and development of blocks of land that contain significant natural and agricultural resources, areas of high flood risk, comprise resource industries, and provide outdoor recreation/scenic beauty.
- Policy 3:** Most development outside Planned Growth Areas and Village Areas is clustered or otherwise designed to work with the landscape in terms of protection of ecologically sensitive areas, and conservation of farmland and agricultural soils.
- Policy 4:** Most public investments are in Planned Growth Areas and Village Areas that are clustered, or area a part of a cluster of buildings.
- Policy 5:** Ensure the scale, siting, design, and management of new development is orderly by respecting the character of the natural and built environment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GOALS Provide for a strong and diverse regional economy

In the Economic Development chapter, we...
outline a vision for a strong and diverse regional economy.

The chapter describes current conditions based on our research and public engagement, as well as trends that are shaping the future of economic development in the Region.

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Focus future growth in downtown districts and village centers.
- Attract new businesses and employment opportunities to diversify the tax base.
- Recruit new workers and retain younger adults.
- Expand industrial/manufacturing and trade career opportunities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GOALS Provide for a strong and diverse regional economy

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1:** Focus future growth in downtown districts and village centers.
- Policy 2:** Attract new businesses and employment opportunities to diversify the tax base.
- Policy 3:** Recruit new workers and retain younger adults.
- Policy 4:** Expand industrial/manufacturing and trade career opportunities.

Chapter 4: Cultural Resources

Steffanie Bourque
way to try and connect with similar resources in other towns in state via a "trail" or "route"

Steffanie Bourque
scenic resource protection is really needed in Danby, town doesn't know how to protect or understand that

Steffanie Bourque
past experience with ANR mapping rare plants and objections from local landowners to publicize

Steffanie Bourque
Downside of publicizing scenic resources - overcrowding... e.g., Thundering Brook

Steffanie Bourque
Tension between expense of targeted locations and undeveloped areas

Steffanie Bourque
LOVE IT! It's unusual and typical in the planning domain - wonder about indicators of progress... "secret"

Steffanie Bourque
This is an expensive place so hard to leverage support for these types of resources

Steffanie Bourque
Provide clear definitions of what is intended to be protected and preserved

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Identify, protect, and promote important historic, cultural, archeological, and scenic features and resources.

In the Cultural Resources chapter, we...

detail a path forward for preserving and enhancing our region's identity, which is deeply rooted in its historical, cultural, archeological, and scenic resources.

We dive into the how the insights from our public engagement and research inform and substantiate the policies and actions to be completed by the RRPC to achieve our goals of sustaining and enriching our cultural resources. Ensuring that the values, compromises, and accomplishments of hundreds of years of development and conservation continue to guide us.

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Most frequently mentioned resources that people value were Downtown districts, water recreation sites, and parks and trail systems.
- Natural landscape was a frequently noted cultural and scenic resource.
- Strong desire for more annual festivals, especially pride festivals and centers.
- Including certain historic or culturally significant topics in school curriculum was recommended as a way to pass on our region's history.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Identify, protect, and promote important historic, cultural, archeological, and scenic features and resources.

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- **Policy 1:** Preserve and restore historic buildings.
- **Policy 2:** Strengthen the intra-organizational relationships and volunteer capacity of historical societies in the region.
- **Policy 3:** Recognize arts and culture as essential infrastructure for healthy, equitable, and resilient communities.
- **Policy 4:** Prioritize the identification and preservation of scenic resources.

Chapter 5: Transportation

Steffanie Bourque
consider not overbuilding for EV

Steffanie Bourque
Ride-sharing - all methods to reduce SOV trips

Steffanie Bourque
More emphasis on development along rail corridors

Steffanie Bourque
Policy 7 - Bennington to Burlington commuter rail would be great!

Steffanie Bourque
rail systems need to include freight in order to make passenger rail cost effective

Steffanie Bourque
consider mobile EV charging stations

Steffanie Bourque
Worry about overbuilding EV charging infrastructure - don't outpace the technology

Steffanie Bourque
Coordinate Amtrak and public transit schedules

Steffanie Bourque
Killington model of supporting public transit for employees

Steffanie Bourque
Teen Center needs are not aligned with public transit schedules

Steffanie Bourque
Public transit needs to be expanded to better support the needs of employees that need transit to get to work - time of

TRANSPORTATION

Provide for safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient regional transportation systems.

In the Transportation chapter, we...

outline a vision for a safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient regional transportation system.

The chapter describes current conditions based on our research and public engagement, as well as trends that are shaping the future of multimodal transportation systems.

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Deep need for increased road maintenance and upkeep.
- Expanded and better maintained sidewalks and bike paths.
- Driving and walking are highly valued.
- Calls for better public transit schedules, routes, and accessibility.
- While many people said they felt safe traveling on roads in the region, they felt safety would be improved by reducing vehicle speeds.

TRANSPORTATION

Provide for safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient regional transportation systems.

How this input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- **Policy 1:** Increase implementation of Complete Streets infrastructure on both Town and State roadways.
- **Policy 2:** Improve resiliency of regional transportation systems for increased extreme weather events.
- **Policy 3:** Increase the development of infrastructure that supports transition to electric vehicles.
- **Policy 4:** Ensure the provision of convenient and cost-effective public transit services that connect residential clusters with rail stations, employment, recreation, medical services, and shopping.
- **Policy 5:** Apply principles of systemic safety to regional roadway systems.
- **Policy 6:** Protect airport airspace and runway clearance for Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport through local land use and town planning.
- **Policy 7:** Increase passenger rail ridership and encourage expansion of rail service in the region.
- **Policy 8:** Increase the share of regional freight tonnage that travels by rail.
- **Policy 9:** Increase development within existing built-up areas with multimodal infrastructure.

Chapter 6: Housing

Steffanie Bourque
any consideration for elderly housing with our aging population?

Steffanie Bourque
Impacts of short-term rentals - Airbnb

Steffanie Bourque
17% of housing in State are second homes - is this true? what is the % in Rutland Region? Find this troubling....

Steffanie Bourque
suggest addition to Policy 4 - may not be able to locate in these areas - add: "away from ecologically sensitive areas"

Steffanie Bourque
Thumbs up!

Steffanie Bourque
Combination of income and transportation thresholds is important - need to also consider

Steffanie Bourque
Pawlet doesn't want to see much change in respect to housing; Rutland City needs housing renovations and

Steffanie Bourque
landlord-tenant rights need to be improved at legislative level; rentals leaving market for Airbnb

HOUSING

GOALS Provide for high-quality, diverse, safe, affordable, conveniently located, and energy-efficient housing in the region

In the Housing chapter, we...

outline a vision for high-quality, safe, diverse, affordable, conveniently located, and energy-efficient housing.

The chapter describes current conditions based on our research and public engagement, as well as trends that are shaping the future of housing development.

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Affordable housing and a lack of housing in the region are significant issues.
- Need to address homelessness and the lack of rental units.
- Need to restore old, blighted housing stock.
- Frustrations voiced regarding Act 250 and development restrictions in the state.

HOUSING

GOALS Provide for high-quality, diverse, safe, affordable, conveniently located, and energy-efficient housing in the region

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1:** Target housing growth, programs, and incentives that result in people spending no more than 30% of their income on housing and not more than 15% on transportation.
- Policy 2:** Promote construction and renovation practices, and universal design principles, that result in high-quality, energy-efficient, and safe homes that meet the needs of all.
- Policy 3:** Create diverse homes, with varying numbers of bedrooms, and at a price point affordable for households with varying incomes.
- Policy 4:** Locate housing growth primarily in Planned Growth and Village Areas.

Chapter 7: Community Facilities and Public Utilities

Steffanie Bourque
Micro-cell grids

Steffanie Bourque
Policy 9 - keeping elementary schools town-based, hub schools for middle/high school

Steffanie Bourque
How long is it going to take to resolve this situation.... started back in 1998 with Act 60

Steffanie Bourque
Middle/High school hub should have an associated technical center (like Stafford model)

Steffanie Bourque
Policy 2 - needs to be a prioritized investment area - capital improvement planning

Steffanie Bourque
mesh network

Steffanie Bourque
emergency dispatching - regional pilot in Rutland

Steffanie Bourque
telecommunication towers need more attention - standards, specific language

Steffanie Bourque
propose using schools with declining enrollment as senior housing

Steffanie Bourque
a better understanding of emergency service needs would be helpful in the region

FACILITIES & UTILITIES

GOALS Broaden access to educational and vocational training; Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities; Plan for, finance, and provide efficient system of public facilities and services; Ensure availability of safe and affordable childcare.

In the Facilities and Public Utilities chapter, we...

outline a vision for a Region that 1) broadens access to educational and vocational opportunities, 2) maintains and enhances recreational opportunities, 3) plans for, finances, and provides an efficient system of public facilities and services, and 4) ensures the availability of safe and affordable childcare.

This chapter describes current conditions based on our research and public engagement, as well as trends that are shaping the future of education, recreation, childcare, and facility and utility services in the Region.

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Affordable childcare is one of the most highly desired community facilities.
- Extend and improve connections for hiking and biking trail networks in the region.
- Some support for more indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; more public safety (police, EMS, etc.); more community events and gathering places - such as a movie theater.
- People feel there are limited options for community events and gathering places.
- Improve mental health and substance abuse resource facilities.

FACILITIES & UTILITIES

GOALS Broaden access to educational and vocational training; Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities; Plan for, finance, and provide efficient system of public facilities and services; Ensure availability of safe and affordable childcare.

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1:** The scale and type of facilities and utilities shall support existing and future development, consistent with the future land use in this Plan.
- Policy 2:** Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater utilities shall be expanded, upgraded, and maintained in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner to serve areas designated in this Plan.
- Policy 3:** Municipal offices, garages, libraries, and other facilities should be constructed, maintained, or upgraded to serve the diverse needs of the community.
- Policy 4:** Municipal shared services and resources should be considered to improve quality and reduce costs.
- Policy 5:** Solid waste districts and transfer stations should be coordinated to reduce costs and waste to improve efficiency and sustainability.
- Policy 6:** Telecommunications infrastructure and service area shall be expanded to unserved and underserved permanent residents while protecting the scenic and natural resources.
- Policy 7:** Energy transmission lines and substations shall be constructed to provide resilient and reliable energy while avoiding critical natural resources.
- Policy 8:** The construction, maintenance, and marketing of recreational trails, parks, and water resources is encouraged for all user types.
- Policy 9:** School construction, consolidation, and renovation should increase efficiency, reduce tax burdens, and improve equitable education.
- Policy 10:** Workforce programming and capacity shall be expanded in critical sectors like education, healthcare, and trades.
- Policy 11:** The regional network of childcare facilities and providers should be expanded to meet the current and future workforce needs in areas designated in this Plan.
- Policy 12:** Access to healthcare, mental health services, and recovery treatment should be centered on advancing health equity.

Chapter 8: Enhanced Energy

Steffanie Bourque

where are the towns in this process?

Steffanie Bourque

subregional coordination of plans

Steffanie Bourque

example of industrial wind turbines - cannot exclude types

Steffanie Bourque

GMP website solar 2.0 maps - grid capacity needs to be called out

Steffanie Bourque

concern with this update is I don't know what comes next... this comes down to land use and siting. Want to

Steffanie Bourque

Define "preferred locations"

Steffanie Bourque

How to make historic building retrofits energy efficient

Steffanie Bourque

Reliability of the electric grid in supporting this desired transition

Steffanie Bourque

Good luck adjusting SOV trips; Killington had to go through Act 250 for its shared use path project

ENHANCED ENERGY

GOALS Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide for renewable energy, and make efficient use of energy.

The Enhanced Energy chapter is written to...

guide the Rutland Region in developing an equitable, healthy, and resilient energy system.

In addition to creating a planning guide for the region, the RRPC will seek certification of this plan from the Public Service Department. Once certified this Regional Enhanced Energy Plan will enable the RRPC to certify municipal Enhanced Energy Plans. A certified Enhanced Energy Plan affords regions and towns heightened legal abilities to plan and direct the development of their energy systems.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- There is strong support to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and begin looking at renewable energy options.
- People said it's important to do their part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Strong preference for solar energy as compared to other renewable sources.
- Many expressed significant concern for the high cost of energy, followed by concern about the climate impacts of energy use.
- Most desired energy projects among homeowners are weatherization and heat pumps.

ENHANCED ENERGY

GOALS Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide for renewable energy, and make efficient use of energy.

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- **Policy 1:** Demonstrate regional leadership by implementing efficiency and fuel switching actions.
- **Policy 2:** Promote adoption of Enhanced Energy Plans to all municipalities in the region.
- **Policy 3:** Ensure Regional Enhanced Energy Plan is equitable.
- **Policy 4:** Prevent forest fragmentation and preserve priority forest blocks.
- **Policy 5:** Educate individuals and organizations about energy conservation.
- **Policy 6:** Increase building efficiency, climate resilience, and safety.
- **Policy 7:** Switch from fossil fuels to sustainable alternatives for heating and cooling and transportation.
- **Policy 8:** Provide education about transportation energy conservation and combustion alternatives.
- **Policy 9:** Decrease single occupancy vehicle trips.
- **Policy 10:** Maintain existing and develop new walking and biking infrastructure.
- **Policy 11:** Ensure energy generation siting adheres to orderly development.
- **Policy 12:** Review Act 250 permits for energy efficiency and Section 248 applications to meet renewable targets.
- **Policy 13:** Maximize potential for renewable generation on preferred locations.

Chapter 9: Working Landscape

Steffanie Bourque

Agro-tourism

Steffanie Bourque

Act 18 - whether ag land will be included in mapping

Steffanie Bourque

housing in village centers with surrounding micro-farms

Steffanie Bourque

Incentives to put farmland into conservation when no longer in production

Steffanie Bourque

Policy 1 - how to support increasing ag production on farmlands, not just stop loss of farmlands

Steffanie Bourque

with all empty commercial buildings, could they be re-purposed for ag production - think hydroponic

Steffanie Bourque

Heading in the right direction

Steffanie Bourque

change from big dairy to smaller diversified farms - microfarms

Steffanie Bourque

Export via rail service to larger markets to the south

Steffanie Bourque

How do you balance all these competing land uses in the region

Steffanie Bourque

Will farming transition to indoor operations and not be done as it has traditionally?

Steffanie Bourque

Can we realistically preserve all farmland? What happens when it goes out of business?

WORKING LANDS

GOALS Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

In the Working Lands chapter, we...

outline a vision for encouraging and strengthening our agricultural and forest industries.

While the look of agriculture and forestry has changed significantly since the 1800s, these occupations remain an integral part of what makes our region what it is today. Without farming we would not have open rolling fields or one of our durable economic drivers. However, maintaining our working landscape and the occupations and businesses it supports is not a given. To keep it sustainable - now and in the future - there are challenges to address. Since the decline of dairy farms, farmers in Rutland County are pivoting to produce a wide variety of crops and products.

Phase 1

What we heard...

- High demand for locally sourced foods, including farmers market, community gardens, and community supported agriculture (CSAs).
- Strong agricultural system in Vermont provides access to locally sourced foods and preserves farmland.

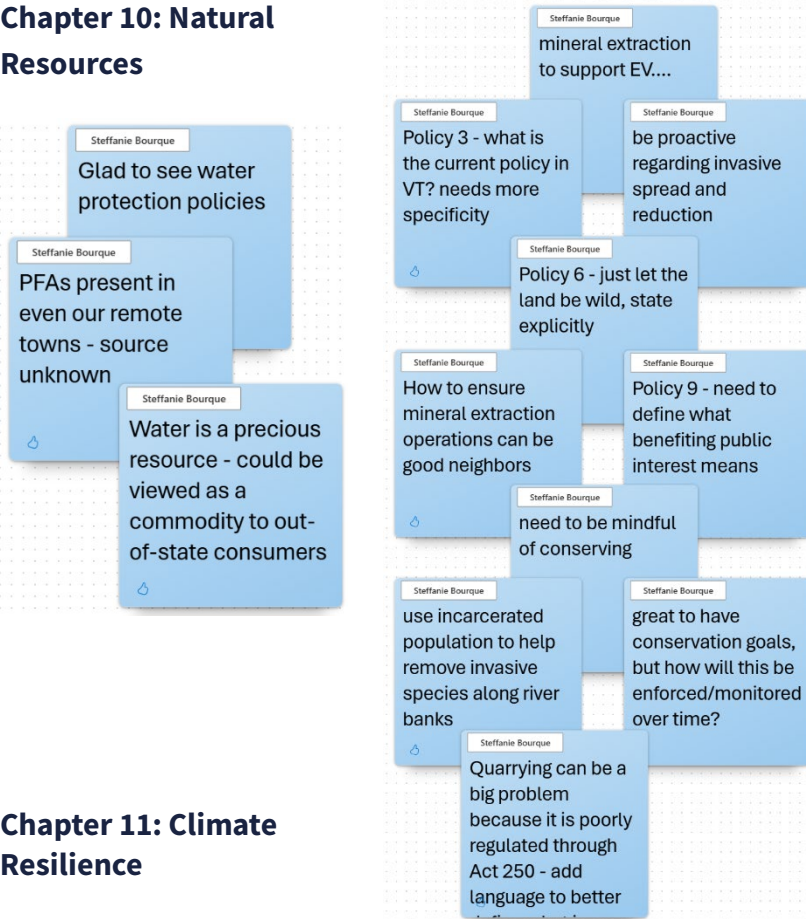
WORKING LANDS

GOALS Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

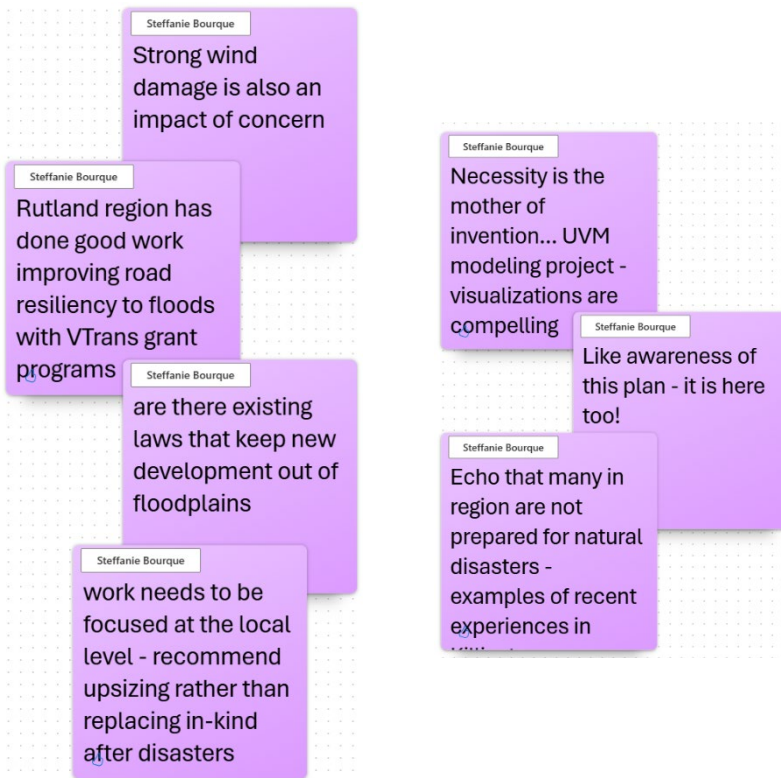
How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- **Policy 1:** Stop the loss of farmland and forestland to development.
- **Policy 2:** Ensure that the working landscape (agriculture, forestry, and value-added production) is a strong asset for the region's economy.
- **Policy 3:** Ensure that the working landscape (agriculture, forestry, and value-added production) improves the health of residents.
- **Policy 4:** Enhance the health and diversity of the region's ecosystems to benefit local agriculture and forestry.

Chapter 10: Natural Resources



Chapter 11: Climate Resilience



NATURAL RESOURCES
GOALS: Maintain and improve quality of natural resources. Provide for wise and efficient use of natural and earth resources.

In the Natural Resources chapter, we...

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Protecting the natural landscape was one of the most important and agreed upon topics.
- Water resources and forests are cherished.
- Improve accessibility for beginners and persons with disabilities to natural resource sites.

outline a vision for maintaining and improving the quality of natural resources and for providing for the wise and efficient use of natural and earth resources.

Retaining the rural character of our region is extremely important to our residents. At the core of our natural landscape and rural character are our extraordinary natural resources which are also key to our economic, ecological, and physical well-being.

NATURAL RESOURCES
GOALS: Maintain and improve quality of natural resources. Provide for wise and efficient use of natural and earth resources.

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1:** Safeguard groundwater and other local drinking water sources to ensure they are safe for the public.
- Policy 2:** Ensure that all surface waters in the Rutland Region are of high quality, free of pollutants and toxins, and suitable for recreation and aquatic life.
- Policy 3:** Attain no net loss of wetland acreage.
- Policy 4:** Increase the amount of protected shoreline buffers and riparian areas in the region.
- Policy 5:** Maintain water quality to sustain existing aquatic communities and to ensure the natural diversity of aquatic species.
- Policy 6:** Create a regional approach to maintaining and restoring the health of forest blocks, forest fragmentation, wildlife corridors, habitats, and biodiversity, and for conserving land in alignment with the Vermont Conservation Plan to protect 30% of the state by 2030 and 50% by 2050.
- Policy 7:** Be proactive about local air quality during summer ozone and winter inversion episodes by monitoring the State's data to address those at most risk: people with heart or lung diseases (including asthma), older adults, children, and people of lower socioeconomic status.
- Policy 8:** Encourage the reduction of nighttime light levels to improve the health of residents and wildlife and to promote dark sky astro-tourism.
- Policy 9:** Promote safe and clean mineral extraction methods if appropriately managed and the public interest is clearly benefitted.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE
GOALS: Encourage climate resilient communities.

In the Climate Resilience chapter, we...

Phase 1
What we heard...

- Many people do not feel the region is prepared for natural disasters.
- Calls for flood prevention infrastructure.
- Concerns over changing winters negatively affecting winter recreation.
- Flooding and temperature fluctuation were the highest climate-related concerns.

outline a vision for a Regionwide climate resilient community.

This chapter describes current conditions based on our research and public engagement, as well as trends that are shaping the future of our changing climate and our ability to adapt.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE
GOALS: Encourage climate resilient communities.

How Phase 1 input helped inform the Plan's draft policies...

- Policy 1:** Assist municipalities in understanding their vulnerabilities and strategies to bolster resilience to climate change.
- Policy 2:** Prepare municipalities for longer duration, higher temperature heatwaves.
- Policy 3:** Implement more natural systems-based projects that will help moderate the impacts of climate change.
- Policy 4:** Increase social cohesion to bolster community resilience during and after extreme weather events or disasters.

APPENDIX D

Phase 3 Engagement Materials and Results

D1-Phase 3 Survey Results

D2-Phase 3 Act 181 Training Slides

D3-Phase 3 In-Person Meeting Background Information
and Presentation Slides



Phase 3 Survey Results

The Phase 3 survey included two questions:

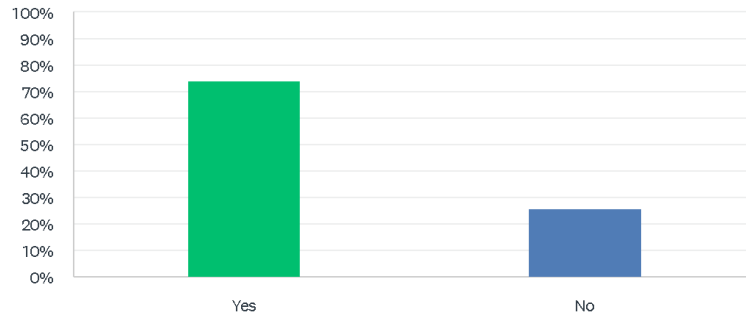
- 1) Does the Plan reflect the right community economic development priorities for the Rutland Region?
- 2) Do these priorities make the Rutland Region a place you want to live, work, and play?

It also asked if respondents are full-time residents of the Region, to indicate what town they live in.

	Response Frequency
<i>Benson</i>	1
<i>Brandon</i>	5
<i>Castleton</i>	2
<i>Chittenden</i>	1
<i>Clarendon</i>	4
<i>Danby</i>	1
<i>Fair Haven</i>	0
<i>Hubbardton</i>	1
<i>Ira</i>	1
<i>Killington</i>	3
<i>Mendon</i>	0
<i>Middletown Springs</i>	1
<i>Mount Holly</i>	1
<i>Mount Tabor</i>	0
<i>Pawlet</i>	0
<i>Pittsford</i>	3
<i>Poultney</i>	2
<i>Proctor</i>	1
<i>Rutland City</i>	28
<i>Rutland Town</i>	8
<i>Shrewsbury</i>	2
<i>Sudbury</i>	2
<i>Tinmouth</i>	1
<i>Wallingford</i>	1
<i>Wells</i>	0
<i>West Haven</i>	0
<i>West Rutland</i>	1
<i>I do not live in the Region</i>	0

Does the Plan reflect the right community economic development priorities for the Rutland Region?

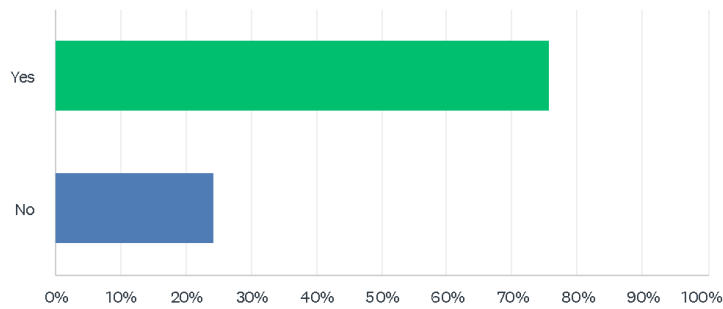
Answered: 70 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.29%	52
No	25.71%	18
TOTAL		70

Do these priorities make the Rutland Region a place you want to live, work, and play?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.71%	53
No	24.29%	17
TOTAL		70

Additional Comments in Response to Question 1:

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	It impresses me in that it acknowledges the importance of maintaining the health of the community and including all members as equally important to the viability of the region.	6/29/2025 9:08 PM
2	Again, it's just words on paper. You have some good priorities, but there needs to be actions!	6/27/2025 5:50 PM
3	A bunch of BS!	6/27/2025 4:15 PM
4	I believe it does, and although its been recognized in the past, I see a new momentum in the community, which is reflected in the Chapter Summary I read.	6/25/2025 3:39 PM
5	Too much focus on land conservation.	6/22/2025 10:41 PM
6	The arts can be payed for by those who care about them. That is not a priority I want to see municipal treasure being spent on. I also think that creating an environment where job makers can thrive is very important. Big box stores like Home Depot, super Walmart, and even dollar general, kill small business which create the most jobs and redistribute the most money back into the community. Big stores run too efficiently from a manpower standpoint and send a greater percentage of revenues out of state. I am happy to see large scale wind off the table as an energy source and hope that solar penetration will be promoted as rooftop and not on prime agriculture property. And finally, protection and development of cultural resources should be limited to the cultural fact that we are Vermonters and Americans. Not BIPOC or LGBTQ. Those are fine places for a person to come from, but the municipal focus should be on "Vermonters and American "heritage and culture.	6/21/2025 6:36 AM
7	We definitely need to stop talking about improvements and growth, and executive these ideas.	6/17/2025 5:59 PM
8	I read the summaries of the plan and I realized that what is missing is a strong effort to bring more good paying jobs to the area. Hospitality and tourism aren't going to be enough.	6/17/2025 2:58 PM
9	How will plan success be measured at completion? What are your numerical and statistical goals?	6/16/2025 8:05 PM
10	We do need to grow some to keep our area strong. We need the younger people to work here. But I like the protections for our area being considered too.	6/16/2025 4:35 PM
11	Prioritize safer sidewalks, city wide events that bring in revenue to revitalize what we have. I strongly encourage you to look at Newport NH webpage and chamber page ... They are very close in size, economics, crime, etc as us and have started Sunshine community (or something like that) that has now blossomed into over 1000 cities similar to ours in revamping what they have	6/16/2025 11:23 AM
12	More businesses, equal more money and more jobs! We need national retailers/restaurants who have cash flow not these small businesses who don't have enough capital to get through a rainy day!	6/15/2025 7:29 PM
13	Less emphasis on climate change. Focus on what is good management and stewardship of land without losing focus on people as those who will do the stewarding and enjoying.	6/13/2025 2:02 PM
14	The plan does address some very serious concerns. However, follow through will be the real indicator of the region's willingness to start and sustain real change.	6/12/2025 11:43 PM
15	Affordable housing, creating systems to withstand the dangers of climate change, promoting inclusivity, etc. are all positive plans. Perhaps consider how best to market our little state outside of Vermont as a way to attract more full time residents. The state population is aging. We need younger people and families to move into the state in order to sustain the revenue base.	6/12/2025 4:53 PM

16	As a homeowner in Rutland with a small apartment in part of our house, one of our biggest concerns for long term rentals is getting a tenant you don't like out . The laws seem to favor the tenant. So we are reluctant to do long term renting. House sharing may be the solution for people unable to keep their home.	6/12/2025 4:22 PM
17	Yes, it addresses challenges in housing, jobs and how the changing environment affects everything.	6/12/2025 2:12 PM
18	Crime in this city will reduce our economy. It's a factor when people are looking at VT towns to live in.	6/12/2025 8:34 AM
19	Except for making the region more welcoming to business. And lowering taxes. Especially property taxes. Those should be top priorities.	6/12/2025 8:29 AM
20	I marked "yes" only because I partially agree. I disagree with the downtown hotel project as I don't see the benefit or need. The area in which the hotel is going to be built is not suitable for the increase in traffic. Wales Street is currently a one-way street straight to West Street. The only way I can see it being a good idea is if Wales Street now becomes two-way. No way would it be feasible otherwise. The city police would have to relocate and currently, there isn't a place for them. They would not be able to remain where they are and that is an absolute nightmare waiting to happen.	6/12/2025 7:45 AM
21	I would like to see more medium and large growth opportunities.	6/12/2025 7:30 AM
22	Focusing on keeping a strong young workforce will keep moving us forward.	6/12/2025 7:25 AM
23	The ideas are tone deaf to what the community is experiencing at large. Vermont as a state embodies an ethos of thinking they are exceptional in multiple facets when in reality, they are critical failures that lack any semblance of foresight. This community for example has a critical homelessness crisis. Yet the city had done near to nothing. Rutland was given funding for a shelter years ago. Where is it? If you cannot meet the basic needs of a community, there is a disconnect.	6/11/2025 10:08 PM
24	Recreation and tourism development opportunities should be emphasize more heavily emphasized. Smaller cities and towns frequently benefit from a strong recreation program. It should not be developed for the sole purpose of benefiting current residents. It needs to be built with the vision to bring in tourists, new residents, and the businesses that can flourish with an increase in tourism. Businesses that add jobs. Unfortunately, many towns in Vermont will continue their slow decline if we continue to support the mindset that change is bad and "things should go back to the way they were". This attitude is highly pervasive and detrimental to Rutland County. It will lead to a continued ageing population, which will not bring in new residents and younger folks.	6/11/2025 8:03 PM
25	Spot on!	6/10/2025 10:24 PM
26	Yes, housing and job market growth are 2 ways in which I have heard many community members state as priorities for the region. I think this plan addresses both of these priorities.	6/10/2025 1:59 PM
27	Priorities should be on housing and on jobs. I built my house in 2002. 1000 square feet two bedrooms and a loft. Eat in kitchen with a living room and 1 bedroom. Another small house was built 4 miles from me in Killington. Tiny houses 400 square feet or less would be great for work force housing. Either public or private. Need to lessen regulations to build. Perhaps offer incentives to build. (Tif) works on larger developments. But cities and towns do not see the advantages in building small developments of tiny houses on smaller acreage	6/9/2025 10:42 PM
28	While housing is a key barrier, I appreciate the encouragement of collaborating with Stafford & regional higher education to address workforce development as an integral part of economic development given our aging population.	6/8/2025 6:01 PM
29	I appreciate the acknowledgement of the potential for flooding. Being a new homeowner in Rutland city that resides near a small stream is concerning, even though I am not in a flood plane.	6/8/2025 10:48 AM
30	Single family homes and single occupancy privately owned vehicles have led to the housing crises and the environmental crisis, respectfully. Seeing a plan that prioritizes dense mix-use development in villages and city centers is great to see after almost 80 years of sprawl.	6/8/2025 7:36 AM
31	I think so, but the devil is in the details of how to accomplish even some of the priorities.	6/6/2025 8:06 PM
32	Again the plan is dearie, half-baked and plays to clichés and buzzwords.	6/6/2025 6:29 PM
33	You will only attract employers if you have willing and knowledgeable workforce. Businesses that are here have trouble finding workers who aren't lazy.	6/6/2025 5:51 PM
34	I believe it does. It seems to have been thoughtfully, carefully and creatively crafted to move us	6/6/2025 1:06 PM

	forward without sacrificing the positive and unique elements that make the region what it is.	
35	Contain building to village, town centers. Keep development out of natural areas Did feel this last round of shoving maps down people's throats without a good detail of what Tier 1, 2 and 3 are and how they match up to the color on the map.	6/5/2025 6:18 AM
36	you mean slow death.... yes	5/21/2025 11:08 AM

Additional Comments in Response to Question 2:

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	It is important to highlight the opportunities available in our area.	6/30/2025 10:47 AM
2	I moved here from Virginia in January 2024. Reading this plan reinforces for me that I made absolutely the right decision in making this move.	6/29/2025 9:08 PM
3	I checked yes, BUT we need solutions, not just words on paper. The drug and gang issues need to be addressed. Compressed housing/businesses will only make it easier for gangs to terrorize people and communities. We have portions of the city that are currently not safe. How is putting people closer together going to help with that? As far as jobs, there is nothing here to attract people. Mostly they go where the jobs are, and where they get good pay. There is no industry here to draw people to our area. It's great to have our beautiful state, but it doesn't pay wages for our people. We need GOOD paying jobs! You cannot expect people to come here if they can't afford to live here. And taxes are WAY too high. It's not economically feasible to try to live here. Most people are just barely surviving. All the words you put on paper do no good if you don't come up with some solutions!	6/27/2025 5:50 PM
4	More things to tax us on, nothing but DEI language an a set up for a 15 minute city to control us! Hell NO!!	6/27/2025 4:15 PM
5	Rutland offers all the requirements for a good life: Public Safety, resources, education and a life style tide closely to the environment. I see one of the challenges is a job market, that can sustain the population, and hopefully, an expanding population base.	6/25/2025 3:39 PM
6	People can't afford to Live here now. It looks Like things are going to get more expensive. We don't want to live in California.	6/25/2025 7:10 AM
7	Too much focus on conservation.	6/22/2025 10:41 PM
8	For the most part. But I see way too much diversity, equity and inclusion language. Like, every objective is driven by those concepts. I want opportunity for all, but not special mention or attention to so called underserved, represented towns and peoples. The plan needs to focus on creating communities that reward individuals and families who work hard, live clean / disciplined and make careful and planned choices.	6/21/2025 6:36 AM
9	I feel the general desire is to improve infrastructure and grow our city in a sustainable way.	6/17/2025 5:59 PM
10	This question is too general and ambiguous. I moved back to the area from Western Mass because I like the small cities and small towns where you know your neighbor and feel safe. A better question would be to ask what do I think should be a priority to make the Rutland Region a place where I want to live, work and play. My first thought was that there is too much bureaucratic jargon used in the plan. What is "a self-reinforcing feedback loop of concentrated infrastructure....." and "context-sensitive Complete Streets" I have often thought that there are too many agencies/organizations with overlapping agendas. Consolidation and collaboration might mitigate the problem of limited staff and funds. I find this issue especially in the housing sector.	6/17/2025 2:58 PM
11	How will plan success be measured at completion? What are your numerical and statistical goals?	6/16/2025 8:05 PM
12	Really like the plans to keep the best of what we already have like restoring existing buildings and keeping our views great.	6/16/2025 4:35 PM
13	I don't want to see densification or taller buildings. I have no desire to live in a 15 minute city. More bike access is good but not in a way it creates traffic hazards. We have accessible public transport for those who don't drive. More is not needed. I've lived here for 53 years and enjoy the small city. Most of what you need is available here. I hate driving but I do it for my errands. I am someone who puts maybe 500 miles per year on my car , rarely leaving the immediate area because I have no need to. If it turned into a bigger, denser city, I would be forced to move from the home I've enjoyed all my life	6/16/2025 11:23 AM

14	Rutland needs more housing, period! This needs to be the utmost priority and I don't mean housing for the poor, I mean housing for normal middle class folks. We also need more businesses in the are and we need to deal with the drainage/sewer situation in the city. Every time it rains my street Meadow Brook Rd gets flooded, a new drainage pipes needs to be installed along with the road being repaved.	6/15/2025 7:29 PM
15	I like that development is planned without major reforestation.	6/14/2025 6:38 AM
16	The plan recognizes the importance of preserving what makes Rutland County such a great place to live.	6/13/2025 7:01 AM
17	In theory these sound feasible. However, in reality there seems to be a serious lack of follow through in starting, developing, maintaining, and finishing these types of goals. That does not create a sustainable working/living environment.	6/12/2025 11:43 PM
18	Would love more work spaces for remote workers!	6/12/2025 10:38 PM
19	I think a key decision will be how to use the Walmart space. Consideration should be given to how to make downtown a destination spot; a place that ends up on lists of the "best places to visit in Vermont."	6/12/2025 4:53 PM
20	I can see that a lot of thought and work has gone into this, and I am impressed by how thorough it is. Economic issues were dealt with fairly over several subject areas I thought.	6/12/2025 2:12 PM
21	You also need to address crime and safety in our city.	6/12/2025 8:34 AM
22	I agree with the report's list,of problems, and barriers. However the solutions or remedies to these problems such as housing, jobs, climate change issues, and others always seem to rely on government funding in one form or another. What your report doesn't have is a solution to two of the biggest problems we face. Vermont is unaffordable. For two major reasons. Taxes and home prices. Home prices are high because we have so many second homes. People that do not reside here. These people are able to pay any price to buy or build a home. Making a new home out of reach for working Vermonters because the cost of homes is driven ever higher by people who do not even live here. We have the second or third highest overall tax burden in the United States. Until that changes. We cannot attract the very people we need. Plumbers, electricians, carpenters, equipment operators. We cannot change Vermont without these types of people. Yet we cannot attract them because of our high taxes and home prices. We also cannot keep our young trades people because they can make mor money in other states and pay a lot less in taxes. Just look at surrounding states like New Hampshire and even Massachusetts. Even Massachusetts is now more affordable to live in than Vermont. Having government funding to fix everything is not the answer. You lay out a dream plan and expect taxpayers to fund it. We're tapped out.	6/12/2025 8:29 AM
23	I would like to see Rutland focus more on fixing the massive problems with literally every single street in Rutland. The holes in the streets are so bad that it's gotten to the point that driving on them is no longer safe. I am seeing some streets getting paved but that is maybe 1 or two per year. The streets need to be fixed in order to truly have a safe, happy Rutland.	6/12/2025 7:45 AM
24	I find that growth is hap-hazard and area development stakeholders are slow to respond and implement strategies. We need to be more nimble and responsive to community employment needs and development.	6/12/2025 7:30 AM
25	Rutland county has a lot to offer and strengthening the foundation and offering new opportunities will keep us growing.	6/12/2025 7:25 AM
26	Solid understanding of rUTLAND County priorities, needs, goals.	6/12/2025 6:23 AM
27	They are nice in theory but if it is anything like the planning of the road diets of Woodstock Avenue and North Main Street, they are seem to have no actual basis in reality and lack foresight especially the housing portion.	6/11/2025 10:08 PM
28	There are not a lot of opportunities for people to find jobs in the area. Another is that the side walks in this city of Rutland are really bad. It makes it really difficult for the disabled to use their power chairs on the side walks. In the winter the side walks and the road are not taken care of properly. There are empty store fronts in the city of rutland that just sit there and rot. The police need to Crack down on people using m 80s in the summer time and the residents get really scared from them. M 80s can also cause structure fires to peoples houses.	6/11/2025 4:51 PM

29	The only thing not mentioned that really comes to mind for me personally would address the issue of high disparity/homelessness and begging/flagrant behavior and drug use. That being said, I will openly admit I don't have the first idea how to address this, but it deeply upsets me regularly seeing so many struggling folks day after day. Furthermore, sadly, I think this is probably a big negative takeaway for tourists.	6/10/2025 10:24 PM
30	I feel that the planning commission is addressing many of the issues facing Rutland in their proposed plan.	6/10/2025 1:59 PM
31	Living in Killington's with very limited bus transportation makes me feel isolated. As it is I live 5 miles from a bus route and take the car for all my needs	6/9/2025 10:42 PM
32	Access to affordable, quality childcare should be in there somewhere. It is an important part of retaining young families in our communities and our workforce.	6/9/2025 10:13 AM
33	I really appreciate how health, equity, resilience are built into every chapter. As well as the overlaps that happen, such as transportation & energy. While I didn't read each chapter, the format of the summaries was well thought out, making the information relatively easy to digest. Thank you for your hard work, thoughtfulness, and community collaboration on this update.	6/8/2025 6:01 PM
34	Yes, my only additional request is that the arts are also prioritized and displayed within the graphic to support longterm growth and ease of access to the local arts scene through our various forms of expression in the region.	6/8/2025 10:48 AM
35	The priorities are great but somewhat conflicting. I'm not sure any plan could negotiate the wealth gap.	6/6/2025 8:06 PM
36	This plan is very much about preserving the status quo and will neither solve the underlying issues preventing healthy, dynamic and vibrant communities from emerging.	6/6/2025 6:29 PM
37	I hope that the vision gets realized.	6/6/2025 5:51 PM
38	The priorities seem to hit a nice balance of honoring the historical, environmental and cultural riches of the Rutland Region while looking toward a vital and forward-looking place for businesses, the arts, housing opportunities.	6/6/2025 1:06 PM
39	No place for my comment so I will simply put it here. Disappointed zero mention of libraries in the plan under Cultural Resources or Community Facilities. I'm curious where do you think the majority of communities gather - schools or libraries. They are both indispensable assets to communities. We reside in small rural communities, yet this plan does not read like that, nor does it take into account school buildings and libraries. The plan also does not take into account the proposed changing educational landscape and how that can eviscerate small rural communities. This is a quality-of-life issue; not bussing our children out of town, little to no input or community involvement with their education. That changes the cultural aspect of small rural communities.	6/6/2025 11:59 AM
40	There is a balance of growth in housing, economics, ..., as well as maintaining and protecting our rural settings and conservation.	6/6/2025 9:30 AM
41	Drug epidemic in Rutland and restoration of decaying buildings are not addressed	6/5/2025 7:21 PM
42	Outdoor recreation priority Urban sprawl kept down. No more solar panels in nice big fields	6/5/2025 6:18 AM
43	you literally have planned development as 0.0% surprised that district 3 ACT 250 has smothered this area, people are leaving and i can't wait either.	5/21/2025 11:08 AM

ACT 181 TRAINING:

RRPC FUTURE LAND USE MAP,
STATE DESIGNATION PROGRAM,
AND ACT 250 JURISDICTION

- April 16, 2025 Training
- **April 17, 2025 Training**

Logan Solomon,
Planner, Rutland Regional Planning Commission



TRAINING GOAL:

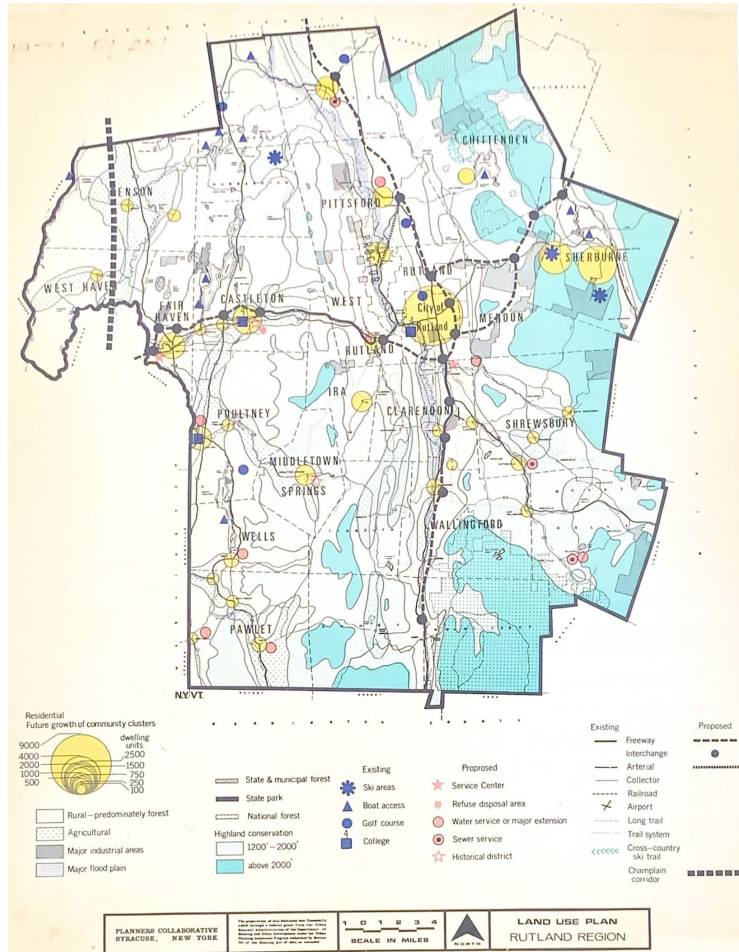
1

Inform on Act 181, the draft RRPC Future Land Use Map, and the benefits the map will bring to the region

2

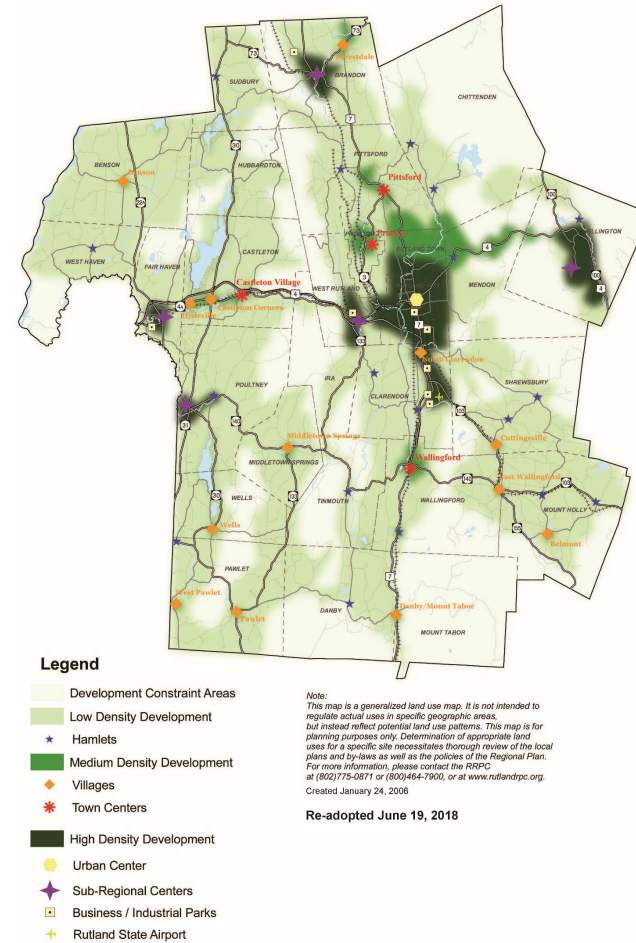
React to the draft RRPC Future Land Use Map

1971 (FIRST MAP)



RRPC HAS HAD A FUTURE LAND USE MAP FOR OVER A HALF CENTURY

2018 (MOST RECENT MAP)



ACT 181 STANDARDIZED FUTURE LAND USE MAPPING ACROSS VERMONT

RRPC must delineate specific Future Land Use Areas
using the categories outlined in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(12)(A)-(J)

The map was developed using a standardized statewide methodology created by the
Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies

ACT 181 PURPOSE

Act 181's changes implement the following state planning goal that has guided Vermont's land use planning and development review laws since the late 1960s:

To maintain Vermont's historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.

The Legislature's longstanding focus on this goal, often referred to as "**smart growth**," is at the heart of Act 181's intent.

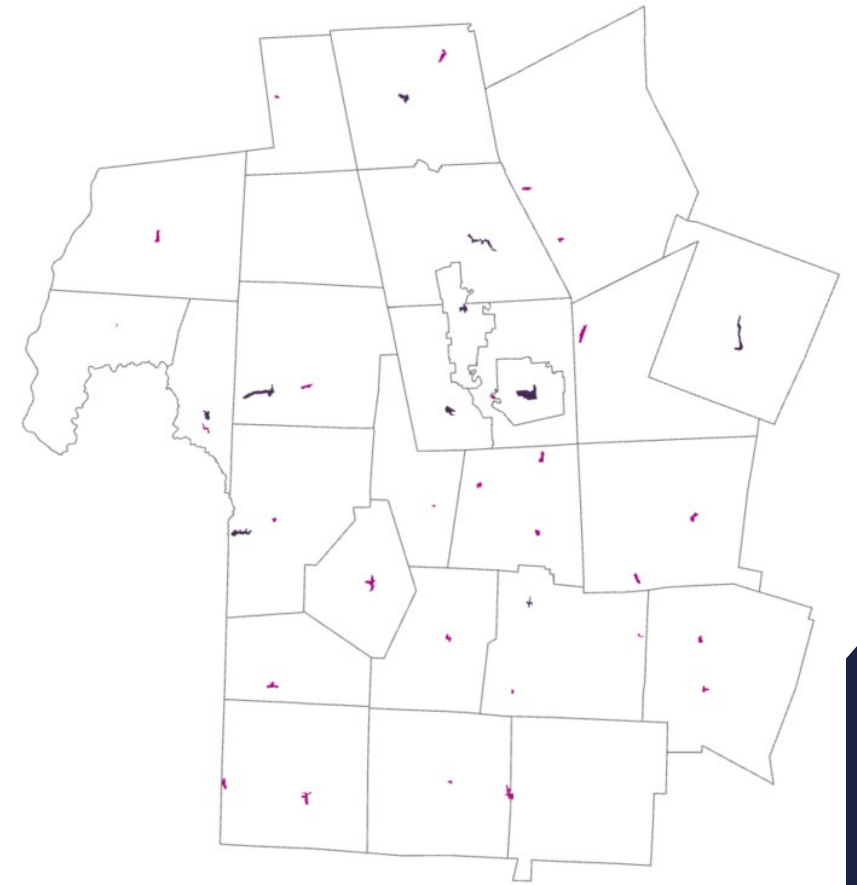
ACT 181 LAND USE CATEGORIES



We will now walk through each area in this order, starting with Downtown and Village Center

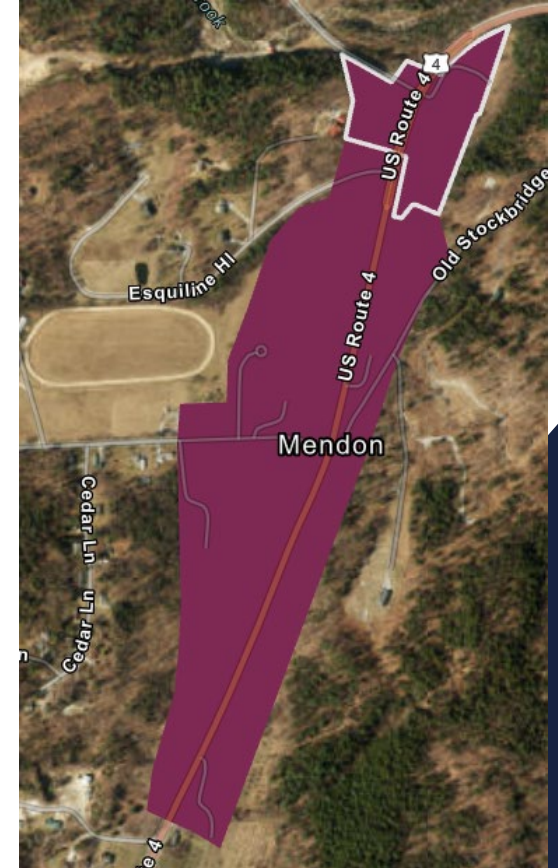
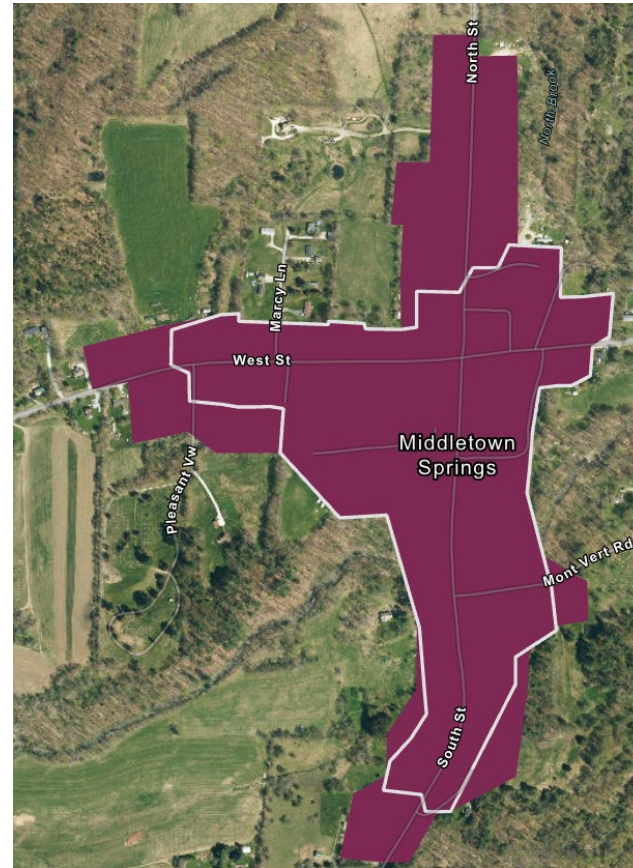
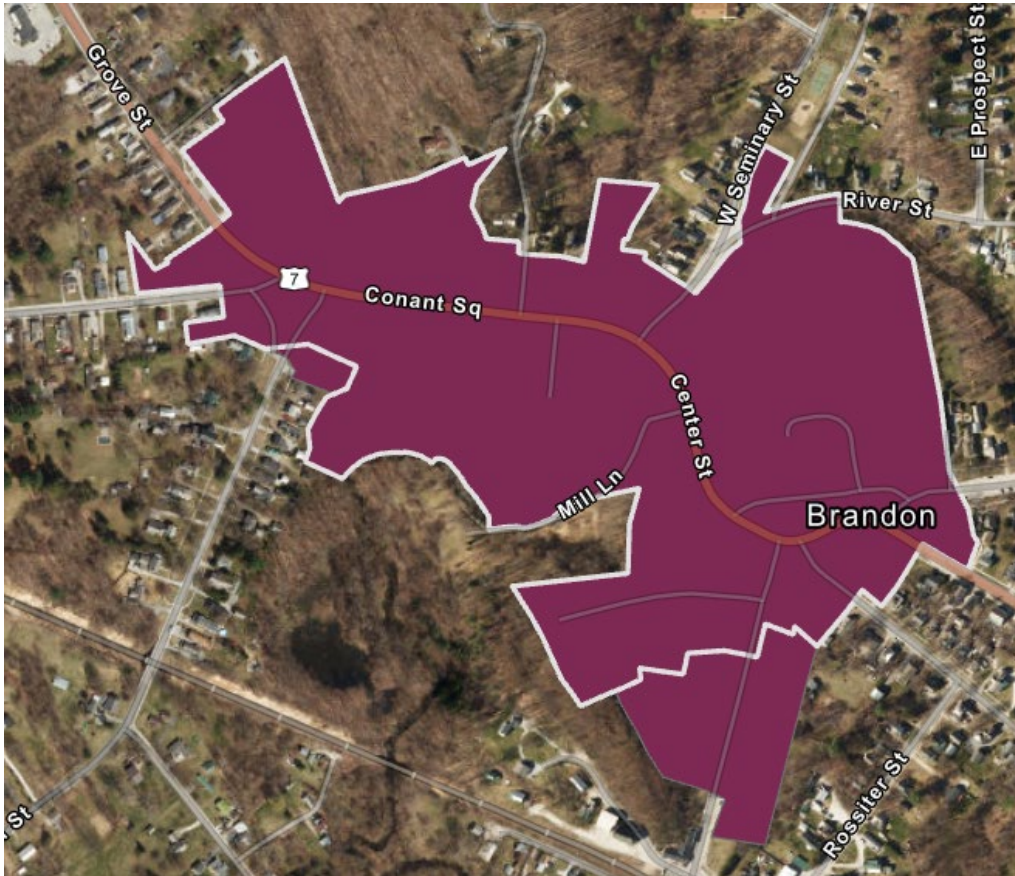
DOWNTOWN AND VILLAGE CENTER

- Traditional mixed-use business and civic centers
- State designated Village Centers and Downtowns are included in this area.
- The area is eligible for the benefits in the new state designation program
- **Village centers** are not required to have public water, wastewater, zoning, or subdivision bylaws.
 - **Downtowns** have all four pieces



DOWNTOWN AND VILLAGE CENTER

RRPC expanded existing state designated areas to abutting commercial or civic areas, or state historic district boundaries

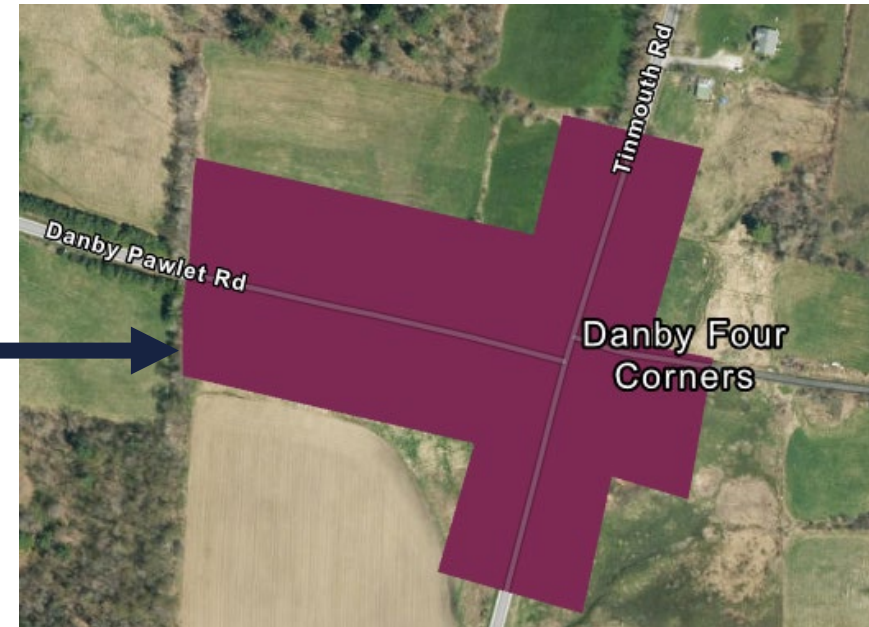


DOWNTOWN AND VILLAGE CENTER

RRPC made new Downtown and Village Centers to the degree allowed by state law. All towns were reviewed for this possibility.

NEW CENTERS:

- Center Rutland Village Center
- Clarendon Village Center
- Cuttingsville Village Center
- Danby Four Corners Village Center
- Downtown Killington
- Forest Dale Village Center
- Mount Holly Village Center
- Mt Tabor Village Center
- North Clarendon Village Center
- North Shrewsbury Village Center
- South Fair Haven Village Center
- West Haven Village Center



“Danby Four Corners, the second largest center and original settlement site, is in the approximate center of the township”

- 2020 Danby Town Plan, Page 9

“CENTER” STATE DESIGNATION

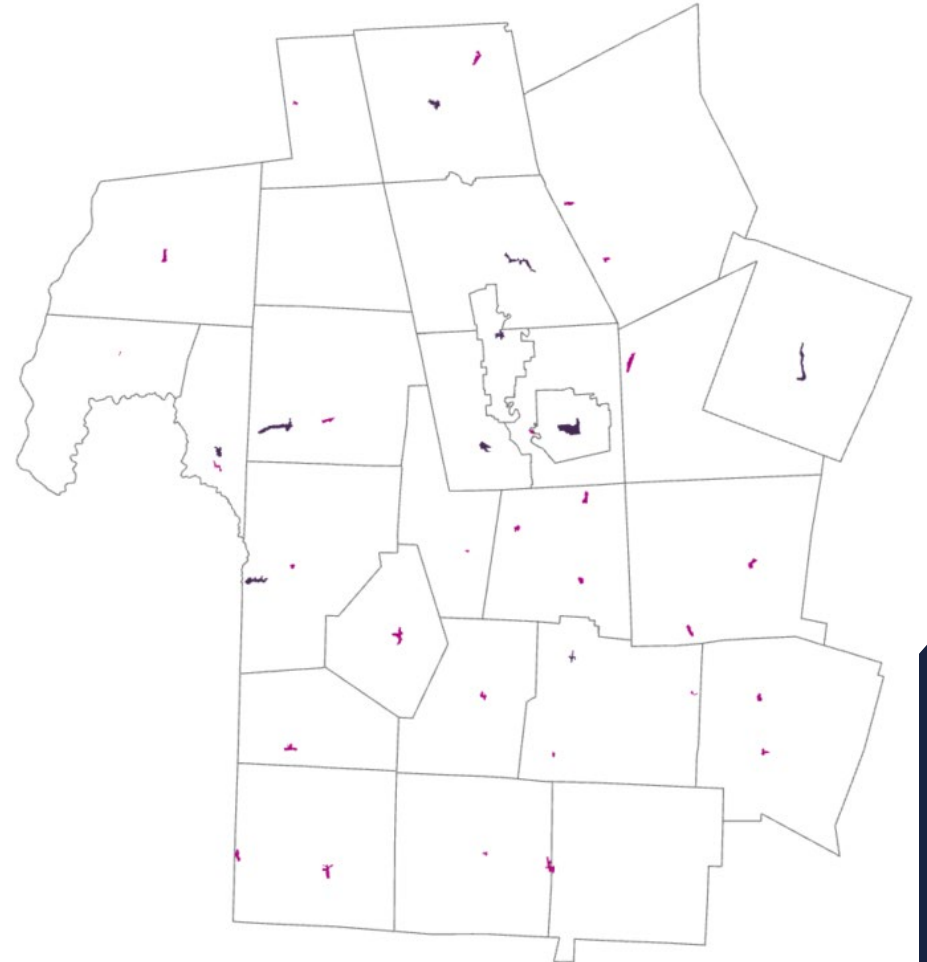
Downtown and Village Centers are eligible for “Center” designation in the state designation program. All areas currently enrolled in the program maintain benefits.

Center benefits are divided into three steps.

Step One is an entry-level designation created to provide an accessible designation for all Downtown and Village Centers.

Step Two is a mid-level designation created for villages to increase their planning and implementation capacity for community-scale projects. Municipalities must apply to the State Land Use Review Board for Step Two designation.

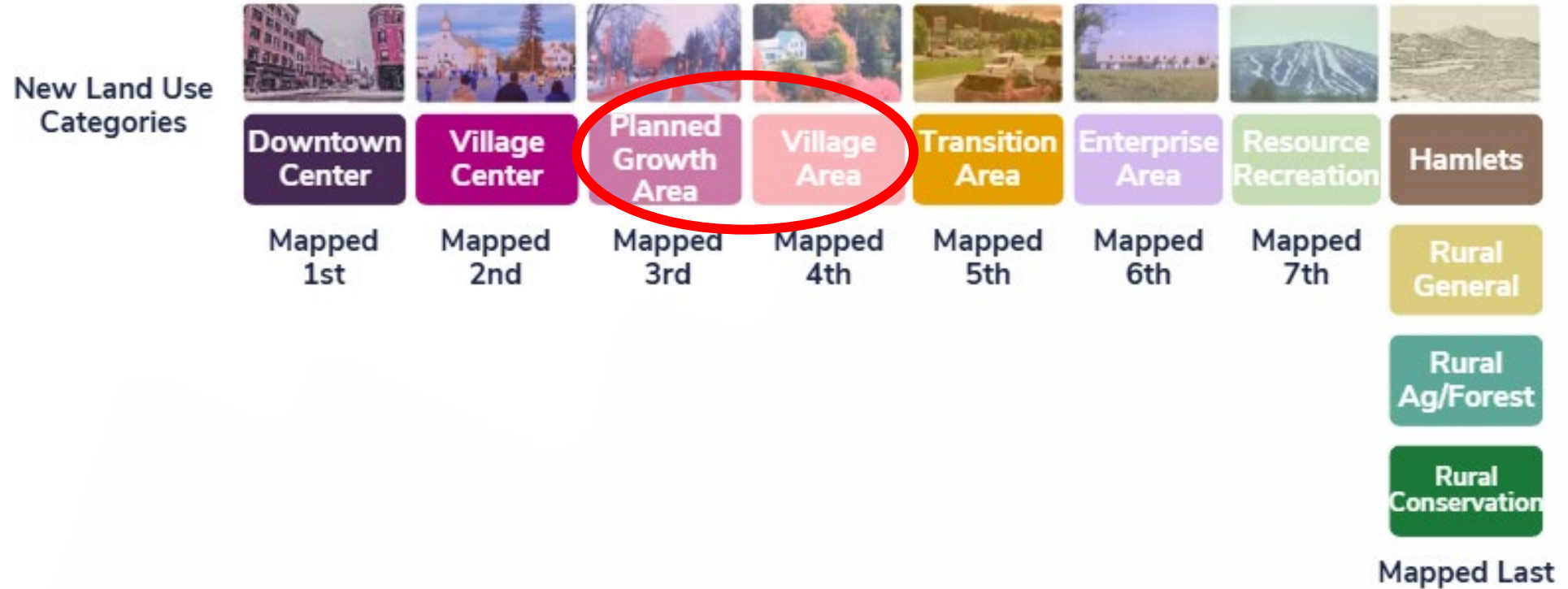
Step Three is an advanced designation created for downtowns to create mixed-use centers and join the Vermont Downtown Program. Municipalities must apply to the State Land Use Review Board for Step Three designation.



DOWNTOWN AND VILLAGE CENTER

Benefit Summary	Center Designation Steps		
	Step One	Step Two	Step Three
Eligibility for Better Places Grant Program	x	x	x
Eligibility for Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits	x	x	x
Funding Priority for Municipal Plan Updates	x	x	x
Priority Consideration for Better Connections Program		x	x
Funding Priority for Bylaws and Special Purpose Plans, Capital Plans, and Reinvestment Plans		x	x
Funding Priority for State Infrastructure Scoping, Design, Engineering, and Construction		x	x
Local Authority to Create Special Taxing District for Capital/Operating Costs in the Area		x	x
Priority for State and Federal Affordable Housing Funding		x	x
Local Authority to Establish Speed Limits Less Than 25 mph in the Area		x	x
State Wastewater Permit Fees Capped at \$50 for Residential Development		x	x
Exemption from Land Gains Tax		x	x
State Assistance and Guidance on Establishing Local Historic Preservation Regulations		x	x
Funding for the Local Downtown Organization and State Technical Assistance for the Area			x
Local Reallocation of Receipts Related to State Tax on Construction Materials			x
Eligibility to Receive National Main Street Accreditation			x
Eligibility to Erect Local Information Signage to Guide Visitors to Landmarks			x
Housing Appeal Limitations within the Area			x
Highest Priority for Locating State Buildings or Regional Planning Commission Buildings			x
Participation in the Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvement Fund			x

THE FUTURE LAND USE AREAS



We will now walk through the Planned Growth Area and Village Area categories

PLANNED GROWTH AREAS

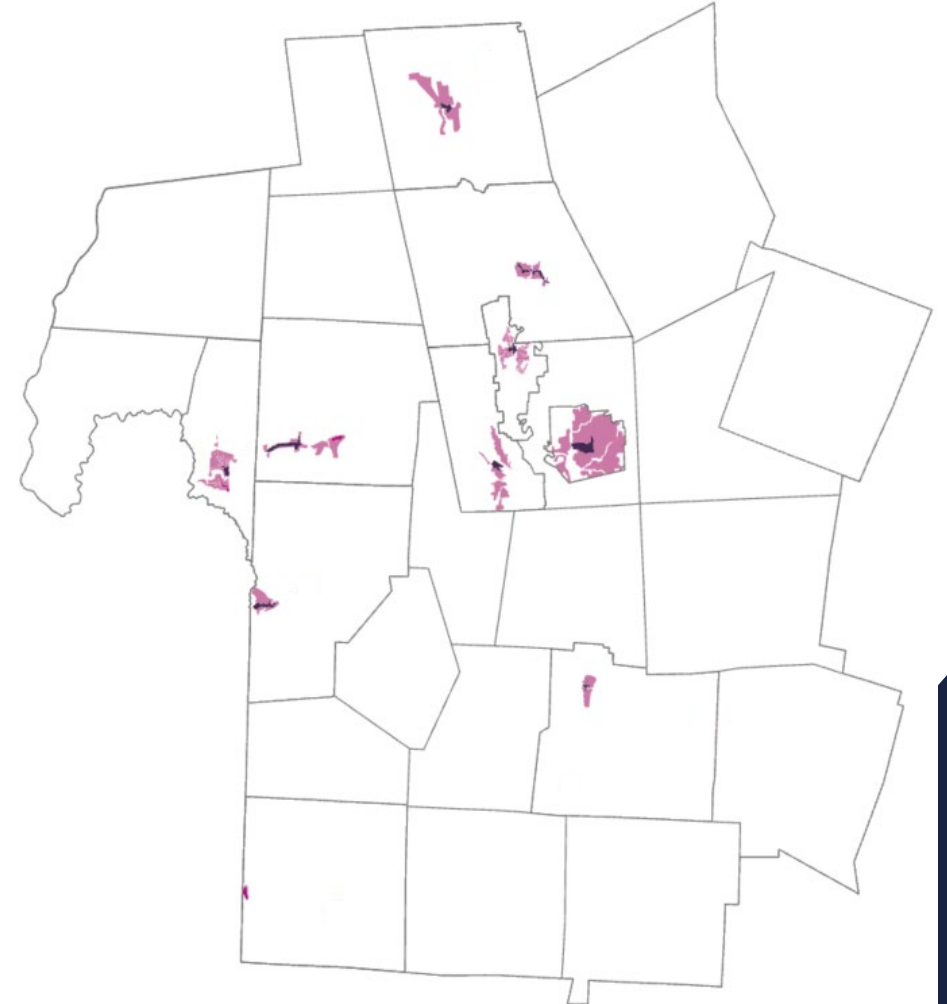
The area is served by public drinking water and/or public sanitary sewer systems, including small community systems

Municipality has adopted both zoning and subdivision regulations

The area is 'generally walkable' (i.e. at least 70% of buildings are within a 0.25 mile of sidewalk)

No Special Flood Hazard Areas (federally mapped) and River Corridors (state mapped) unless preexisting development in areas suitable for infill development

Municipal Plan or Zoning indicates this area is intended for higher-density development. Zoning allowing five dwelling units per acre is interpreted as being intended for higher-density.



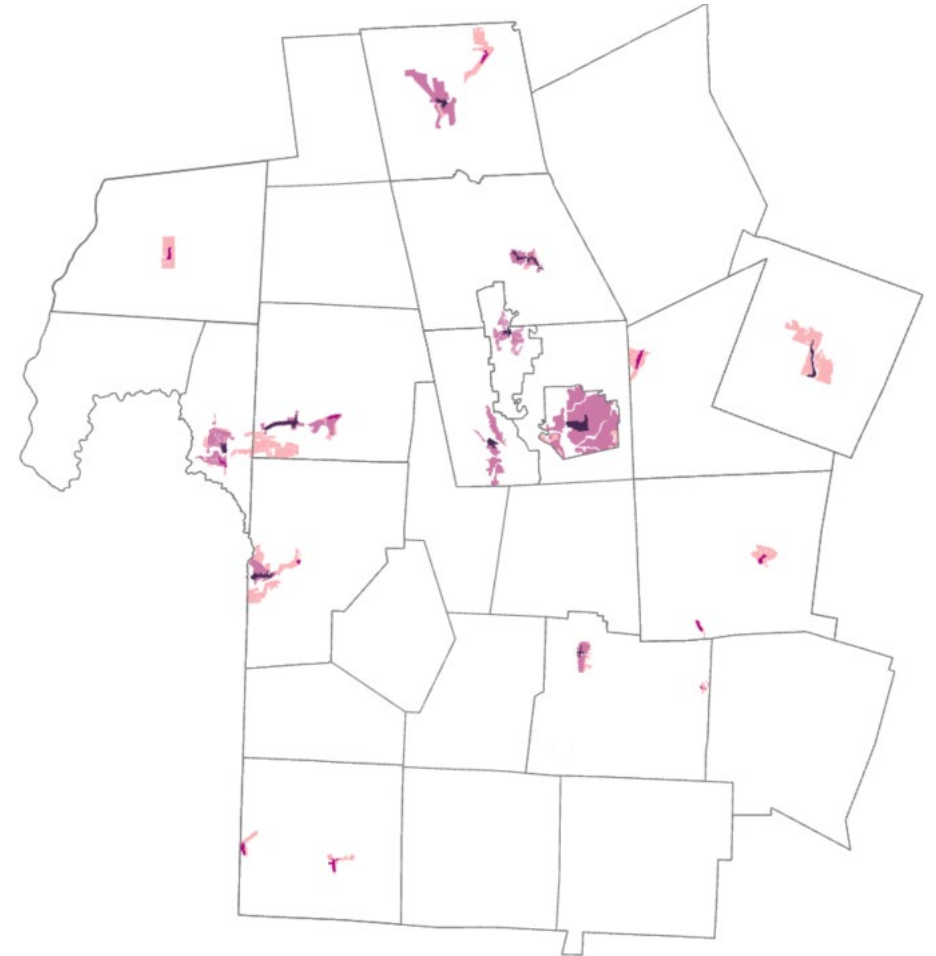
VILLAGE AREAS

The municipality has either public drinking water and/or public sanitary sewer system. However, the specific area may not have either, provided the area must contain adequate soils for septic systems.

Municipality has adopted both zoning and subdivision regulations

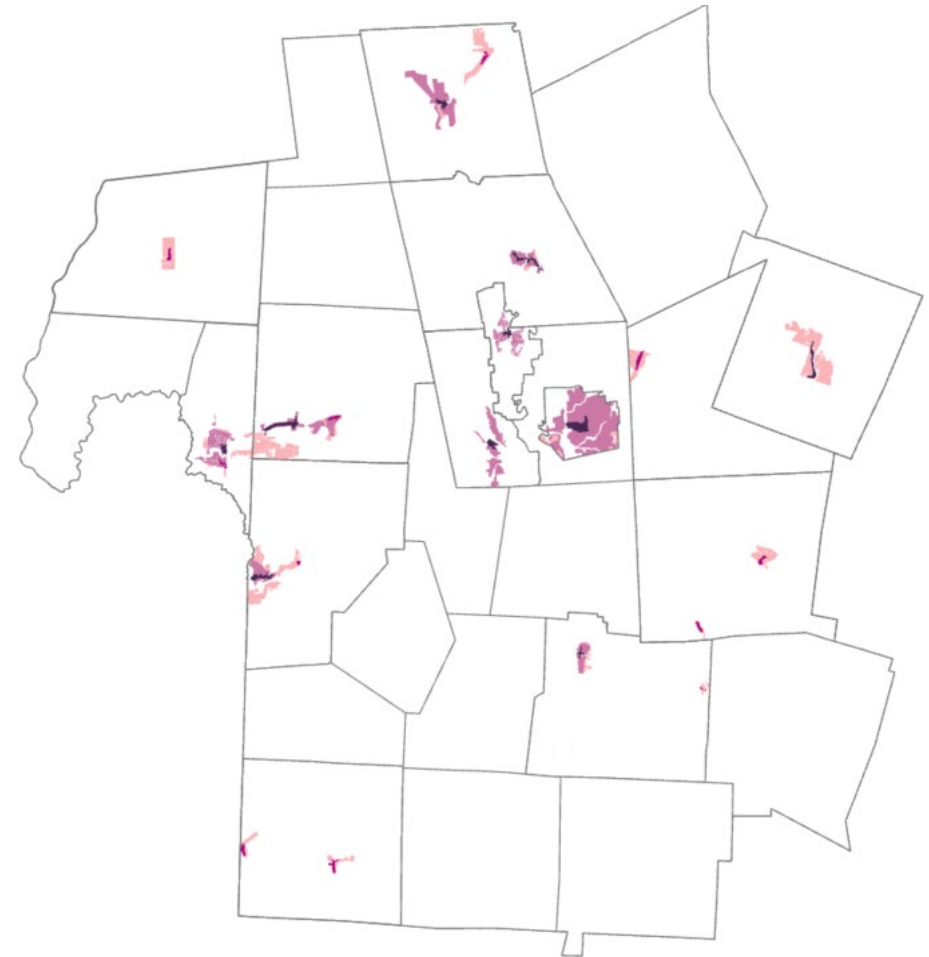
No Special Flood Hazard Areas (federally mapped) and River Corridors (state mapped) unless preexisting development in areas suitable for infill development or the municipality regulates both areas up to state standards

Municipal Plan or Zoning indicates some opportunities for new development in a flood-resilient manner



“NEIGHBORHOOD” STATE DESIGNATION

Planned Growth Areas and Village Areas are eligible for the “Neighborhood” designation in the state designation program.

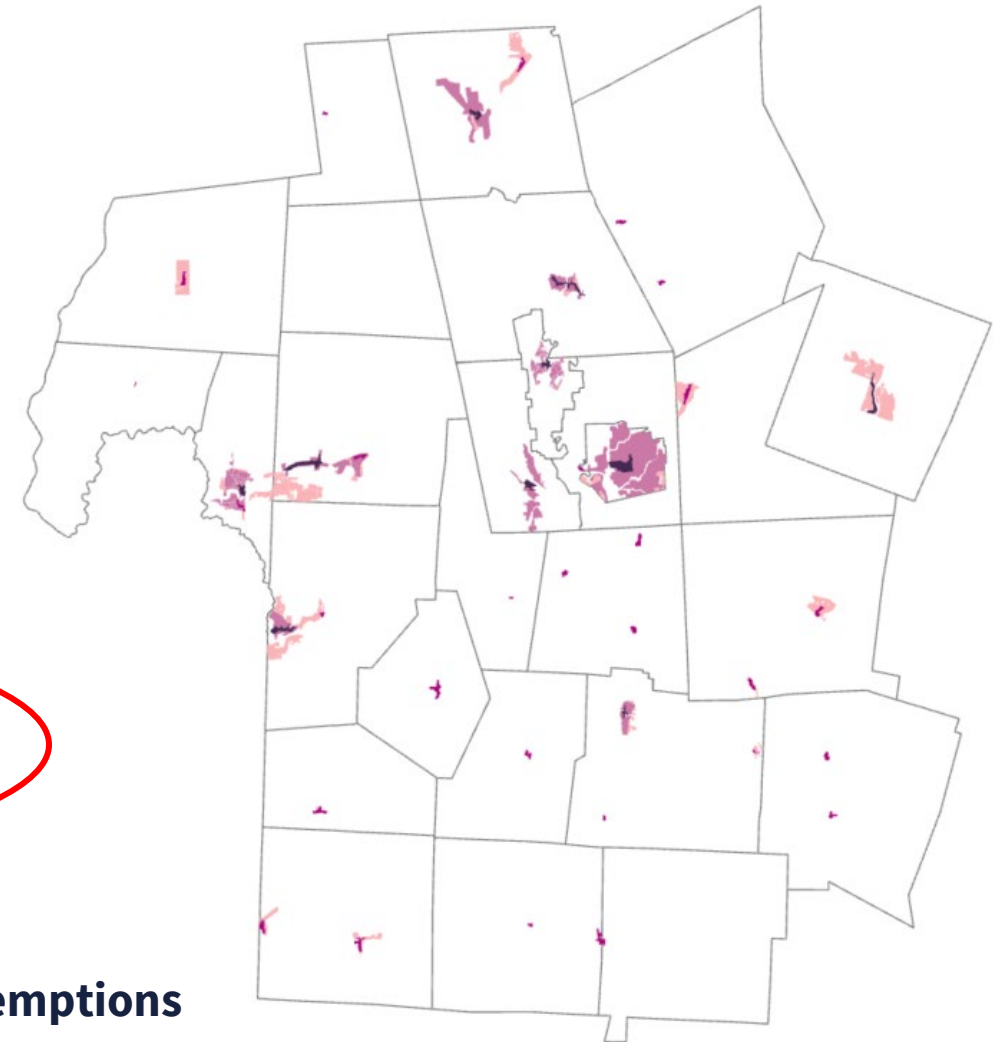
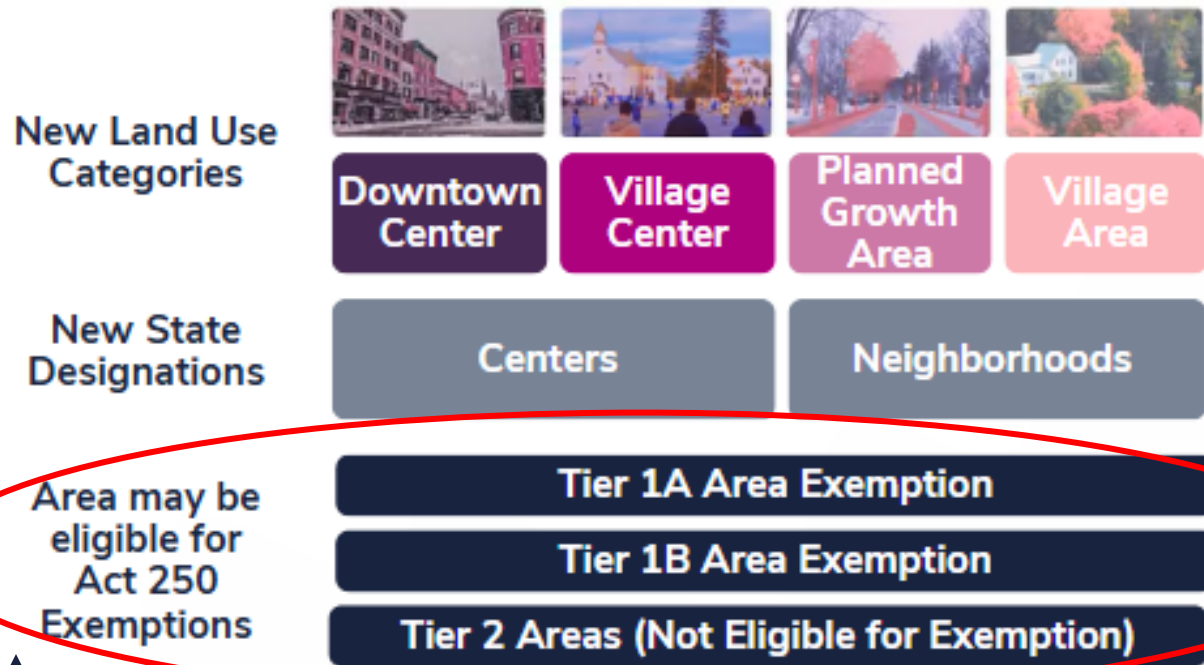


Benefit Summary

Priority Consideration for Better Connections Program
Funding Priority for Bylaws and Special Purpose Plans, Capital Plans, and Reinvestment Plans
Funding Priority for State Infrastructure Scoping, Design, Engineering, and Construction
Local Authority to Create Special Taxing District for Capital/Operating Costs in the Area
Priority for State and Federal Affordable Housing Funding
Local Authority to Establish Speed Limits Less Than 25 mph in the Area
State Wastewater Permit Fees Capped at \$50 for Residential Development
Exemption from Land Gains Tax
Housing Appeal Limitations within the Area

Four Land Use Categories

These areas coordinate with the state designation program and may be eligible for Act 250 exemptions



We will now walk through information relating to Act 250 Exemptions

Temporary Act 250 Exemptions:



Area likely Exemption Eligible

Unlimited Dwellings
in Designated
Downtown until
January 1, 2027



Area likely Exemption Eligible

≤50 Dwelling Unit
Development a quarter mile
from qualifying Designated
Village Centers until
July 1, 2027



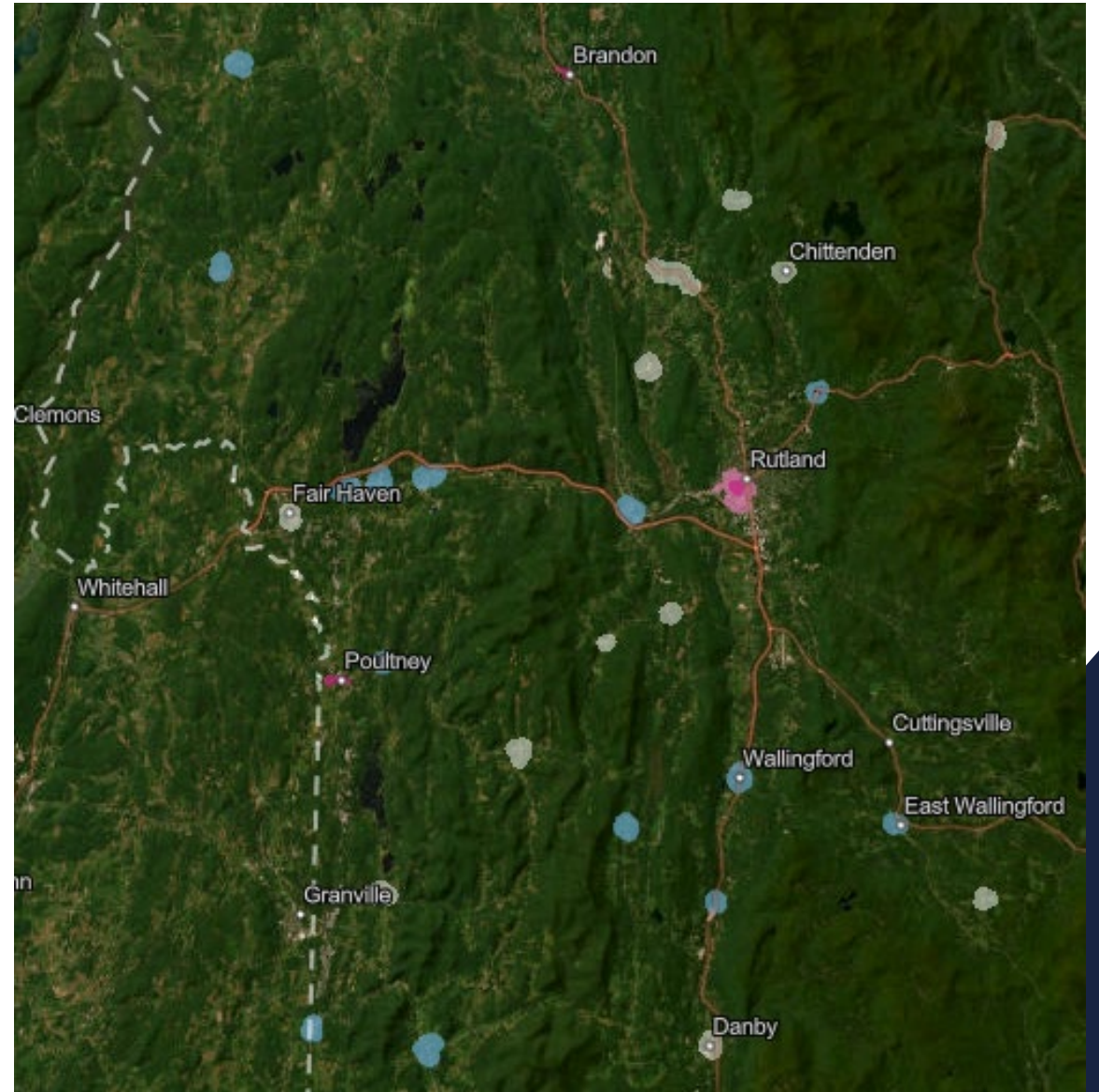
Area likely Exemption Eligible

≤ 75 Dwelling Unit
Development in
designated
Neighborhood
Development Area
until January 1, 2027



Area likely NOT Exemption Eligible

Designated Village Centers
that do not qualify for the
Act 250 housing exemption



Permanent Act 250 Exemptions:

	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
Which areas are eligible?	Part or all of the Centers (Downtown and Village) and Planned Growth Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.	Part or all of the Centers (Downtown and Village), Planned Growth Areas, and Village Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.
What are the Act 250 exemptions?	All development is fully exempt.	50 units or fewer on 10 acres or less for housing and mixed-use development is exempt.
Will our municipality have to enforce existing Act 250 conditions?	Yes. Within Tier 1A areas, municipalities must carry forward conditions of <u>existing</u> Act 250 permits for new development permits, with a few exceptions. In approved Tier 1A areas, the Land Use Review Board will no longer enforce permit conditions unless the municipality fails to do so.	No. The Land Use Review Board will continue to enforce <u>existing</u> Act 250 permits and conditions in Tier 1B areas.
How do we apply?	Municipalities will apply to the Land Use Review Board for Tier 1A jurisdiction. More information on Tier 1A Approval Guidelines at:	Municipal request to RPC. RPC submits to the Land Use Review Board on behalf of the region’s municipalities through the Regional Plan adoption process. The RRPC will provide a municipal resolution form for the Selectboard to sign.
When do municipalities have to decide?	Any time after January 1, 2026.	No later than July 1, 2025, to align with the necessary timeline for Regional Plan adoption.
What happens if we don’t pursue Tier 1 Act 250 exemptions?	A municipality is <u>not</u> required to opt in. In a municipality that does not opt in, after the interim Act 250 exemptions expire, development projects will be subject to standard Act 250 jurisdiction throughout your community.	

What other requirements must municipalities meet?

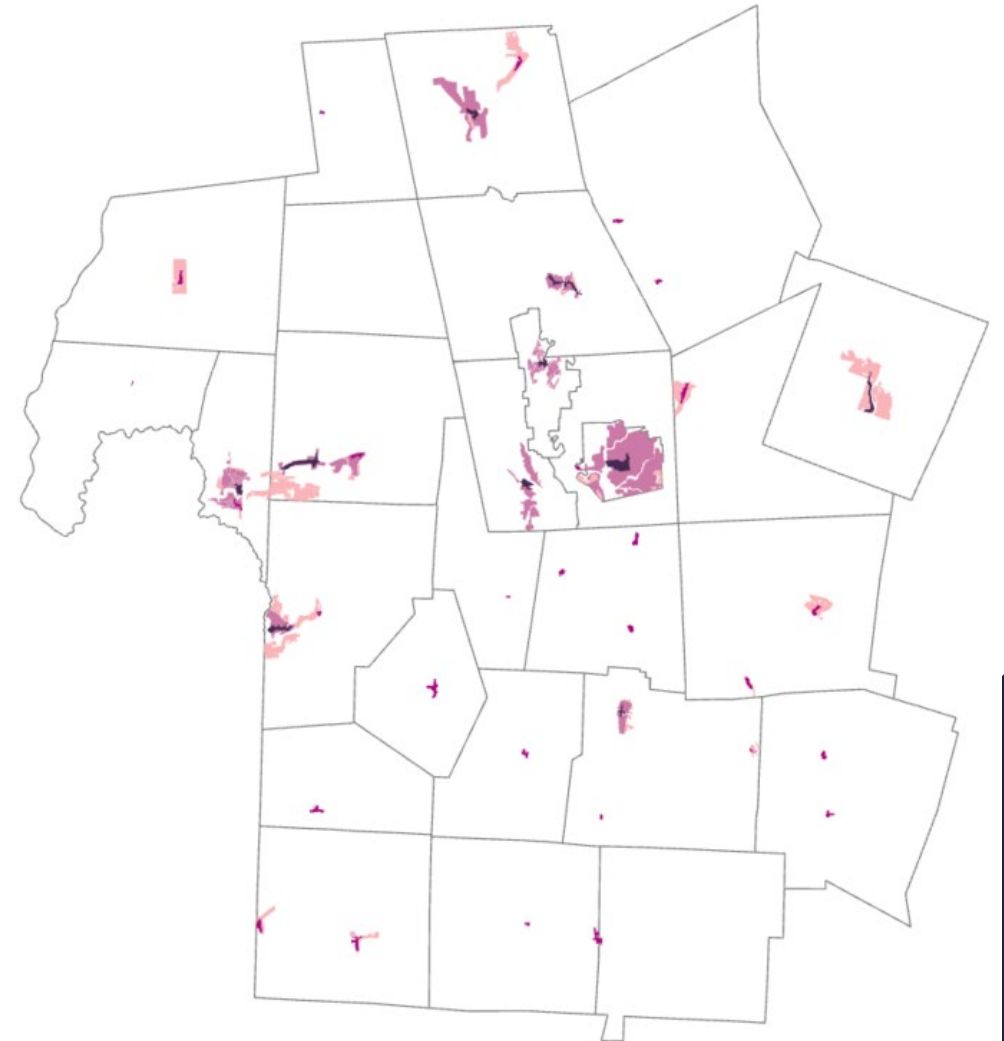
	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
	<p>Eligibility and application requirements are outlined in 10 V.S.A. §6034(b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The municipality must have an approved municipal plan.B. Tier 1A boundaries must be consistent with and be within Downtowns, Village Centers, or Planned Growth Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.C. The municipality must have adopted bylaws that are at least as strong as the state model flood hazard bylaws (per 10 V.S.A. § 755) and river corridor bylaws (per 10 V.S.A. §1428).D. The municipality must have adopted permanent zoning and subdivision regulations without broad exemptions for obtaining municipal permits.E. In the Tier 1A area, adopted municipal bylaws must further smart growth principles, regulate physical form and scale, allow for at least four stories in areas served by water and sewer, and follow other guidelines to be established by the Land Use Review Board.F. The Tier 1A area must be compatible with the character of adjacent historic districts and sites and significant cultural and natural resources.G. In the Tier 1A area, the municipality must plan to maintain significant natural communities and RTE species or exclude them from it.H. In the Tier 1A area, public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems can support additional development.I. In the Tier 1A area, adequate municipal staffing exists for comprehensive planning, capital planning, development review, and zoning administration.	<p>Eligibility and application requirements are outlined in 10 V.S.A. 6033(c).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. The municipality must request Tier 1B status from the RRPC.2. The municipality must have an approved municipal plan3. The municipality must have permanent zoning and subdivision regulations.4. In the Tier 1B area, the municipality must exclude or adequately regulate flood hazard areas and river corridors.5. In the Tier 1B area, there is adequate public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems capacity for compact housing; in Village Areas, this may be in the form of soils that can accommodate a community system.6. In the Tier 1B area, the municipality must have adequate municipal staff, municipal officials, or contracted capacity for development review and zoning administration.

Four Land Use Categories

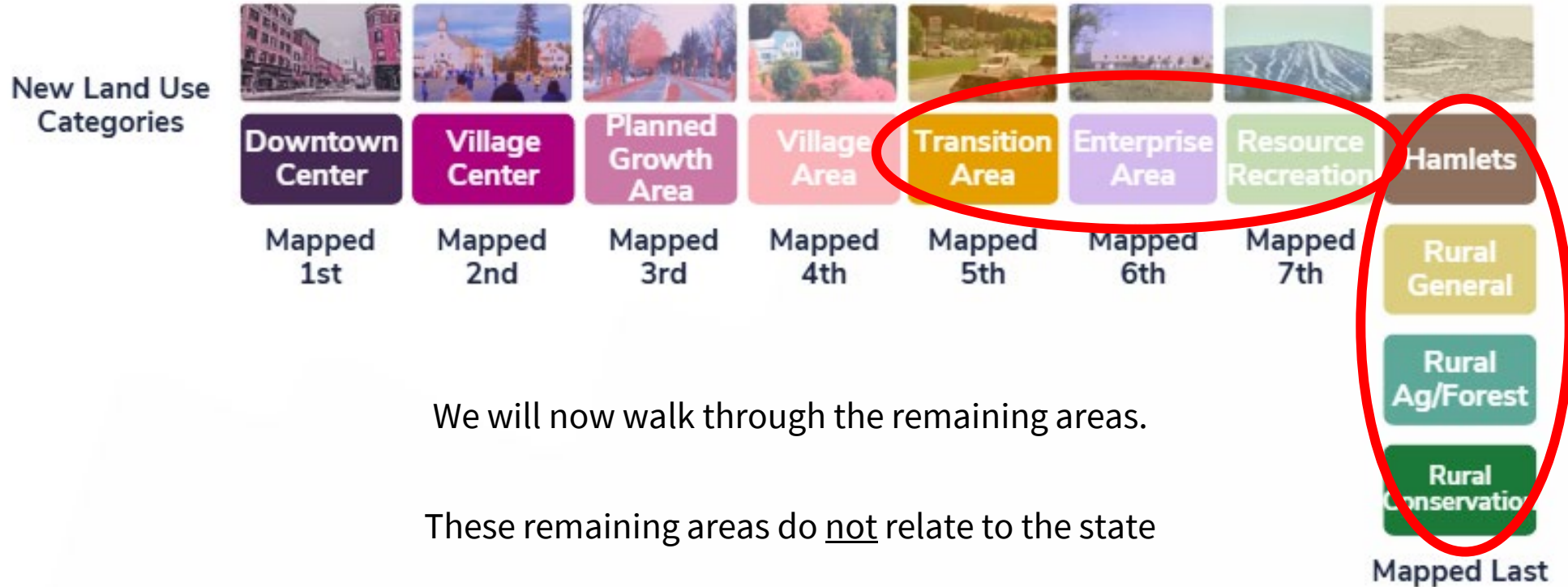
These areas coordinate with the state designation program and may be eligible for Act 250 exemptions



2.5% of Land Area and 38.6% of Buildings



THE FUTURE LAND USE AREAS



We will now walk through the remaining areas.

These remaining areas do not relate to the state

designation program and are not eligible for

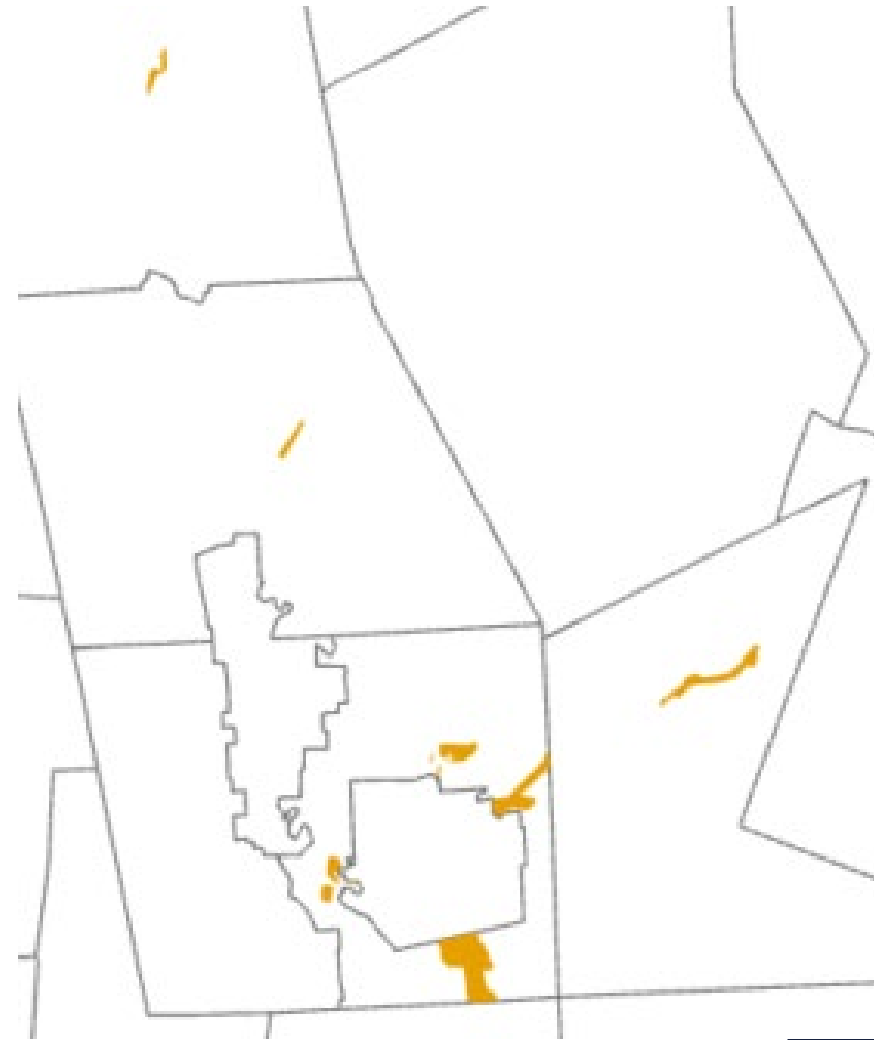
Tier 1 Act 250 exemptions

TRANSITION/INFILL AREAS

The area is served by public drinking water and/or public sanitary sewer systems, including small community systems

Intent of this category is to increase density through infill development; add side streets to the degree geography allows; and avoid areas of flood risk.

New linear strip development is not allowed. Some of these areas are in a linear strip development pattern currently.



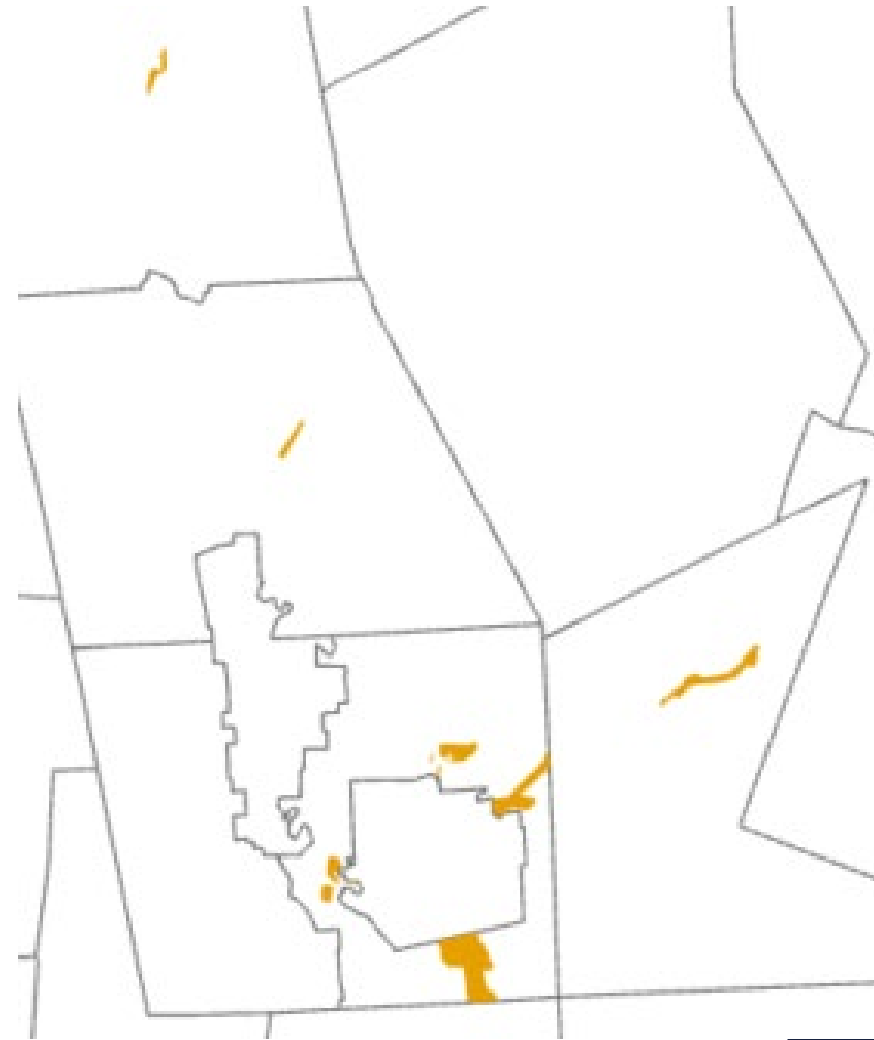
TRANSITION/INFILL AREAS

Rutland Town (Route 7/Route 4)

Mendon (Route 4)

Pittsford (Plains Rd)

Brandon (Forest Dale Rd/Town Farm Rd)

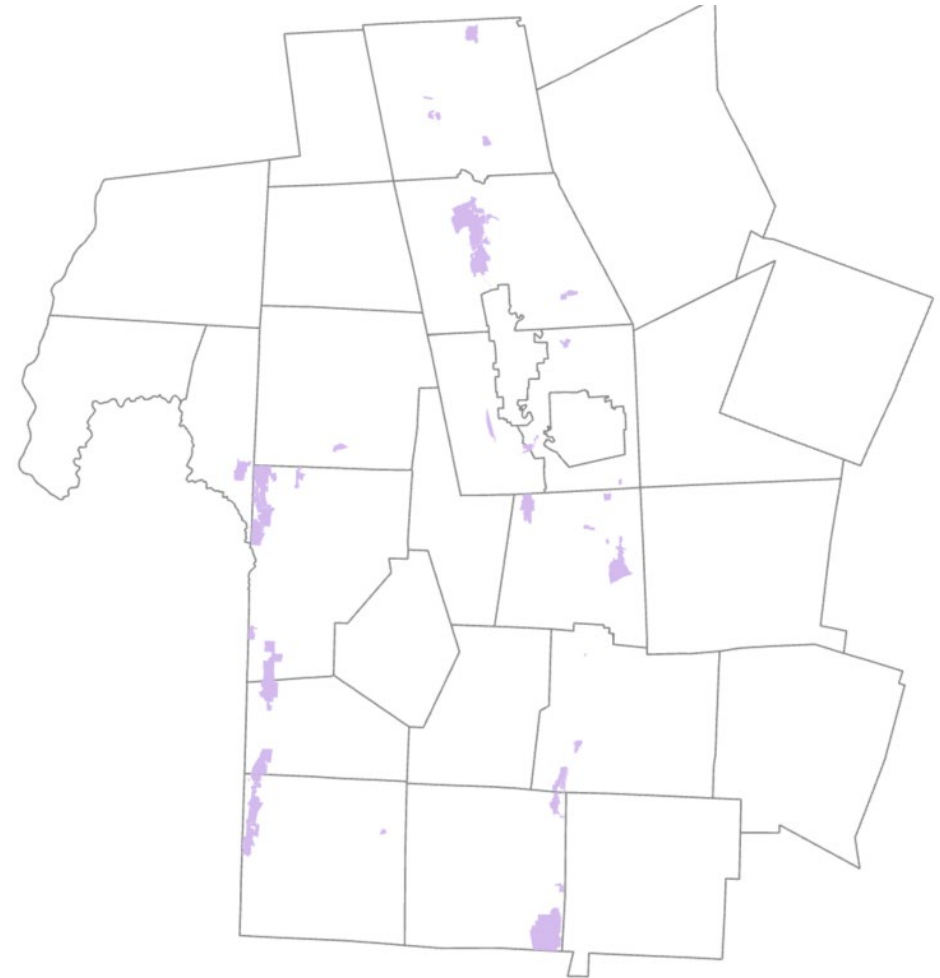


ENTERPRISE AREAS

Includes industrial parks, areas of natural resource extraction, and commercial uses that involve a large land area

Not adjacent to Planned Growth Areas

Must have ready access to the necessary infrastructure for enterprise use



ENTERPRISE AREAS

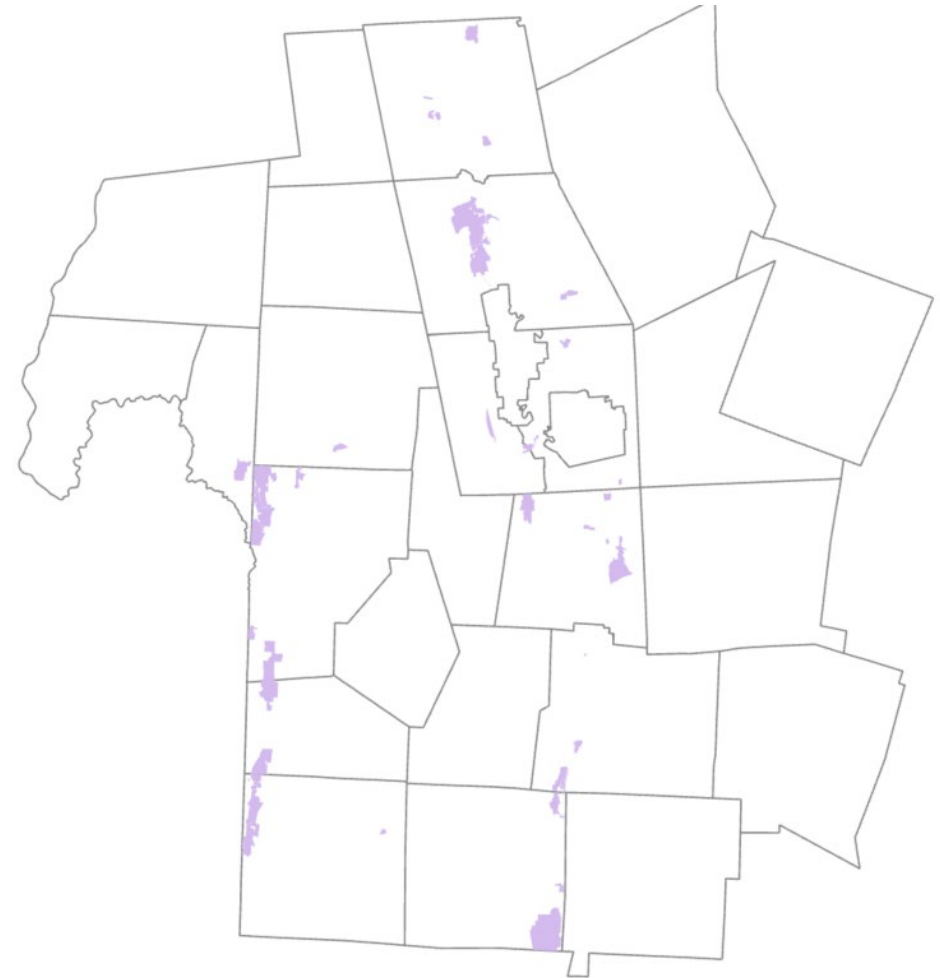
EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

Omya Plant

Rutland Southern Vermont Regional
Airport + Associated Industrial Park

Quarry Lands in the Slate Valley

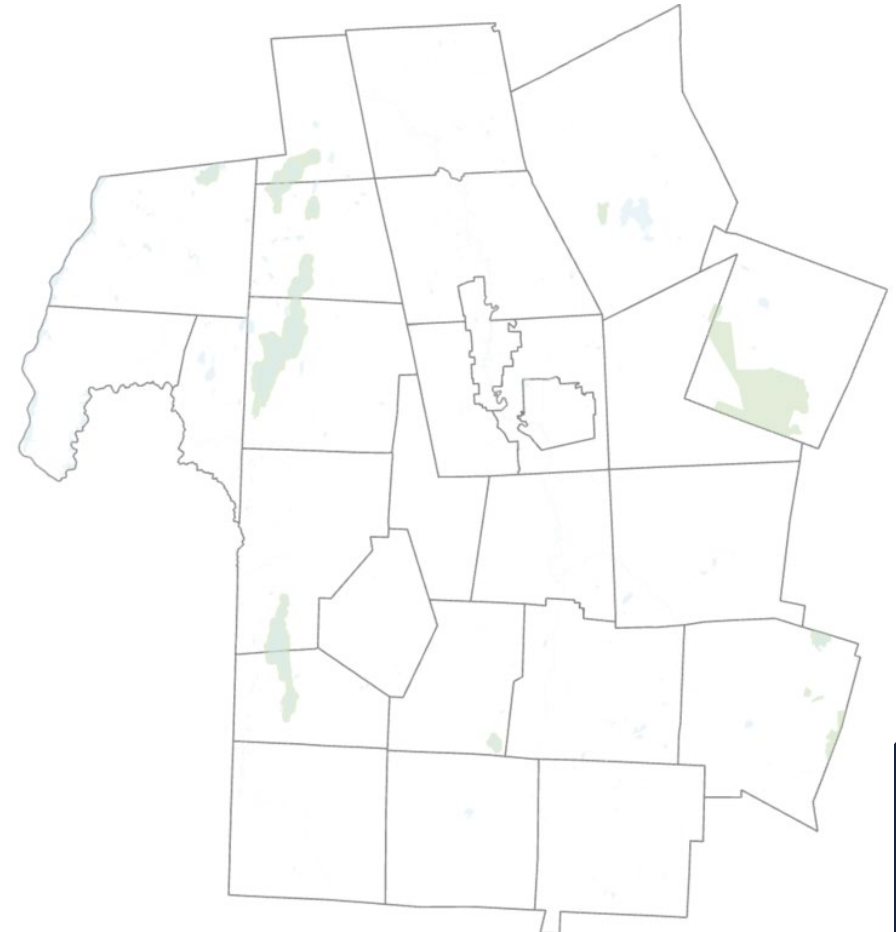
Vermont Danby Marble Quarry



RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION AREAS

Large-scale resource-based recreation facilities (not all recreation areas)

Has a higher density of buildings and infrastructure related to the resource-based recreation asset



RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION AREAS

Killington Resort Ski Area

Pico Mountain Ski Area

Okemo Mountain Resort Ski Area

Mountain Top Inn Recreation Area

Lake Bomoseen (entire lake)

Lake St. Catherine (entire lake)

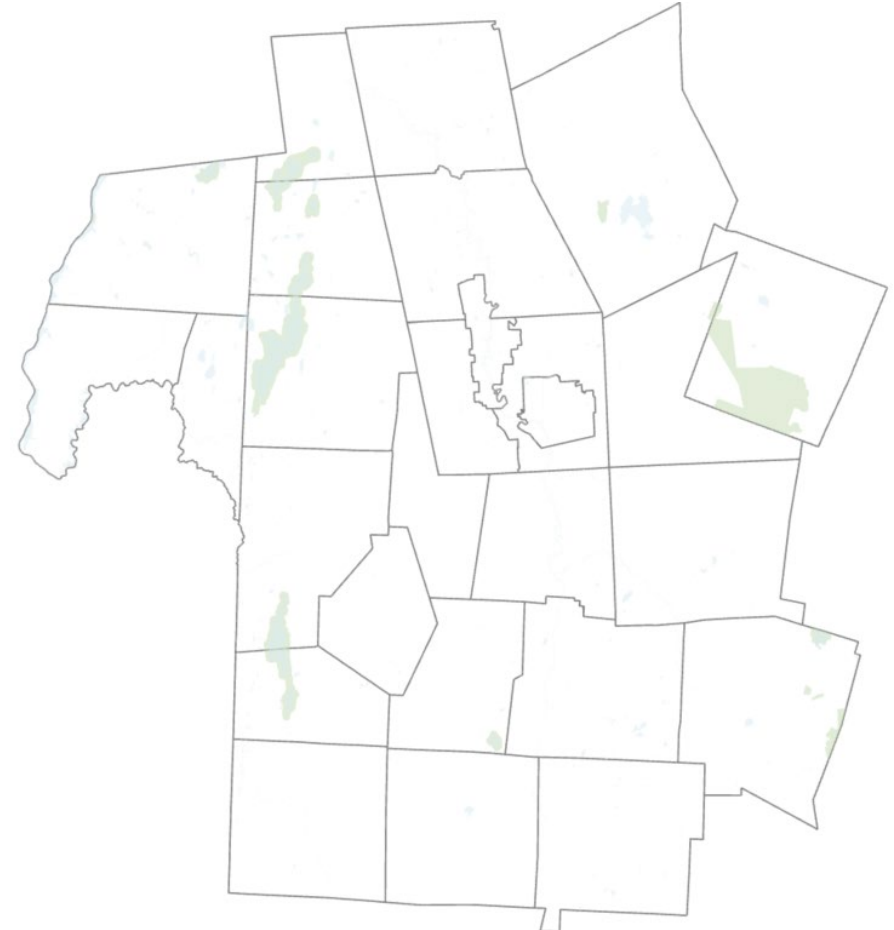
Lake Hortonia (entire lake)

Beebe Pond (entire lake)

Chipman Lake/Tinmouth Pond (entire lake)

Sunset Lake/Perch Pond (developed area only)

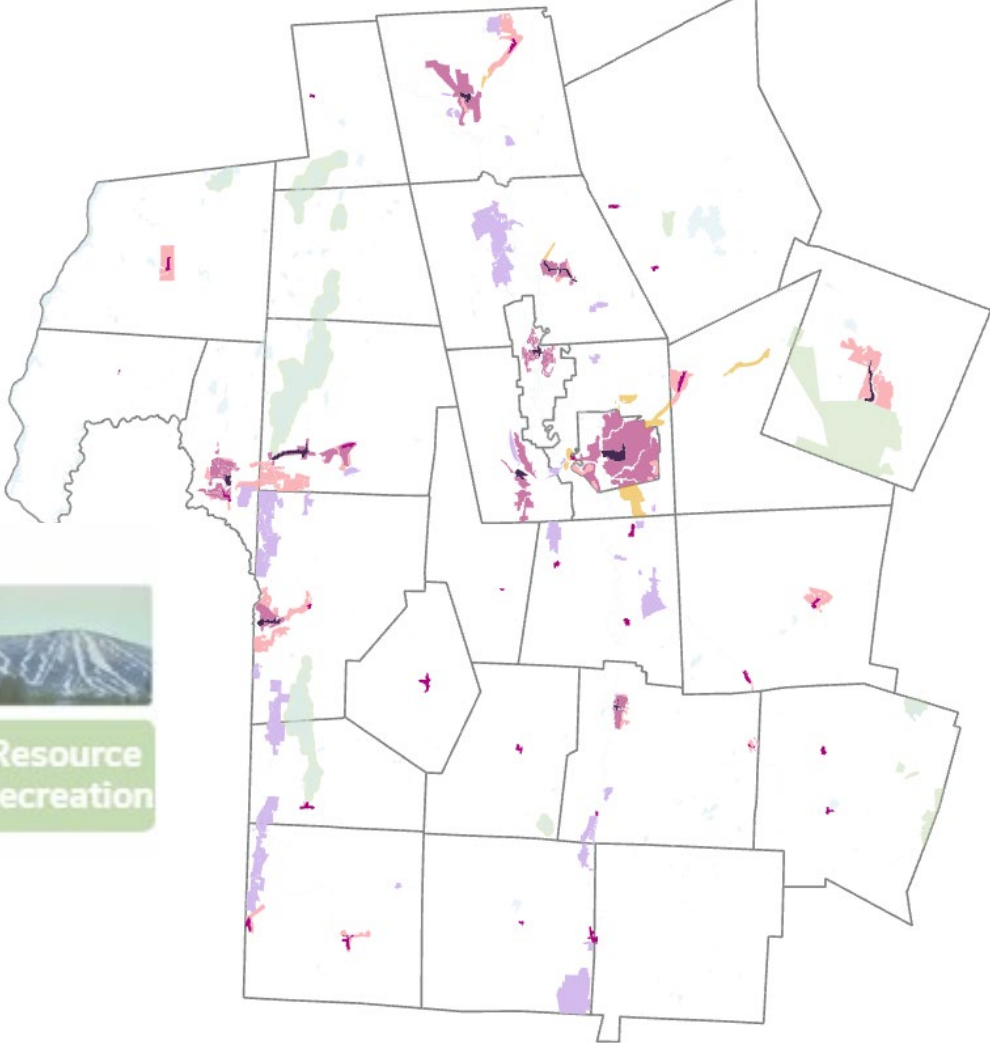
Ninevah Lake (developed area only)



GROWTH AREAS

Designated for Higher-Density Growth

6% of Land Area and 47.3% of Buildings



Downtown Center



Village Center



Planned Growth Area



Village Area



Transition Area



Enterprise Area

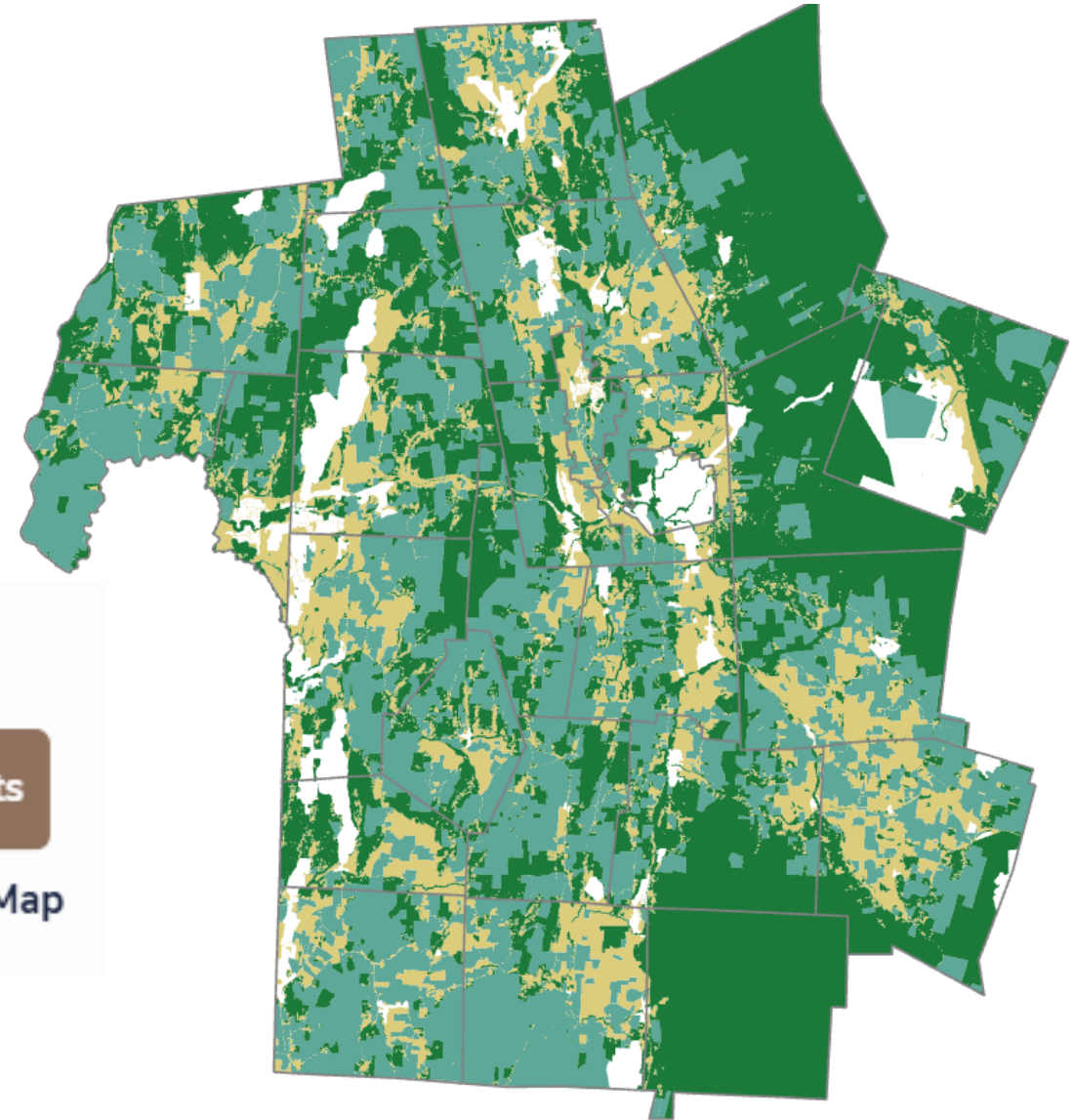


Resource Recreation

RURAL AREAS

Designated for Lower-Density
Growth & Conservation

94% of Land Area and 42.7% of Buildings



Rural Mapping Order

Rural
Ag/Forest

Mapped 1st

Rural
Conservation

Mapped 2nd

Rural
General

Mapped 3rd

Hamlets

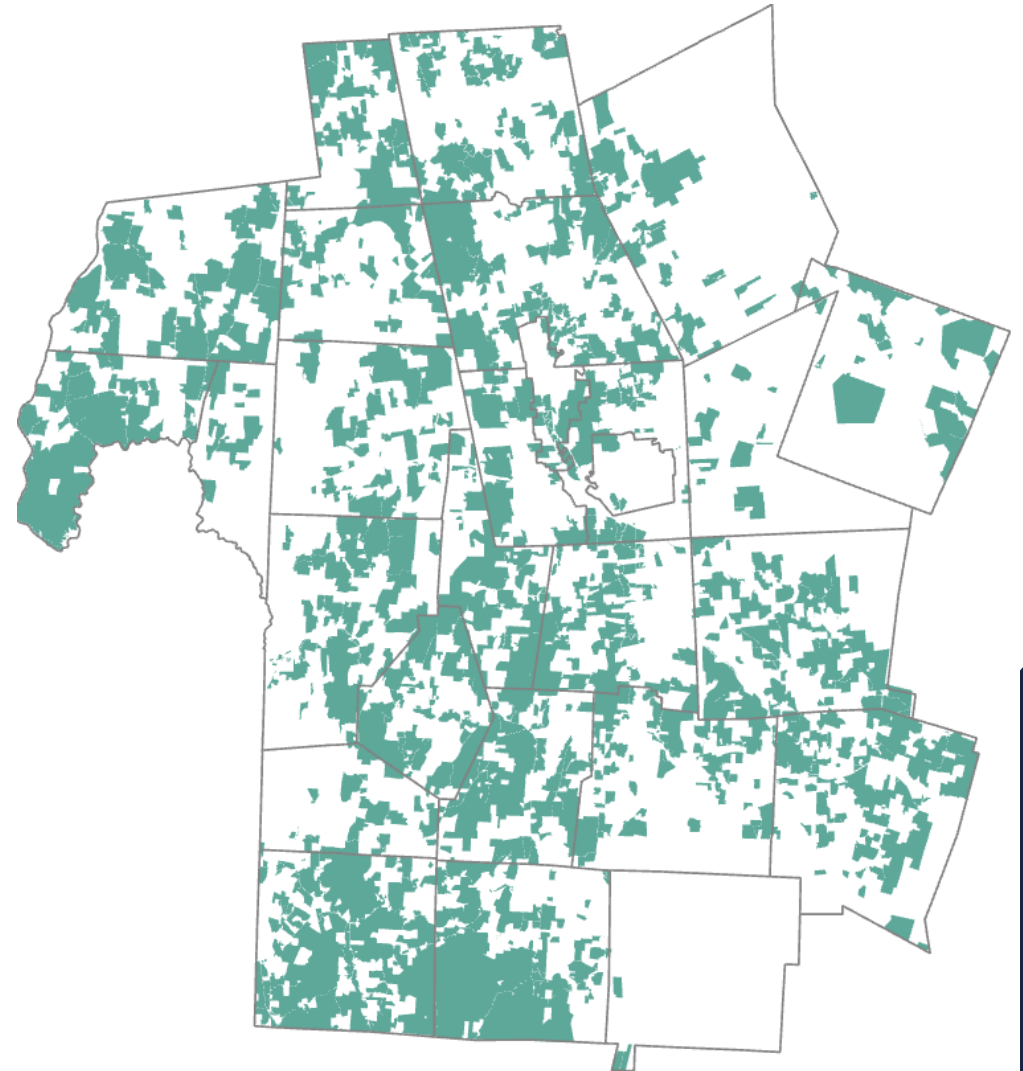
Dots on Map

We will now walk through the remaining areas.

RURAL AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Enrolled in the Current Use Tax Program in 2023.

This tax program requires active use for agriculture, forestry, or conservation.



RURAL CONSERVATION

Parcels in the Vermont Protected Lands Database. This database contains lands designated for conservation purposes (state lands, conservation easements etc.)

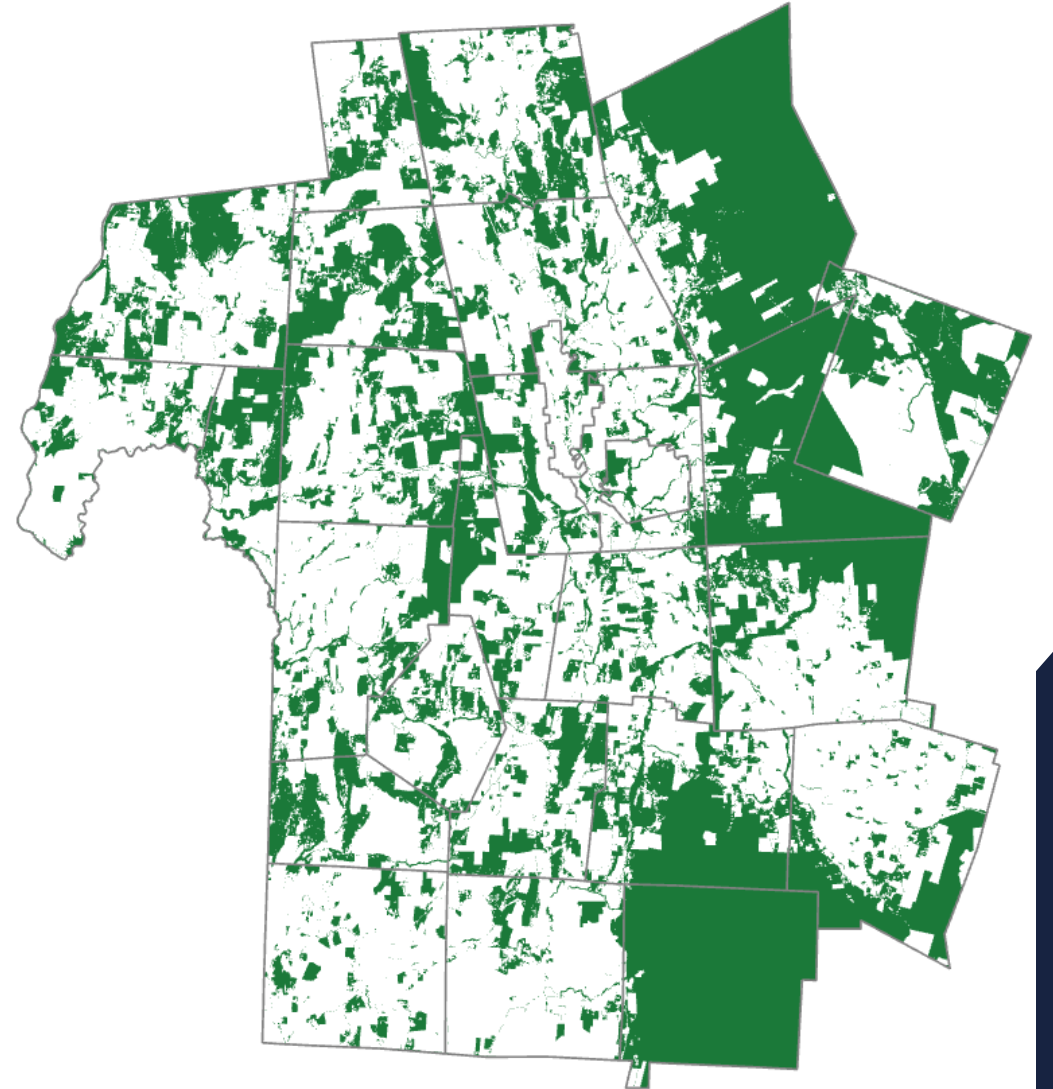
Elevations of 2500' feet or higher

“Highest Priority Interior Forests” and “Highest Priority Wildlife Corridors” as mapped by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Class 1 and Class 2 wetlands that are 5+ acres as mapped by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

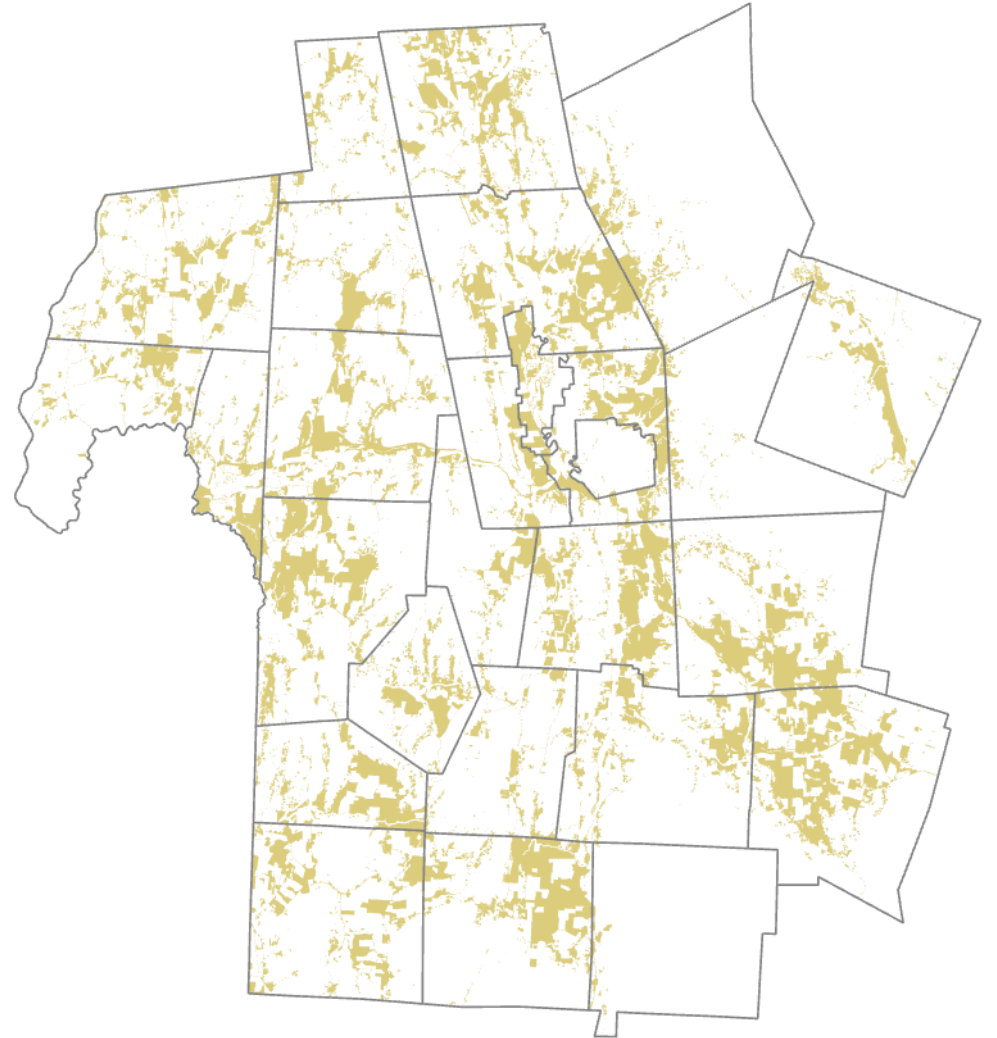
Groundwater source protection areas as determined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Special Flood Hazard Area (federally mapped) and River Corridors (state mapped) unless the municipality regulates both these mapped areas.



RURAL GENERAL

Remaining land...



Hamlets

Acknowledging historic clusters not mapped as Village Centers



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

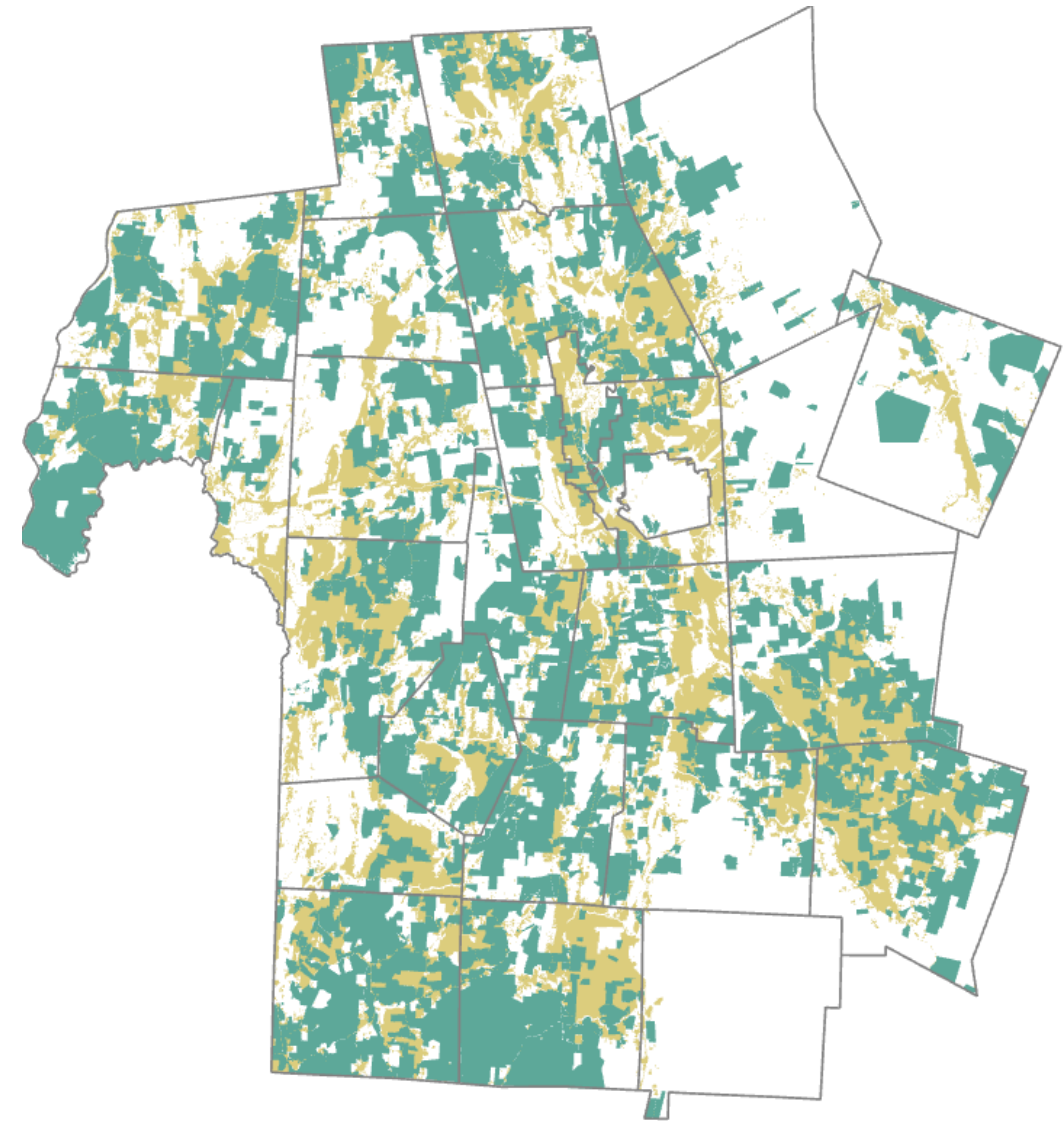
What does *state law* say?

Rural
General

“..allow for low-density residential and some limited commercial development that is compatible with productive lands and natural areas.” – 24 V.S.A 4348a(12)(H)

Rural
Ag/Forest

“Development in these areas should be carefully managed to promote the working landscape and rural economy, and address regional goals, while protecting the agricultural and forest resource value.” – 24 V.S.A 4348a(12)(I)



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

What does the *draft plan* say?

Rural
General

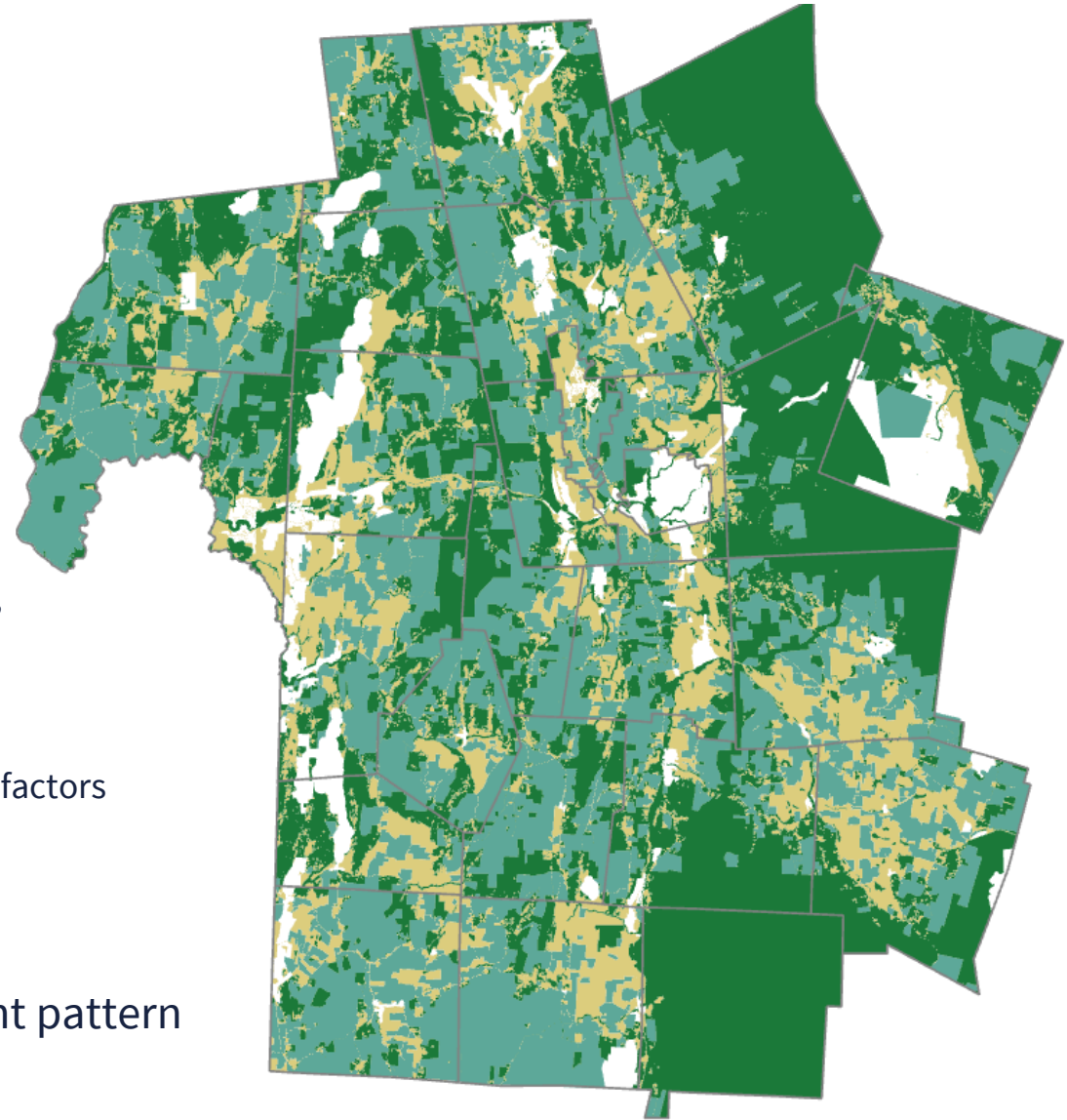
- Strongest support for rural, low-density development
- 79% of this area has soils suitable for septic (Class I-III), including 16.1% in Class I (“Well Suited”)

Rural
Ag/Forest

Rural
Conservation

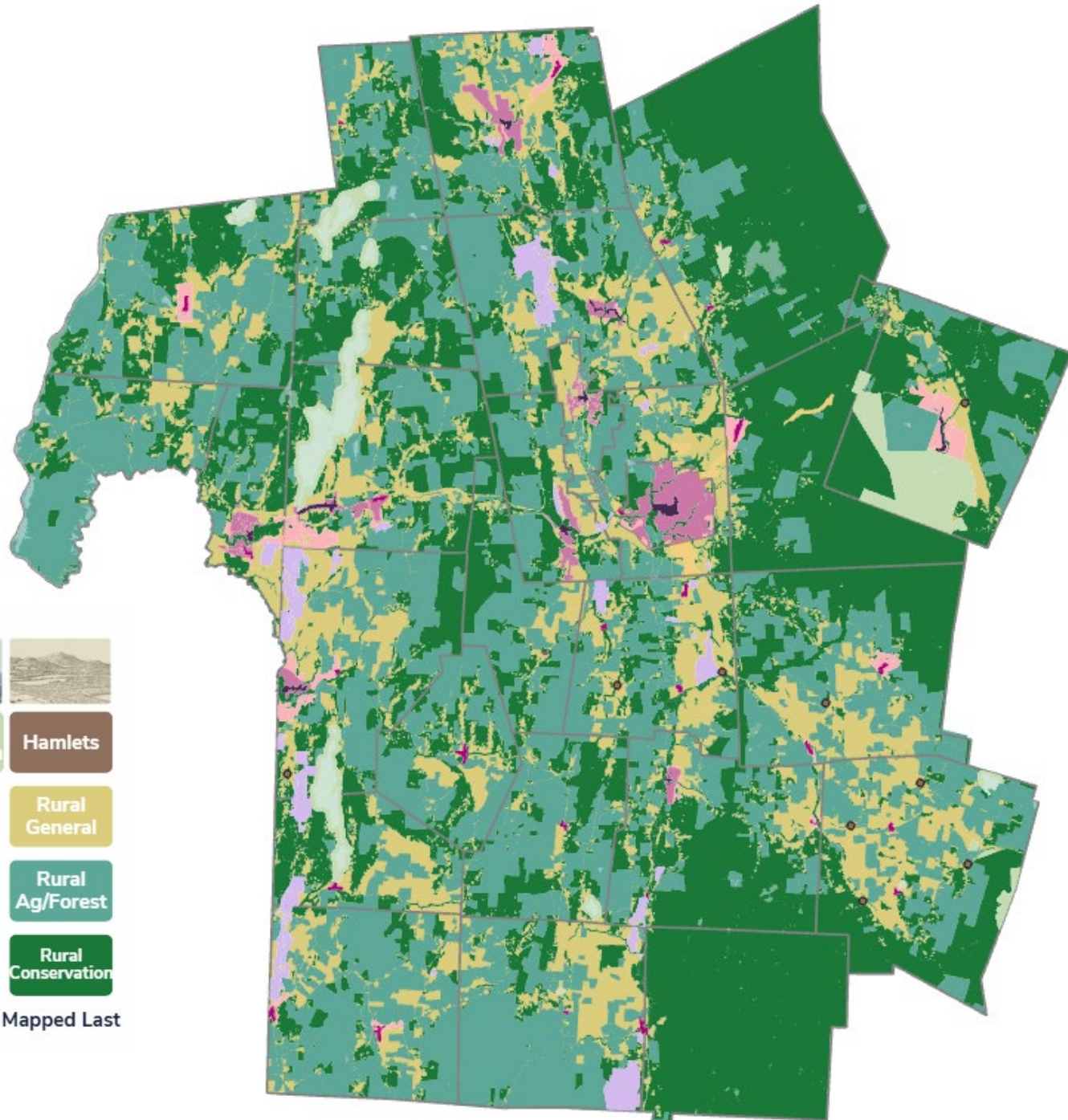
- More likely that regulatory, financial, and technical factors make development challenging, if not infeasible.
- Context-sensitive development allowed

All Rural Areas: Maintain rural character & traditional development pattern

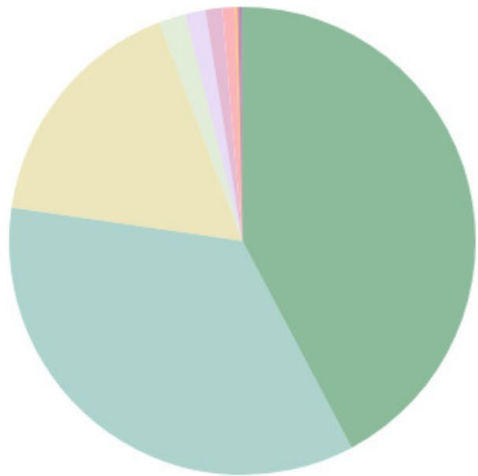


ACT 181 LAND USE CATEGORIES

New Land Use Categories

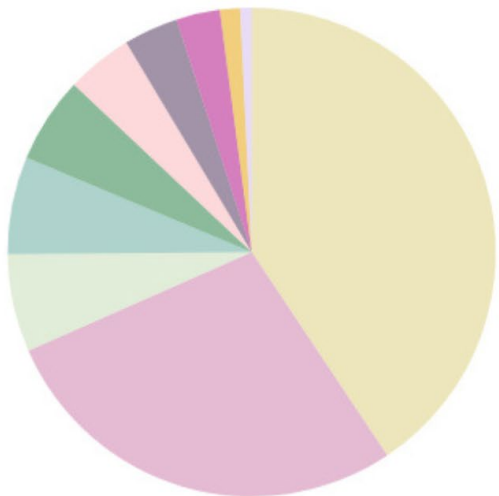


% Land Area

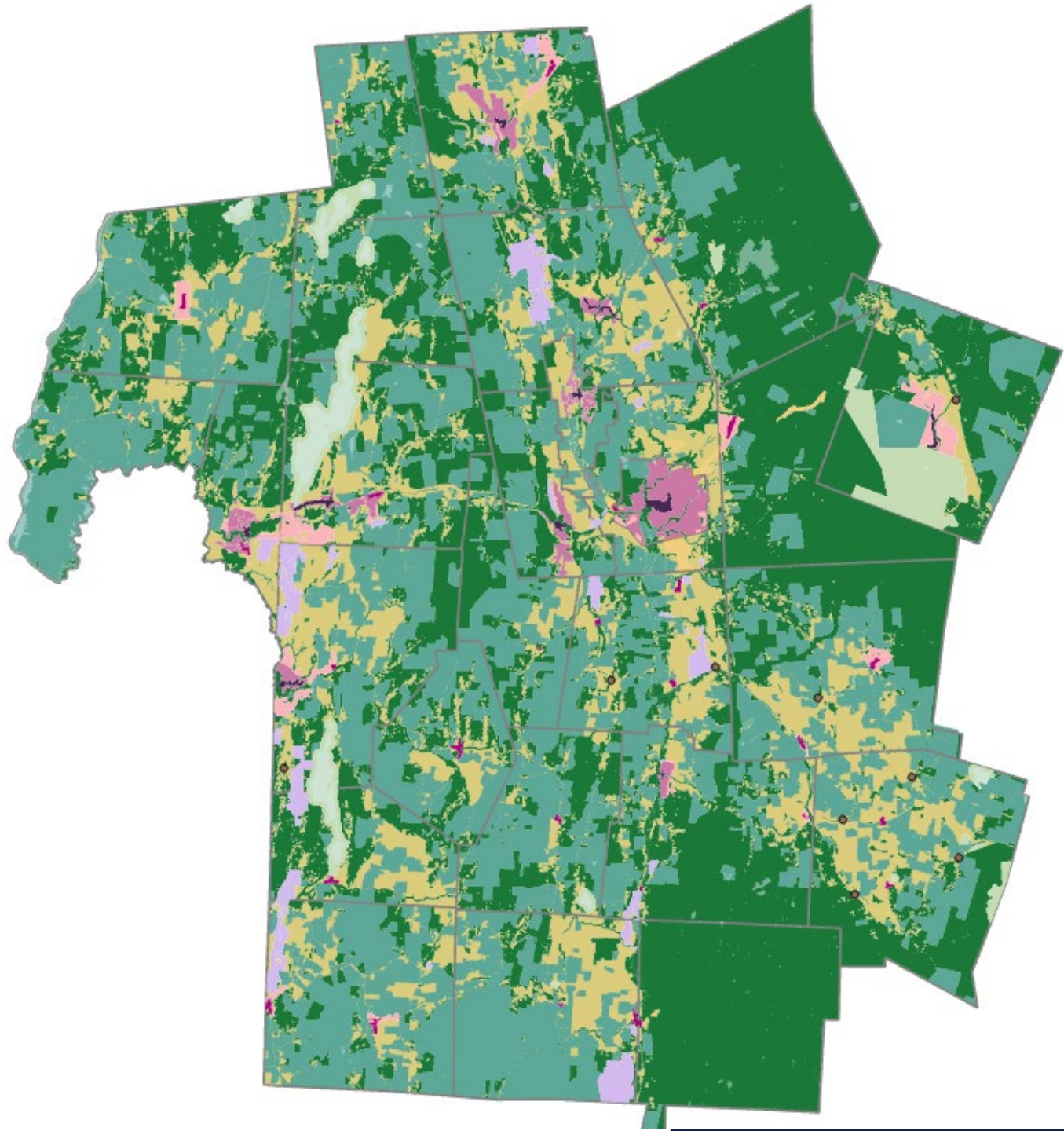


- Rural (Conservation) 42.2%
- Rural (Agriculture & Forestry) 35.0%
- Rural (General) 16.9%
- Resource Based Recreation 1.9%
- Enterprise 1.4%
- Planned Growth Area 1.2%
- Village Area 0.9%
- Transition Infill 0.2%
- Village Center 0.2%
- Downtown 0.2%

% Buildings



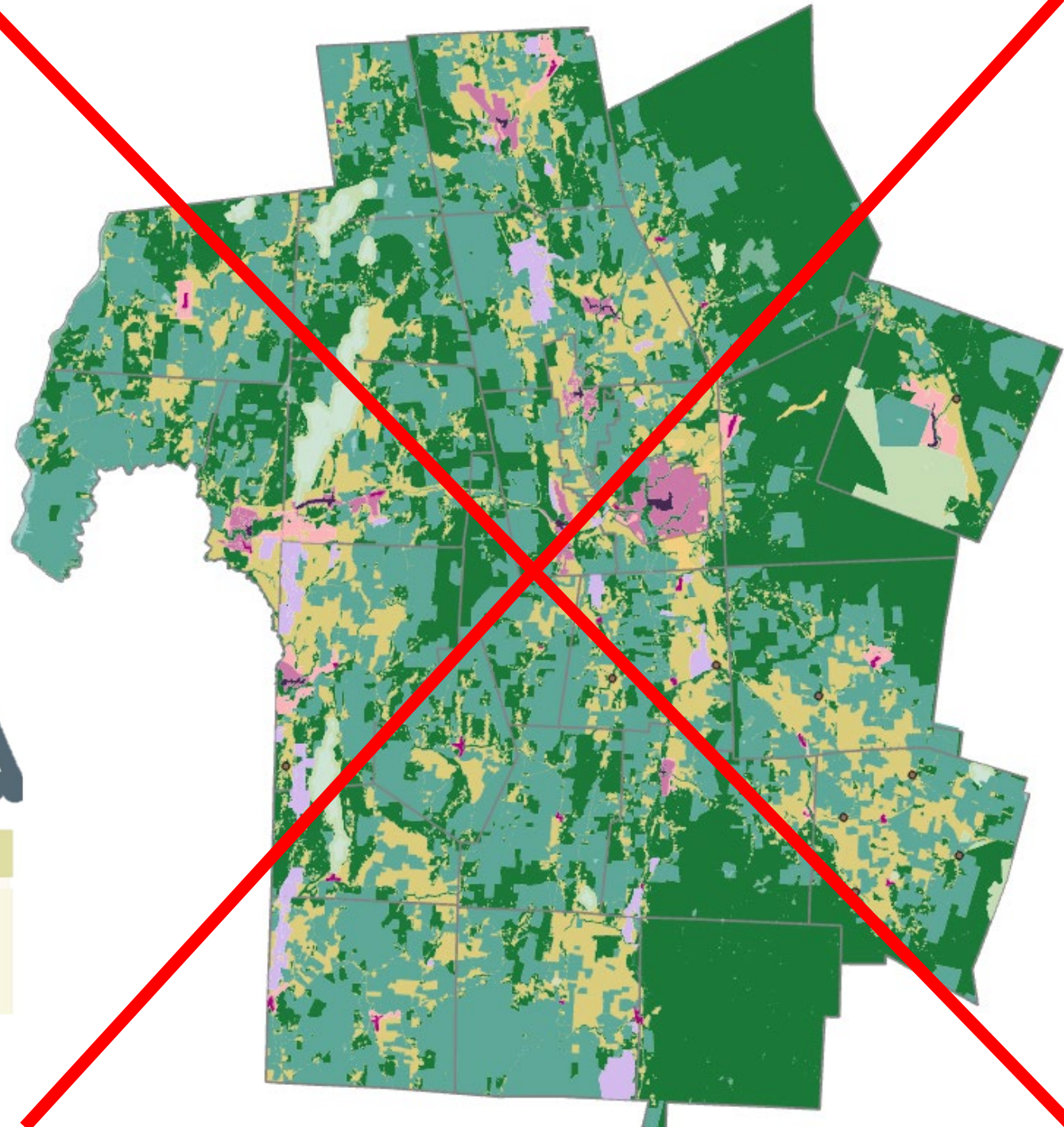
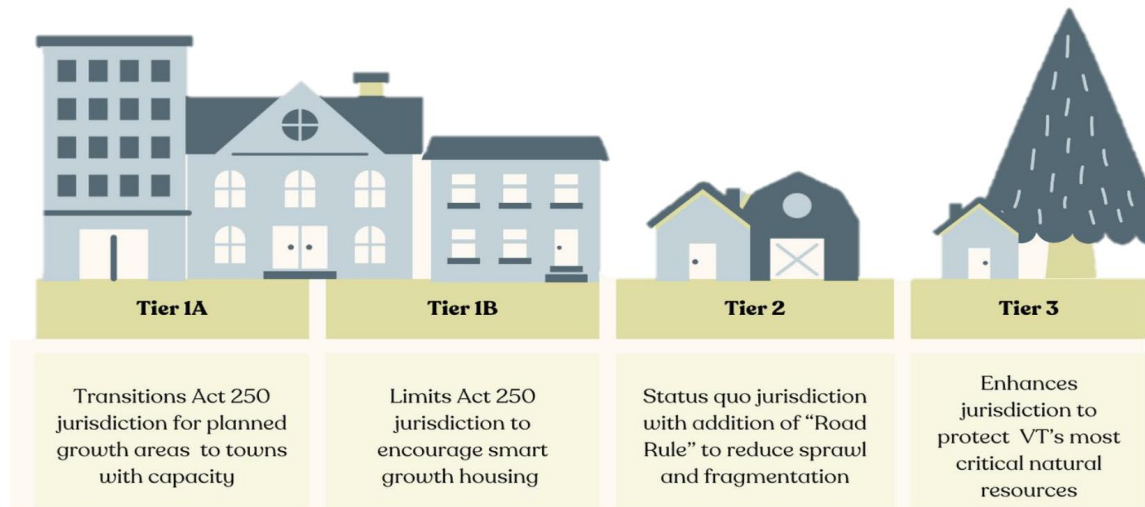
- Rural (General) 40.6%
- Planned Growth Area 27.7%
- Resource Based Recreation 6.5%
- Rural (Agriculture & Forestry) 6.4%
- Rural (Conservation) 5.7%
- Village Area 4.4%
- Downtown 3.6%
- Village Center 2.9%
- Transition Infill 1.3%
- Enterprise 0.8%



THIS MAP DOES NOT...

- Establish Tier 2 or Tier 3 areas for Act 250 location-based jurisdiction.

Tiers of Jurisdiction



THIS MAP DOES NOT...

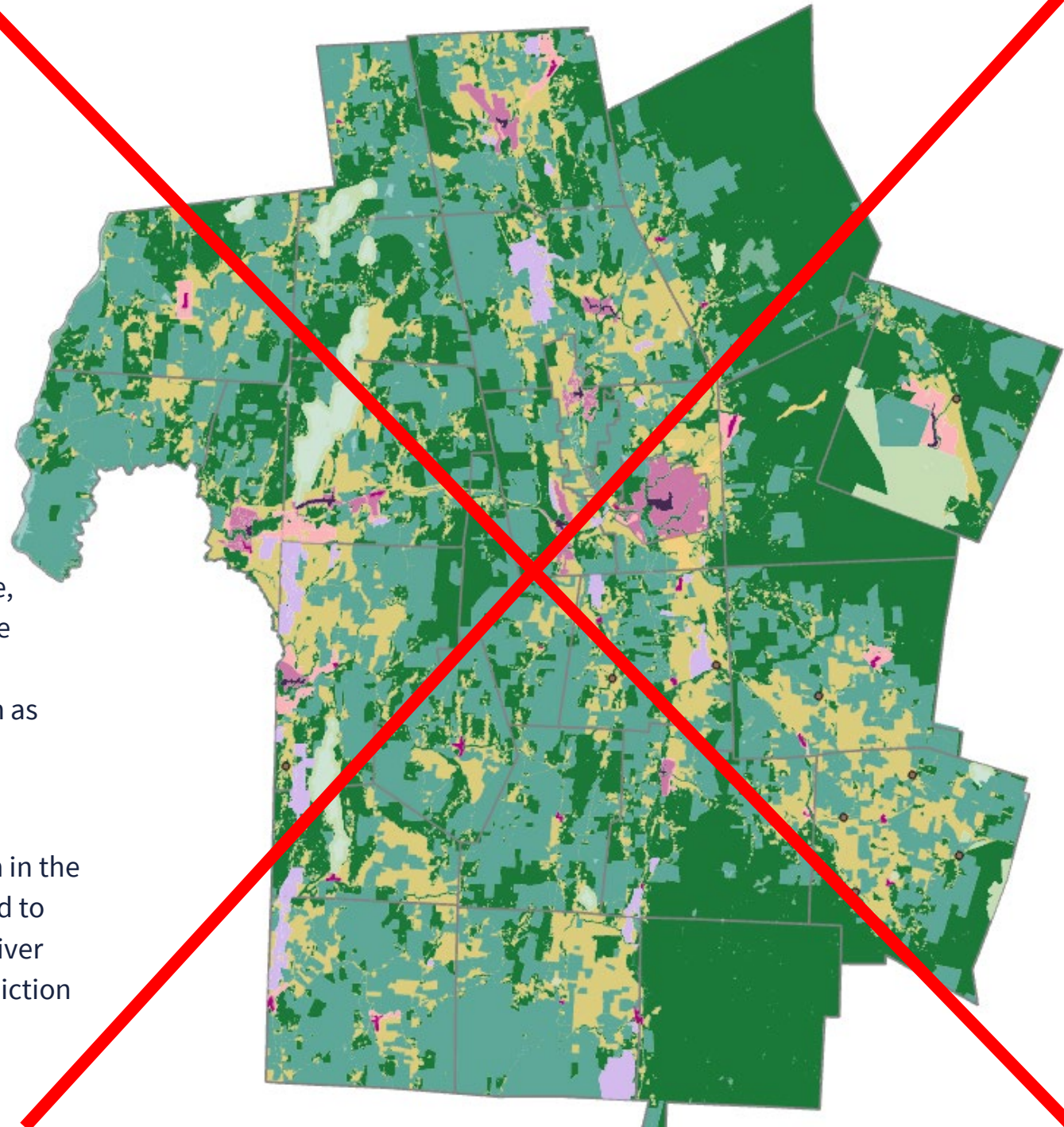
- **Establish Tier 2 or Tier 3 areas for Act 250 location-based jurisdiction.**

Tier 2 Areas

Existing Act 250 jurisdictional thresholds will remain based on acreage, units, or lots created. Additionally, Act 250 jurisdiction will apply to the construction of a single road if it exceeds 800 feet in length or if all roads/driveways constructed exceed 2,000 feet. This provision, known as the “Road Rule”, will apply starting July 1, 2026.

Tier 3 Areas

Tier 3 Areas contain critical natural resources that merit consideration in the Act 250 permitting process. The Tier 3 rulemaking process is scheduled to begin in April-May 2025. The Land Use Review Board is required to deliver proposed final rules for Tier 3 areas by February 1, 2026. Act 250 jurisdiction in Tier 3 areas will begin on December 31, 2026.



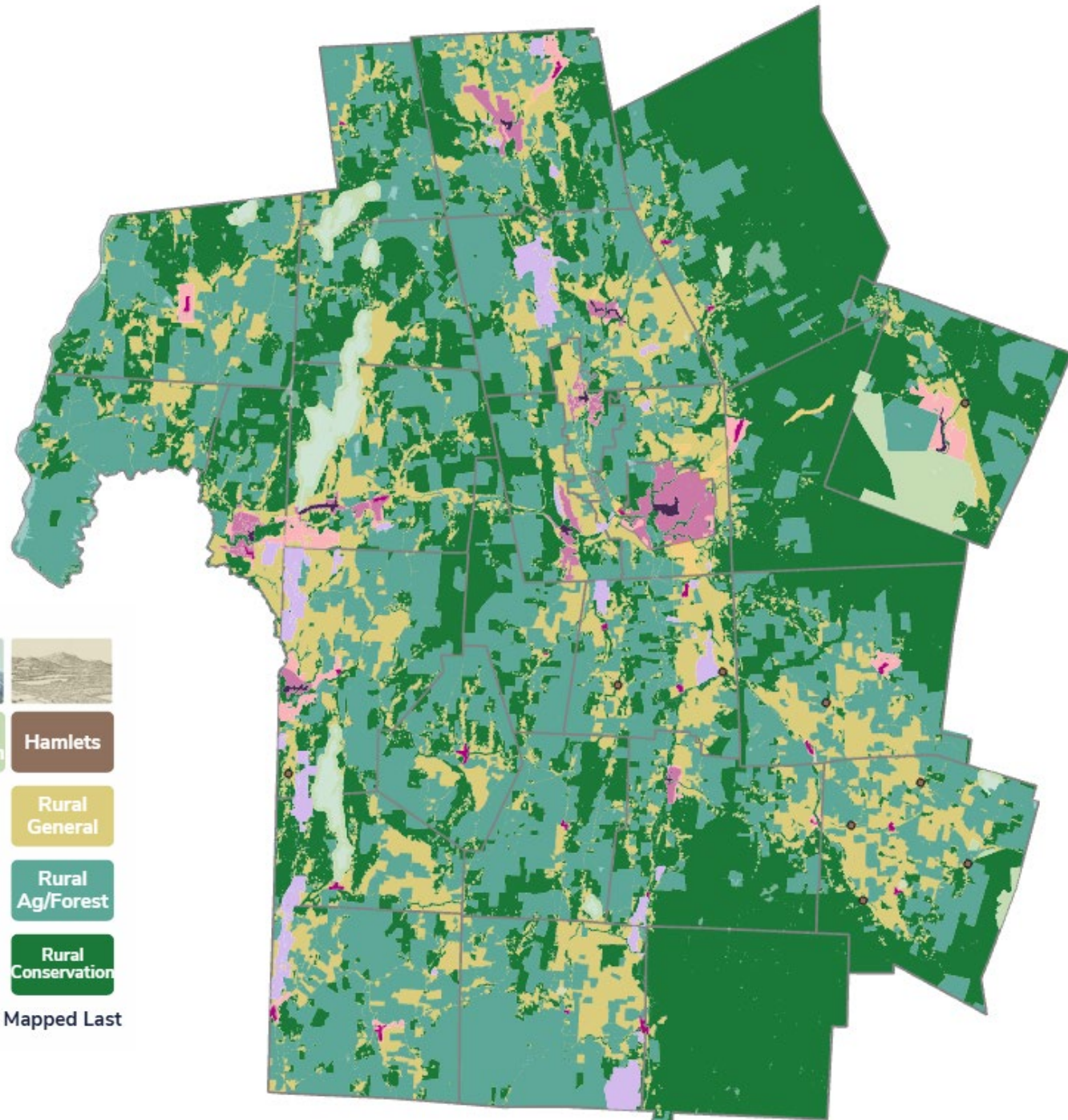
NEXT STEPS:

In April-May 2025, the RRPC will meet will work each of our 27 member municipalities on updating the Regional Future Land Use Map within the town's boundaries. This process will involve collaborating on refining the draft maps in alignment with the requirements discussed.

The RRPC will work with the local Selectboard to schedule a special meeting which will also invite the municipality's Board of Commissioner(s) and Planning Commission.

QUESTIONS?

New Land Use Categories





RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: April 28, 2025

To: Carrie LaFontain, Selectboard Assistant

From: Rutland Regional Planning Commission

Subject: Regional Plan Update Phase 3 Engagement Special Meeting

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is finalizing the first draft of the 2026 Regional Plan (the Plan). It is now time to launch our third and last community engagement phase. In Phase 3, the RRPC seeks alignment on the draft Plan's vision, goals, priorities, and actions, including the new regional future land use map!

As the RRPC strives to help make the Rutland Region a great place, we are meeting with all our member municipalities to discuss the Plan and its importance. We will provide an overview of the Plan elements and how Act 181 overhauled Vermont's land use planning framework. Then, we will dive into the new Act 181 land use categories, state designations, and location-based Act 250 jurisdiction tiers. We will walk you through the draft regional future land use map and highlight key changes from the 2018 map.

This meeting is an opportunity to:

- Review and provide feedback on the draft regional future land use map, especially as it applies to your municipality.
- Decide if the municipality should opt in to Act 250 Tier 1B jurisdiction.

Finally, the RRPC will share ways for the public to review and provide feedback on the first draft of the 2026 Regional Plan.

This is a lot of material to cover in one meeting. To help prepare for meaningful discussions, the RRPC has included background information on Act 181, the new land use categories, state designations, and location-based Act 250 tiers. We encourage you to review these materials before our meeting.

Meeting Details:

Date: Monday, May 12, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Benson Town Office, 2760 Old Stage Road



Act 181 for Municipalities

Act 181, passed into law in June 2024, overhauls Vermont's land use planning framework. It aims to uphold the state's long-standing goal of planning development that maintains Vermont's historic settlement pattern, characterized by compact downtowns and village centers surrounded by rural countryside. However, it modernizes how Vermont directs public investments to designated areas and accelerates the transition of Act 250 to location-based jurisdiction.

NEW LAND USE CATEGORIES

Act 181 defines 11 new land use categories to guide development by designating areas for growth and conservation based on environmental, infrastructure, and community factors. Four land use categories - Downtowns, Village Centers, Planned Growth Areas, and Village Areas - coordinate with the State Designation Program and location-based Act 250 jurisdiction areas. See pages 1-3 for more information on the new land use categories.

REGIONAL FUTURE LAND USE MAP

All regional planning commissions must use the new land use categories to create a Regional Future Land Use (FLU) Map. The Map was developed using a standardized statewide methodology and will be used to determine areas eligible for the State Designation Program and location-based Act 250 jurisdiction.

NEW STATE DESIGNATION PROGRAM

All areas currently enrolled maintain benefits. The Regional FLU Map shows areas eligible for:

Center Designation

Downtown & Village Center

Neighborhood Designation

Planned Growth Area & Village Area

The Designation Program is designed to encourage new development and redevelopment in these compact, designated areas. Benefits and incentives are for public and private sectors within the designated area.

See pages 4-5 for more information on the program's benefits and incentives.

LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

Location-based Act 250 jurisdiction means reducing or eliminating Act 250 permitting in areas planned for growth and increasing Act 250 permitting in critical natural resource areas that lack suitable State-level review and protection.

Tier 1A & 1B Areas: Areas with capacity for growth where limited or no Act 250 jurisdiction will apply. Shown on Regional FLU Map.

Tier 2 Areas: All areas that are not Tier 1 or Tier 3 and existing Act 250 jurisdiction applies.

Tier 3 Areas: Areas with critical natural resources where expanded Act 250 jurisdiction will apply.

See pages 6-8 for more information on the location-based Act 250 jurisdiction tiers.

Questions? Contact Logan Solomon at: logan@rutlandrpc.org

Shape Our Future Together!



ACT 181 – NEW LAND USE CATEGORIES

Act 181 defines 11 new land use categories to guide development by designating future land use areas (FLUA) for growth and conservation based on environmental, infrastructure, and community factors. A summary of the new land use categories is provided below. The statutory definition of each land use category can be found in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(12). Four land use categories – Downtowns, Village Centers, Planned Growth Areas, and Village Areas – coordinate with the state designation program and location-based Act 250 jurisdiction areas.

Several key terms are used in the land use category definitions. To ensure a common understanding of these terms, they are defined as follows:

- **Served by public water and sanitary sewer** means any public drinking water or sanitary sewer system, including Fire District or other small community systems.
- **Adequate soils for septic systems** are soils with a Class I-III septic suitability rating as determined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.
- **Infill development** is defined in Section 29-201 of the Vermont Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule. It refers to the development of vacant areas surrounded by existing development or infrastructure in a downtown or village context.
- **Areas of high flood risk** are both FEMA-mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas and state-mapped River Corridors.

(1) **Downtown FLUA**

- Designated for higher-density growth.
- A traditional and historic mixed-use center bringing together community economic activity and civic assets.
- Areas adjacent to mixed-use, business, and civic areas may also be included.
- Areas currently enrolled in the state designation program as Downtown are included.
- Downtowns are served by public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems.
- The municipality has adopted both zoning and subdivision regulations.

(2) **Village Center FLUA**

- Designated for higher-density growth.
- A traditional and historic mixed-use center bringing together community economic activity and civic assets.
- Areas adjacent to mixed-use, business, and civic areas may also be included. If the municipality has no other village-related FLUA, RRPC expands the boundary to abutting state historic districts and/or vacant lots with adequate soils for septic systems.
- Areas currently enrolled in the state designation program as Village Centers are included unless the area is mapped as a Downtown.
- Public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems or zoning and subdivision regulations are not required.



ACT 181 – NEW LAND USE CATEGORIES

(3) **Planned Growth Areas FLUA** *(Surrounding Downtown or Village Center)*

- Designated for higher-density growth.
- The area is served by public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems.
- The municipality has adopted both zoning and subdivision regulations.
- At least 70% of buildings are within a 0.25-mile radius of sidewalks.
- No mapped areas of high flood risk unless infill development.
- Municipal Plan or zoning indicates that the area is intended for higher-density development. Zoning that allows for a density of 5 dwelling units per acre is interpreted to mean the zoning is intended for higher-density development.

(4) **Village Areas FLUA** *(Surrounding Downtown or Village Center)*

- Designated for higher-density growth.
- The municipality has either public drinking water or sanitary sewer systems. However, the Village Area may not have either, provided it contains adequate soils for septic systems.
- The municipality has adopted both zoning and subdivision regulations.
- Unless the municipality has adopted flood hazard and river corridor bylaws, the Village Area excludes identified areas of high flood risk unless these areas contain preexisting development in areas suitable for infill development.
- There may be opportunities for new development if it is done in a flood-resilient manner.

(5) **Transition or Infill Areas FLUA**

- Designated for higher-density growth.
- Areas served by public drinking water and/or sanitary sewer systems that will be transformed into higher-density areas and are not Downtown, Village Center, Planned Growth Area, or Village Area.
- New commercial linear strip development is not allowed. Instead, new development should be in the form of a network of streets, to the extent that geography allows.

(6) **Enterprise Areas FLUA**

- Designated for higher-density growth.
- Areas of high economic activity and employment, including industrial parks, areas of natural resource extraction, or commercial uses that involve a large land area.
- Not adjacent to Planned Growth Areas.
- Must have ready access to necessary infrastructure for enterprise-related use.

(7) **Resource-Based Recreation Areas FLUA**

- Designated for higher-density growth.
- Large-scale resource recreation facilities (not a map of all recreation areas).
- Contains a higher density of housing, other buildings, and infrastructure related to the resource-based recreation area.



ACT 181 – NEW LAND USE CATEGORIES

(8) Hamlets FLUA

- Designated for lower-density growth and conservation.
- Small historic clusters of homes, often accompanied by a public building.
- Not mapped as Downtown, Village Center, Planned Growth Area, Village Area, or Transition/Infill Area.
- Unlike other FLUA, Hamlets are dots on a map acknowledging historic clusters.

(9) Rural (General) FLUA

- Designated for lower-density growth and limited commercial development compatible with the working landscape and natural areas.
- All remaining land area that is not otherwise mapped.

(10) Rural (Agriculture and Forestry) FLUA

- Designated for lower-density growth and managed to promote the working landscape and rural economy.
- Includes parcels enrolled in the Current Use tax program.

(11) Rural (Conservation) FLUA

- Designated for conservation.
- Areas of significant natural resources that require special consideration for protection and other conservation purposes such as elevations of 2500' or higher, highest priority interior forests and highest priority connectivity blocks, Class 1 and 2 wetlands that are 5 acres or larger, groundwater source protection areas, FEMA-mapped floodplains and DEC-mapped river corridors (if municipality does not have both flood hazard and river corridor regulations).
- Not mapped as Downtown, Village Center, Planned Growth Area, Village Area, Transition/Infill Area, Enterprise Area, Resource-Based Recreation Area, or Rural Agriculture and Forestry.
- Includes parcels in the Vermont Protected Lands Database, which contains all protected lands for conservation purposes.



ACT 181 – NEW STATE DESIGNATION PROGRAM

The Department of Housing and Community Development manages the state designation programs, which currently include Downtowns, Village Centers, New Town Centers, Growth Centers, and Neighborhood Development Areas. These programs offer incentives, align policies, and provide communities with the technical assistance necessary to encourage new development and redevelopment in compact, designated areas. The program’s incentives are available to both the public and private sectors within the designated area and include tax credits for historic building rehabilitation and code improvements, permitting benefits for new housing, funding for transportation-related public improvements, and priority consideration for other state grant programs.

Act 181 provided the framework to consolidate and simplify the designation programs. Beginning in January 2026, all designated Downtowns, Village Centers, and New Town Centers will be reclassified as designated **Centers**, and all designated Growth Centers and Neighborhood Development Areas will be reclassified as **Neighborhoods**.

Center Designation

Downtown and Village Center Areas on the Regional Future Land Use (FLU) Map are eligible for Center Designation. Center benefits are divided into three steps.

Step One is an entry-level designation created to provide an accessible designation, as all Downtown and Village Centers automatically reach Step One upon approval of the Regional FLU Map.

Step Two is a mid-level designation created for villages to increase their planning and implementation capacity for community-scale projects. Municipalities must apply to the State Land Use Review Board for Step Two designation.

Step Three is an advanced designation created for downtowns to create mixed-use centers and join the Vermont Downtown Program. Municipalities must apply to the State Land Use Review Board for Step Three designation.

Center Designation and Step requirements and benefits are outlined in 24 V.S.A. § 5803.

Neighborhood Designation

Planned Growth and Village Areas on the Regional FLU Map are eligible for the Neighborhood Designation. This designation recognizes that adjacent and walkable neighborhoods support the vitality of downtowns and villages.

Neighborhood Designation requirements and benefits are outlined in 24 V.S.A. § 5804.

A summary of the Center and Neighborhood Designation benefits is presented in the table below.



ACT 181 – NEW STATE DESIGNATION PROGRAM

Benefit Summary	Center Designation Steps			Neighborhood Designation
	One	Two	Three	
Eligibility for Better Places Grant Program	x	x	x	
Eligibility for Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits	x	x	x	
Funding Priority for Municipal Plan Updates	x	x	x	
Priority Consideration for Better Connections Program		x	x	x
Funding Priority for Bylaws and Special Purpose Plans, Capital Plans, and Reinvestment Plans		x	x	x
Funding Priority for State Infrastructure Scoping, Design, Engineering, and Construction		x	x	x
Local Authority to Create Special Taxing District for Capital/Operating Costs in the Area		x	x	x
Priority for State and Federal Affordable Housing Funding		x	x	x
Local Authority to Establish Speed Limits Less Than 25 mph in the Area		x	x	x
State Wastewater Permit Fees Capped at \$50 for Residential Development		x	x	x
Exemption from Land Gains Tax		x	x	x
State Assistance and Guidance on Establishing Local Historic Preservation Regulations		x	x	
Funding for the Local Downtown Organization and State Technical Assistance for the Area			x	
Local Reallocation of Receipts Related to State Tax on Construction Materials			x	
Eligibility to Receive National Main Street Accreditation			x	
Eligibility to Erect Local Information Signage to Guide Visitors to Landmarks			x	
Housing Appeal Limitations within the Area			x	x
Highest Priority for Locating State Buildings or Regional Planning Commission Buildings			x	
Participation in the Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvement Fund			x	



ACT 181 – LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

Act 181 establishes three tiers for location-based Act 250 jurisdiction. Location-based Act 250 jurisdiction means reducing or eliminating Act 250 permitting in areas planned for growth (Tier 1 areas) and increasing Act 250 permitting in critical natural resource areas that lack suitable State-level review and protection (Tier 3 areas).

Tier 1A and Tier 1B Areas

Areas with capacity for growth where limited or no Act 250 jurisdiction will apply. The Regional Future Land Use (FLU) Map shows areas eligible for Tier 1A and Tier 1B Act 250 exemptions. The table below summarizes the key attributes of Tier 1A and Tier 1B areas.

Tier 2 Areas

All areas that are not Tier 1 or Tier 3. Existing Act 250 jurisdictional thresholds will remain based on acreage, units, or lots created. Additionally, Act 250 jurisdiction will apply to the construction of a single road if it exceeds 800 feet in length or if all roads/driveways constructed exceed 2,000 feet. This provision, known as the “Road Rule”, will apply starting July 1, 2026. More information on Tier 2 at: <https://act250.vermont.gov/tier-2-area-report>

Tier 3 Areas

Tier 3 Areas contain critical natural resources that merit consideration in the Act 250 permitting process. The Tier 3 rulemaking process is scheduled to begin in April-May 2025. The Land Use Review Board is required to deliver proposed final rules for Tier 3 areas by February 1, 2026. Act 250 jurisdiction in Tier 3 areas will begin on December 31, 2026. More information on Tier 3 Rulemaking at: <https://act250.vermont.gov/tier-3-rulemaking-and-report>

	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
Which areas are eligible?	Part or all of the Centers (Downtown and Village) and Planned Growth Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.	Part or all of the Centers (Downtown and Village), Planned Growth Areas , and Village Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.
What are the Act 250 exemptions?	All development is fully exempt.	50 units or fewer on 10 acres or less for housing and mixed-use development is exempt.
Will our municipality have to enforce existing Act 250 conditions?	Yes. Within Tier 1A areas, municipalities must carry forward conditions of <u>existing</u> Act 250 permits for new development permits, with a few exceptions. In approved Tier 1A areas, the Land Use Review Board will no longer enforce permit conditions unless the municipality fails to do so.	No. The Land Use Review Board will continue to enforce <u>existing</u> Act 250 permits and conditions in Tier 1B areas.



ACT 181 – LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
How do we apply?	Municipalities will apply to the Land Use Review Board for Tier 1A jurisdiction. More information on Tier 1A Approval Guidelines at: https://act250.vermont.gov/tier-1a-approval-guidelines	Municipal request to RPC. RPC submits to the Land Use Review Board on behalf of the region’s municipalities through the Regional Plan adoption process. The RRPC will provide a municipal resolution form for the Selectboard to sign.
When do municipalities have to decide?	Any time after January 1, 2026.	No later than July 1, 2025, to align with the necessary timeline for Regional Plan adoption.
What happens if we don’t pursue Tier 1 Act 250 exemptions?	A municipality is <u>not</u> required to opt in. In a municipality that does not opt in, after the interim Act 250 exemptions expire, development projects will be subject to standard Act 250 jurisdiction throughout your community.	
What other requirements must municipalities meet for Tier 1 eligibility?	<p>Eligibility and application requirements are outlined in 10 V.S.A. §6034(b).</p> <p>A. The municipality must have an approved municipal plan.</p> <p>B. Tier 1A boundaries must be consistent with and be within Downtowns, Village Centers, or Planned Growth Areas as shown on the approved regional future land use map.</p> <p>C. The municipality must have adopted bylaws that are at least as strong as the state model flood hazard bylaws (per 10 V.S.A. § 755) and river corridor bylaws (per 10 V.S.A. §1428).</p> <p>D. The municipality must have adopted permanent zoning and subdivision regulations without broad exemptions for obtaining municipal permits.</p> <p>E. In the Tier 1A area, adopted municipal bylaws must further smart growth principles, regulate physical form and scale, allow for at least four stories in areas served by water and sewer, and follow other guidelines to be established by the Land Use Review Board.</p> <p>F. The Tier 1A area must be compatible with the character of adjacent historic</p>	<p>Eligibility and application requirements are outlined in 10 V.S.A. 6033(c).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The municipality must request Tier 1B status from the RRPC. 2. The municipality must have an approved municipal plan 3. The municipality must have permanent zoning and subdivision regulations. 4. In the Tier 1B area, the municipality must exclude or adequately regulate flood hazard areas and river corridors. 5. In the Tier 1B area, there is adequate public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems capacity for compact housing; in Village Areas, this may be in the form of soils that can accommodate a community system. 6. In the Tier 1B area, the municipality must have adequate municipal staff, municipal officials, or contracted capacity for development review and zoning administration.



ACT 181 – LOCATION-BASED ACT 250 TIERS

	Tier 1A Areas	Tier 1B Areas
	<p>districts and sites and significant cultural and natural resources.</p> <p>G. In the Tier 1A area, the municipality must plan to maintain significant natural communities and RTE species or exclude them from it.</p> <p>H. In the Tier 1A area, public drinking water and sanitary sewer systems can support additional development.</p> <p>I. In the Tier 1A area, adequate municipal staffing exists for comprehensive planning, capital planning, development review, and zoning administration.</p>	



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN

2026



PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

ALIGNMENT

RRPC Launches Phase 3 of Public Engagement for 2026 Regional Plan

Phase 3, *Alignment*, invites you to comment on the first full draft of the Plan.

As the RRPC strives to help make the Rutland Region a great place, we want to hear from you one last time!

1

Does the Plan reflect the right community economic development priorities for the Rutland Region?

2

Do these priorities make the Rutland Region a place you want to live, work, and play?

For more information visit: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

Meeting **OVERVIEW**

Regional Plan Purpose & Design

Summary of what the Plan is and why it is important

Regional Plan Elements

Overview of Plan chapters and deep dive into Land Use and Future Land Use Map

Opportunities for Input

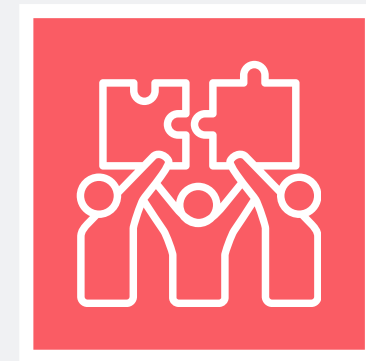
Proposed 2026 Future Land Use Map

Location-based Act 250 Jurisdiction - Tier 1B

Plan Visualization

Chapter Summaries

Full Draft Plan



Shape Our Future Together!

Regional Plan

PURPOSE & DESIGN

Applicable Vermont Statute

Title 24 Sections 4302 and 4347

The Rutland Regional Plan is a comprehensive 8-year (2026-2034) plan to guide and accomplish coordinated and efficient **community economic development** that balances economic development with **social, cultural, and environmental priorities**.

The Plan will help shape the **pattern, design, and function** of communities to best meet future needs. At the center of this effort is an analysis of present and future land uses and identifying areas for **growth and conservation**.

RRPC's Declaration of Inclusion and Title VI Plan informed the design of this Plan:

FLEXIBLE, to best meet the unique needs of the 27 different municipalities in the Rutland Region.

LOCALLY LED, to increase the probability of success and better ensure some communities are not favored over others.

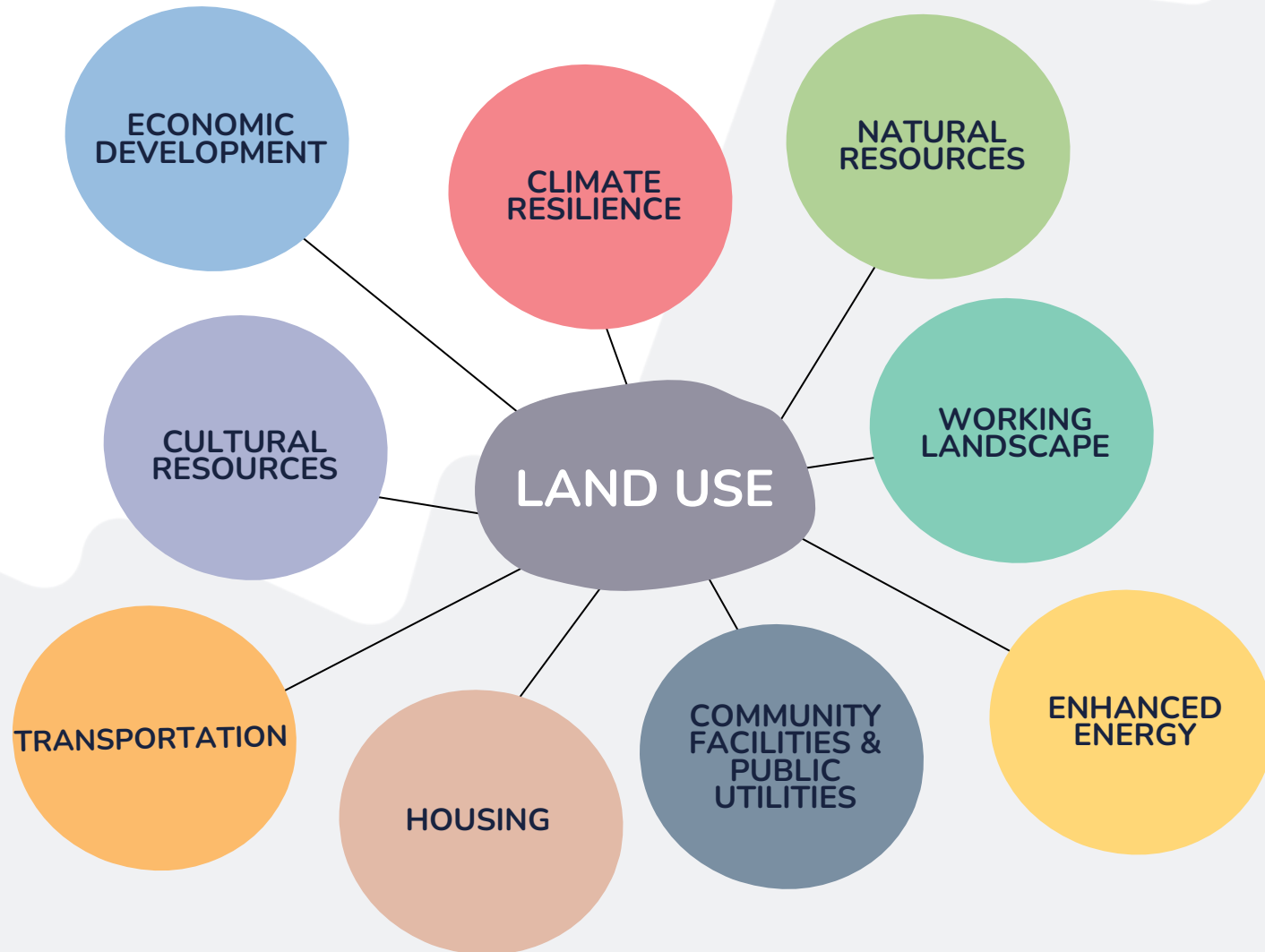
EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE, to demonstrate that embracing diversity, equity, and climate resilience is key to achieving our community economic development goals.

OUTCOME-DRIVEN, to ensure goals and policies have clearly defined actions and measures to gauge progress.

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Regional Plan **ELEMENTS**

Applicable Vermont Statute
Title 24 Section 4348a



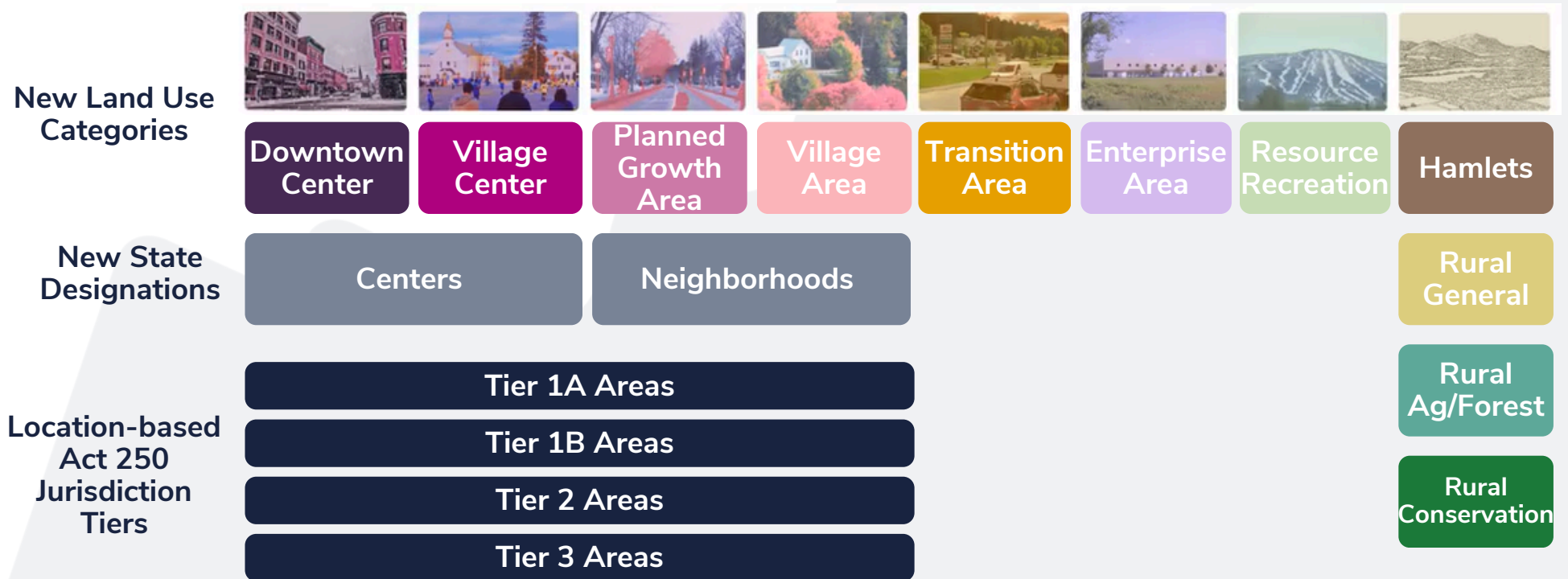
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Regional Plan LAND USE

Act 181, passed into law June 2024, overhauls Vermont's land use planning framework. It modernizes how Vermont directs public investments to designated areas and speeds up Act 250's transition to location-based jurisdiction.



Plan development to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact downtown and village centers separated by rural countryside.



Shape Our Future Together!

Regional Plan FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The 2026 **Future Land Use Map** will guide development by designating areas for growth and conservation based on environmental, infrastructure, and community factors.



Downtown Center

Village Center

Planned Growth Area

Village Area

Transition Area

Enterprise Area

Resource Recreation

Centers

Neighborhoods

39 Designated Centers

- 9 Downtown Centers
- 30 Village Centers

- 0.4% of land area
- 6.5% of buildings (2,978)
- 26 of 27 towns

16 Designated Neighborhoods

- 9 Planned Growth Areas
- 7 Village Areas

- 2.1% of land area
- 32.1% of buildings (14,733)
- 14 of 27 towns

- 0.2% of land area
- 1.3% of buildings (612)
- 4 towns

- 1.4% of land area
- 0.8% of buildings (347)
- 12 towns

- 1.9% of land area
- 6.5% of buildings (2,974)
- 11 towns

Percent of Total Land Area Designated for Higher-Density Growth: 6%

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Regional Plan FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The 2026 **Future Land Use Map** will guide development by designating areas for growth and conservation based on environmental, infrastructure, and community factors.



Hamlets

- 9 in 5 towns

Rural General

- 16.9% of land area
- 40.6% of buildings (18,620)
- 27 towns

Rural Ag/Forest

- 35% of land area
- 6.4% of buildings (2,951)
- 27 towns

Rural Conservation

- 42.2% of land area
- 5.7% of buildings (2,613)
- 27 towns

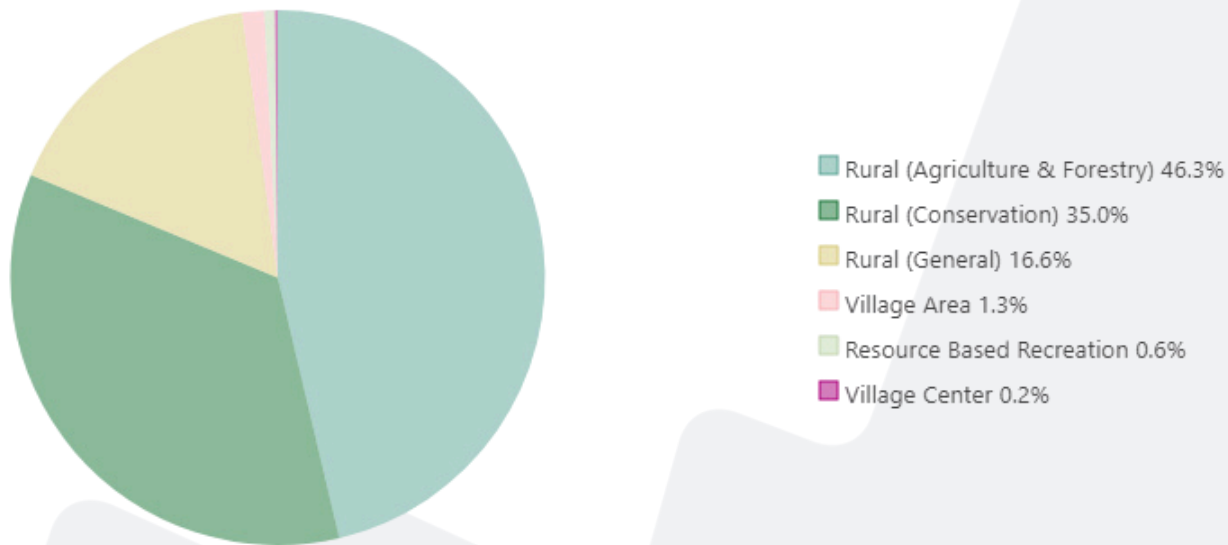
Percent of Total Land Area Designated for Lower-Density Growth and Conservation: 94%

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Regional Plan FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The 2026 Future Land Use Map was developed using a **standardized statewide methodology** provided by the Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies (VAPDA).

Benson % of Land Area by District



1

Legislation limits opportunities to adjust the proposed future land use area boundaries. Adjustments may be possible on a case-by-case basis. **Questions and/or revision requests must be made in writing and submitted within 3 weeks (by June 3, 2025) to Logan Solomon - logan@rutlandrpc.org**

2

If eligible, does your municipality want to opt-in to the Tier 1B area for Act 250 housing exemptions? **Decision form due by July 1, 2025.**



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Regional Plan VISUALIZATION

The point is not just to make a map, but to designate areas in which certain priorities are furthered to achieve the **Community Economic Development Goals**.

1 Does the Plan reflect the right community economic development priorities for the Rutland Region?

2 Do these priorities make the Rutland Region a place you want to live, work, and play?



**Collecting feedback from May 1 to June 30, 2025 at:
rutlandrpc.org/plan2026**

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Regional Plan

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

1

Does the Plan reflect the right community economic development priorities for the Rutland Region?

2

Do these priorities make the Rutland Region a place you want to live, work, and play?



**Collecting feedback from May 1 to June 30, 2025 at:
rutlandrpc.org/plan2026**

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Regional Plan

FULL PLAN DRAFT

1

Does the Plan reflect the right community economic development priorities for the Rutland Region?

2

Do these priorities make the Rutland Region a place you want to live, work, and play?



**Collecting feedback from June 9 to June 30, 2025 at:
rutlandrpc.org/plan2026**

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Regional Plan

NEXT STEPS SUMMARY



1

Legislation limits opportunities to adjust the proposed future land use area boundaries. Adjustments may be possible on a case-by-case basis. **Questions and/or future land use map revision requests must be made in writing and submitted within 3 weeks to Logan Solomon - logan@rutlandrpc.org**

2

If eligible, does your municipality want to opt-into the Tier 1B area for Act 250 housing exemptions? **Decision form due by July 1, 2025. Email form to Logan Solomon - logan@rutlandrpc.org**

3

Use the Plan Visualization and Chapter Summaries to provide feedback at: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026. **Available May 1 to June 30, 2025.**

4

Use the Full Plan Draft to provide feedback at: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026. **Available June 9 to June 30, 2025.**

Shape Our Future Together!

Learn More & Share Your Thoughts



rutlandrpc.org/plan2026



plan2026@rutlandrpc.org

Together we're crafting a collaborative guide for a healthy, equitable, and resilient region with strategies to achieve coordinated and efficient community economic development.