Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2018

The Boardwalk at Barnes Camp, Smugglers Notch, Stowe VT, photo by LCPC staff
Founded in 1966 as the Lamoille County Planning and Development Corporation, the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) continues to be an important resource to the 15 municipalities of Lamoille County, including 10 towns and five incorporated villages. The county’s economy is primarily tourism-based - including two major ski resorts - with a growing number of home-grown, nationally-renowned businesses, such as Concept 2, MSI, and Butternut Mountain Farm. LCPC’s mission is to ensure the protection of the region’s environment and conservation of natural resources, and to facilitate sustainable economic development for the benefit of all residents and visitors through a coordinated and cooperative planning process at the local level.

Each municipality’s legislative body (Selectboard or Trustees) determines who will represent them on the LCPC Board of Directors. Member municipalities of 2,500 residents or greater appoint two directors and municipalities under 2,500 appoint one director to represent that municipality’s interest in regional affairs. Additionally, the LCPC has five at-large, elected directors to represent regional interests. Directors serve on committees that make recommendations to the full 23-member Board of Directors. The LCPC has seven highly-qualified full-time and part-time staff that provide support to the Board and its committees and execute the Commission’s multifaceted work program.

**Municipal Planning and Implementation**

RPCs act as a cost-effective professional planning staff for many of Vermont’s municipalities. Work in recent years has been focused on improving municipal plans and local permitting through education and consultations, bylaw modernization, facilitating transition to Development Review Boards and implementing statutory requirements for flood resiliency planning. Current and clear plans and bylaws are essential in smooth state and local permitting. This work is supported through local and regional planning funds, local contributions and other grants. All technical assistance provided this year is shown on the At Work map; highlights include:

- With assistance from LCPC, Cambridge and Jeffersonville continue to implement major aspects of the “Jeffersonville Flood Mitigation Master Plan.” The mitigation measures are funded through a mix of Federal (HMGP, CDBG,) and State (ERP) funds, and, once implemented, will reduce flood levels in the Village core by up to 1.5 feet. Had such measures been in place during the flood of 2011, evacuation of the Village’s Senior Housing would not have been needed.
- LCPC recently completed construction of a new bridge in Jeffersonville which should reduce flooding in the Village as the abutments and low profile of the old bridge caused flood waters to back up into the Village.
• With assistance from LCPC, the Village of Jeffersonville updated the Village’s Flood Hazard Bylaws to reflect recommendations from the Lamoille Flood Modeling Study.
• With LCPC’s assistance, the Town of Waterville drafted a Flood Resilience and Water Quality plan element, and updated the following chapters of the Waterville Town Plan: Natural Resources and Land Use, Local Services and Facilities, Energy, and Transportation. The LCPC assisted Waterville in developing an Enhanced Energy Plan per act 174 standards and continues to work with the Waterville Planning Board on updating remaining chapters of the 2014 Town plan.
• The LCPC provided ongoing assistance to Belvidere for transportation project planning and management including project management services for replacement of the culvert on Bog Road as well as project management services for the Better Back Roads Florence Road project.
• With LCPC’s assistance, the Town and the Village of Cambridge, and the Town of Elmore revised their municipal development plans.
• The Commission was active in water quality issues including, implementing water quality projects and programs to protect water resources, ensuring safe water supplies, enhancing recreational opportunities, and addressing known sources of pollution. Staff provided Vermont Clean Water Fund Outreach and assisted in the development of the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan.
• LCPC provided help identifying appropriate funding sources, defining project scope, and writing applications for numerous municipalities which among other grants resulted in municipal planning grants for Jeffersonville, Cambridge, and Waterville. The Commission provided application development and mapping services to assist Hyde Park Village with Village Center Designation renewal, and North Hyde Park in establishing Village Center Designation.

REGIONAL PLANNING
RPC’s coordinate planning at the regional level through the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive regional plan, and related studies. These plans guide local planning and the investment decisions of the public and private sectors. The Lamoille County Regional Plan was adopted in 2015. LCPC has updated their Act 250 review process, making the process more transparent, understandable and accessible to both developers and municipalities. The Commission has engaged in extensive outreach to increase regional understanding of the Commission’s role in the Act 250 process. In FY 18, LCPC reviewed one major Act 250 application and six Section 248 applications with hearings.

In FY 2018, LCPC’s Board of Directors adopted two amendments to the Regional Plan. The first amendment redefines Substantial Regional Impact (SRI) criteria. The SRI criteria included in the Lamoille Regional Plan had not been updated since 1991 and we believe that this update will be crucial to further improving LCPC’s Act 250 review process. The second amendment incorporates into the Lamoille County Regional Plan an Enhanced Energy component designed as a guide for the Region to help meet the statewide goal of 90% renewable energy production by 2050.
BROWNFIELDS

Vermont RPCs have sought and have been awarded over 10 million dollars for this economic development initiative. Environmental site assessments allow properties to be sold, developed or re-developed in ways that benefit the local and state economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

The LCPC received a total of $400,000 in Assessment Grant Funds from the US EPA. ($200,000 for hazardous sites and $200,000 for petroleum sites). In FY 18, the LCPC’s brownfields Grant Funds advanced environmental assessments in the Village of Jeffersonville, the Town of Hyde Park, and the Village of Johnson. The Village of Jeffersonville strives to transform the former Bell Gates lumber yard into a gateway park to the Village and regrade uncontaminated portions of the property for flood storage and conveyance.

The Town of Hyde Park would like to develop a vacant parcel adjacent to the former railroad as a trailhead facility serving Lamoille Valley Rail Trail users. Johnson Village received an area-wide planning grant to prepare an economic revitalization plan for the Railroad Street Corridor connecting the former Talc Mill plant, the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and downtown Johnson. Johnson Village is also undertaking an assessment to better understand their options for the Old Village Power House located on the Banks of the Gihon River. In addition to making the assessments funds available in Lamoille County, LCPC worked with the Rutland Planning Commission and the Northeast Vermont Development Corporation to assist with property assessments in Rutland and Albany.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

In FY 18, LCPC developed a grant proposal to commission a feasibility study to locate an anaerobic digester in Lamoille County. USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Development Grant program awarded the proposal in July 2018. The proposal for the feasibility study originated in response to a concern articulated by area breweries regarding brewery waste management challenges. The breweries identified high waste hauling costs and limited capacity of waste management plants to process brewery waste as factors limiting business growth. The intent of the feasibility study is to help LCPC determine whether Lamoille County is suited for an anaerobic digester project, whether the digester can provide an economical waste management option for area beverage and food processing businesses, and whether such a project can be economically and technically viable. Lamoille Economic Development Corporation is LCPC’s primary partner in this project and provided the needed matching funds for the study.
Lack of critical infrastructure such as water, wastewater, and broadband is an impediment to economic development in much of rural Vermont. LCPC continues to work with municipalities to identify new funding sources for this infrastructure, and to seek creative means to maximize use of existing but limited capacity, such as encouraging mixed use development, relaxed setbacks and frontage standards so that more users can be accommodated within existing service areas, and flexible parking standards.

LCPC reached an agreement with the Lamoille Economic Development Corporation such that the Executive Directors of each organization now serve ex officio on the others’ boards. This new level of coordination allows for improved communication, development and community outreach.

In 2018, the Executive Director of LCPC, Tasha Wallis, served as Co-Chair of the Northern Vermont Economic Development District (NVEDD). The NVEDD completed work on a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and is poised to further contribute to economic development throughout the Lamoille County region.

The Commission, along with members of the Smugglers Notch Partnership, completed another successful summer of operations at the Barnes Camp Visitor Center. The renovated Barnes Camp at the base of the Notch on the Stowe side, has become a popular spot for tourists exploring the area.

In the fall of 2017, LCPC celebrated with partners the grand opening of the Boardwalk behind Barnes Camp. The completion of this project marks the first universally accessible segment of the Long Trail. Finally, LCPC facilitated a series of beautifully designed interpretive panels and timber framed kiosks in Smugglers Notch State Park. These improved visitor facilities and amenities will strengthen Lamoille County’s tourism and recreation economy.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Through a contract with Vermont Agency of Transportation, RPCs coordinate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI). This effort has provided a statewide framework for public involvement in planning the improvements to Vermont’s transportation system, with local communities represented through regional Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs). Each regional TAC prioritizes projects, identifies local and regional transportation needs, and provides the platform for public involvement in the planning and development of the state’s transportation system. RPCs serve as the point of delivery for the statewide transportation planning process to support local, regional, state and federal transportation network advancement.
In this reporting period, the Lamoille County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met nine times, with an average member participation rate of 41.4%. Three outcomes of this year’s TAC activities include:

1. Multiple engaging discussions about the Municipal Road General Permit and development of formal comments on the draft permit.
2. Three discussions about public transit and public transit planning.
3. Fostered communication and coordination between municipalities and various agencies and State technical support staff including Vermont Agency of Transportation and VLCT to discuss access permitting on state and town roads, and DMV enforcement to discuss enforcing and setting weight limits on town roads and bridges.

The Lamoille County Road Foremen Network has met three times during this reporting period (Nov 1, Mar 14, May 10). This group has been very important in communicating across towns throughout the region and heightening awareness of regional planning, road networks and water quality issues.

Other Outreach and Municipal assistance included the three road foremen network meetings, six meetings about road and bridge codes and standards and thirty-five coordination activities with municipalities and Vermont Agency of Transportation.

LCPC Transportation planning staff facilitated the Green Mountain Byway Committee in partnership with CVRPC. This grassroots committee is working to update the current Byway Plan and add seven new municipalities (three towns with 4 villages) to the Byway; the Byway expansion is anticipated to be official by the end of September of 2018.

LCPC staff continues to work with the Smugglers’ Notch Partnership; this year’s focus was preparing for the installation of ADA accessible wetland boardwalk. The Boardwalk has become a major attraction for locals and visitors in the Notch. LCPC also continues to analyze parking and stormwater improvements for VT108 within Smugglers’ Notch State Park. LCPC also coordinated discussions between Vermont Agency of Transportation and Vermont Department of Forests Parks and Recreation on the most effective ways to mitigate flood and erosion threats to Route 108 and Park infrastructure.

LCPC staff participated in multiple meetings of three ongoing transportation planning focus groups: development of an “all-in-one” transportation survey with UVM and Vermont Agency of Transportation; VT100 and VT108 Corridor Planning with Vermont Agency of Transportation; project prioritization and selection process review with Vermont Agency of Transportation. Staff also attended the Vermont Municipal Highway Association annual meeting, which helps to build good relationships with municipal highway department staff. LCPC staff attended the annual Vermont Agency of Transportation Regional Construction meeting for the fourth year; attending this internal Vermont Agency of Transportation meeting as a guest fosters good communication.
between RPC staff and Vermont Agency of Transportation staff in both Montpelier offices and Maintenance Districts.

The LCPC conducted or completed road erosion inventories in Hyde Park and Elmore, and began preparing for three additional inventories.

The Commission collaborated on a road safety audit in Stowe and another in Cambridge, participated in three elderly & disabled public transit meetings, attended one Vermont Aviation Council meeting, and attended one aviation planning public meeting.

LCPC staff regularly participates as voting members to Rural Community Transportation and Green Mountain Transit Boards and sub-committees.

Data collection activities by the LCPC for Vermont Agency of Transportation included at least 45 activities, including but not limited to: 2 bridge/culvert inventories (Belvidere and Wolcott), 26 traffic counts, 20 bike/ped counts, and 5 park-n-ride counts. The LCPC staff participated in four Vermont Agency of Transportation project public meetings.

The TPI workplan provides several task categories which support municipal planning and technical assistance, and approximately 54% of LCPC’s total TPI budget supports municipal technical assistance. Example projects that fall under municipal technical assistance are:

- Water Quality: provided coordination with ANR and facilitated group and individual discussions with municipal staff, boards, and other partners in all 10 towns.
- Road Erosion Inventories (REI): completed 1 REI and began 3 others; continued coordination and software development input with other RPC staff and ANR; combined other funds with TPI budget to optimize resources and outcomes.
- Planning Studies: facilitated a parking and stormwater analysis for Smugglers’ Notch area in partnership with VT FPR and Vermont Agency of Transportation; concluded a bicycle and pedestrian scoping study for the North Wolcott Road area; participated with Vermont Agency of Transportation, CVRPC, Waterbury, Stowe, and Morristown on the VT100 & VT108 Corridor Study pilot effort to improve the corridor planning process and outcomes; participated with Vermont Agency of Transportation and Stowe on the Mountain Road (VT108) Village area Master Plan to address vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian safety in this rural high-congestion area; participated in the Green Mountain Transit Comprehensive Planning Study (a.k.a. “Next-Gen” study); participated in the Transit Development Plan for Rural Community Transportation; participated in the “all in one” transportation survey planning working group with Vermont Agency of Transportation, UVM and CCRPC;

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER RESILIENCY

RPCs play key roles in the mitigation and preparedness phases of emergency management in partnership with Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont Homeland Security Unit,
Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Agency of Natural Resources. RPCs provide direct staff to the State Emergency Operations Center, administrative support to the Local Emergency Planning Committees and coordination among responders and planners throughout the State’s four Public Safety Districts. RPC’s also help update floodplain bylaws and FEMA-required hazard mitigation plans, coordinate updates to municipal emergency plans and assisted as needed in special circumstances like Tropical Storm Irene and other declared disasters.

- Nine of 10 of municipalities in the region currently have a hazard mitigation plan either adopted or under review.
- Ten of 10 (100%) of municipalities in the region currently have an updated local emergency operations plan.
- The LCPC continued to provide administrative and technical assistance to LEPC#11 (Local Emergency Planning Committee) to host trainings and emergency preparedness discussions. The LEPC conducted a Table Top Exercise in April at the Northern Vermont University, Johnson Campus, to test local emergency operation and hazardous material response plans in the event of a hazardous chemical release. The LEPC also hosted a training on the identification of clandestine drug labs with presenters from the State Police. Finally, The LEPC updated the Lamoille County Hazardous Materials Response Plan, facilitated a Tier II reporting training, and updated Tier II facility mapping and databases.
- LCPC Staff provided help updating the Hazard Mitigation Trust Plan and grant-writing assistance for HMGP grants in Wolcott, Jeffersonville, and Hyde Park.
- Aided with Home Elevation assistance and Wolcott Flood Model Planning.
- Assisted in drafting and finalizing five Local Hazard Mitigation Plans in (Johnson, Belvidere, Elmore, Eden and Waterville).
- Assisted Belvidere with administration and project development of Bog Road culvert replacement mitigation project.
- Assisted in developing a Flood Resilience Plan for the Town of Waterville.
- Developed Advanced Assistance Application for Mt. Mansfield Stream/Route 108 erosion
- Coordinated Smugglers Notch Drainage Study to identify alternatives to mitigate flood and erosion damage to Route 108
- Contributed updated E911 road maps to the Northern EMS District for each town in the district.
- Hosted ICS (Incident Command System) 200 and 402 training and new Emergency Management Director orientation.

Participated in 4 local liaison activations in response to State requests.

**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM SERVICES**
In addition to enhancing the RPC work, RPC’s provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

- Developed Road Erosion Inventory (REI) applications to collect REI information and employed the application in data collection for the town of Elmore and Belvidere, hosted a training on the use of the State Municipal Roads General Permit Road Erosion Inventory Application and employed its use in the County.
- Updated available town parcel information and sent to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for inclusion in the statewide parcel layer.
- Updated analysis of primary and secondary wind generation potential (acres) in Wolcott.
- Produced maps of the Winooski watershed in Stowe, and Morristown
- Assisted with HMGP applications, producing a series of project readiness maps for Belvidere
- Developed maps for the following:
  - Wolcott and Belvidere Hazard Mitigation Project Readiness Workbook series
  - Regional wind, solar, Hydro power and biomass energy potential maps
  - Town plan map updates for the municipalities of Eden, Waterville, Hyde Park, Cambridge, Jeffersonville, Elmore and Wolcott
  - Flood hazard maps for Eden, Wolcott and Jeffersonville
  - Village Center Designation maps for Hyde Park Village and North Hyde Park.
  - Elmore and Cambridge and Wolcott culvert inventory map updates
  - Updated Johnson River Corridor and flood hazard area mapping
  - Updated Renewable Energy potential mapping for Elmore, Wolcott, Eden, Hyde Park, Stowe, Waterville, and Johnson
  - Updated road map for Morristown, Belvidere, Johnson, Waterville
  - Zoning map updates for the Town of Hyde Park
  - Updated maps for Smugglers Notch and Barnes Camp
  - Green Mountain Byway recreation map
  - Johnson Bike Park Map

**ENERGY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

In FY 18, LCPC adopted an energy amendment to Regional Plan. The energy amendment focuses on accomplishing the goals of the State Comprehensive Energy Plan, most notably the goal of having renewable energy sources provide 90% of the state’s total energy demand by 2050. The
energy element contains an analysis of current energy use, targets for future energy use, and strategies for reaching future energy use targets. It also includes a mapping effort that will help guide the future siting of renewable energy facilities.

The new energy element was drafted to meet the Energy Planning Standards developed by the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS). Following the adoption of the amendment, LCPC submitted the Regional Plan to DPS for a Determination of Compliance with state energy planning standards. DPS issued a Certificate of Energy Compliance in July 2018. With this accomplishment, LCPC will have greater say in the permitting process in front of the Public Utility Commission. This is due to the plan being given a higher legal standard (“substantial deference”) than a typical legal standard (“due consideration”).

In FY 18, LCPC continued to assist to municipalities in the Region with the drafting of municipal energy plans. New energy plans were drafted in Johnson, Waterville and Cambridge. Municipalities that incorporate their new energy plans into their overall municipal plans will be able to submit their requests for Determination of Energy Compliance to the Regional Planning Commission. With a positive determination, the municipality’s plan will also receive substantial deference in Public Utility Commission proceedings.

**WATERSHED PLANNING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

RPCs work with the Agency of Natural Resources to assist with completion of the EPA required Tactical Basin Plans. RPCs also work with municipalities to implement river corridor assessments in local planning and regulations which result in better and safer growth management decisions.

- As part of the Clean Water Initiative, conducted outreach on Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and assisted ANR with the development of the plan. Also conducted outreach on updates to water quality standards, river corridor planning, storm water master planning, and flood resiliency. LCPC assisted with outreach for the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and has been attending regularly scheduled Winooski Tactical Basin Plan Steering Committee meetings regarding the development of the plan.
- Provided project management and assisted with fieldwork and public outreach for the Seymour River Geomorphic Assessment. The assessment and River Corridor Plan finalized by Bear Creek Environmental in late May of 2018, identifies restoration and protection projects in Cambridge to be included in later versions of the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan and be eligible for upcoming grant opportunities.
- LCPC assisted the Cambridge Conservation Commission in applying for an FY 18 ERP grant and matching funds from the High Meadows Fund to implement the Cambridge Elementary School Stormwater Project design.
- Assisted the Cambridge Conservation Commission and Cambridge Elementary School with project management support, and hiring a contractor to install the stormwater infiltration system at Cambridge Elementary School. This system installed summer of
2018, will capture 90% of runoff from impervious surfaces on school grounds, which will improve water quality in the Brewster River.

- As part of the High Meadows Fund, hired and managed a consultant to develop a flood model to help Lamoille watershed communities understand their risks and prioritize roads and other infrastructure for restoration, conservation, or adaptation. Also conducted flood resiliency workshops with High Meadows funds to educate businesses, residents, and contractors about ways to reduce risks and flood damage to their properties. LCPC staff provided outreach regarding modeling results thus far to the Towns of Cambridge, Johnson and Wolcott.
- Provided outreach and field verification assistance regarding River Corridors in the Towns of Wolcott and Johnson.
- Provided grant writing technical assistance to Elmore, Cambridge, Belvidere, and Wolcott to apply for a Better Roads Grant (awarded) to conduct an updated road erosion inventory. LCPC staff developed a road erosion app to collect field data per the Municipal Roads General Permit Guidance, for the assessments in 2018 and 2019. Began outreach to the Town of Waterville regarding applying for a Better Roads grant to update the Waterville Road Erosion Inventory in 2019. This assessment will result in a toolkit to prioritize and repair erosion control issues along municipal roads or to apply for future grants to comply with the upcoming Municipal Roads General Permit. LCPC assisted the Towns of Stowe and Hyde Park in completing a Road Erosion Inventory in 2017 and began conducting fieldwork in 2018 for the Elmore Road Erosion Inventory.
- Worked with Village of Jeffersonville on updating flood hazard regulations for to mirror recommendations from the Lamoille River Flood Modeling Study.
- Assisted with outreach and field verification for the Town of Johnson to explore adopting River Corridor bylaws.
- Assisted the Belvidere Planning Commission in exploring reclassification of Belvidere Bog to a Class 1 wetland.
- Through a DEC Hazard Mitigation Grant, LCPC developed a Project Readiness Workbook for the towns of Wolcott and Belvidere to aid next steps and grant application development for priority hazard mitigation projects.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

The Lamoille County Planning Commission specializes in taking the planning process from concept through to implementation and construction. In Cambridge and Jeffersonville, ongoing severe flooding was addressed through analysis and then construction of a new bridge in Jeffersonville with a new culvert to be installed in the village in 2019. Modeling the Lamoille River was a key element of the path from planning to implementation. In Smugglers Notch, construction of a new boardwalk was completed after years of collaborative planning with many partners.

**Creation of a Model of the Entire Main Stem of the Lamoille River Through Lamoille County**
Last year, LCPC in partnership with the Town and Village of Cambridge, Village of Jeffersonville, Town and Village of Johnson, and Town of Wolcott, received a grant from the High Meadows Fund. A major component of this grant is creation of a model of the entire main stem of the Lamoille River through Lamoille County. The model is designed to show floodwater levels during various sized storm events. The model can also show the impacts of structures such as roads and bridges on upstream and downstream flood levels. A similar model developed several years ago in Jeffersonville identified alternatives with the potential to reduce flood levels by more than a foot-and-a-half in the Village. While this may not sound like a significant decrease, had these mitigation measures been in place, the 30 plus residents of the Jeffersonville Senior Housing would not have needed to evacuate their homes during the spring 2011 floods.

With the model complete, the next step is to test potential alternatives. The model can be adapted to local conditions and the specific needs of a community by testing a range of mitigation alternatives such as retrofits of bridges and culverts, elevations of structures, and conservation. The Town of Cambridge utilized the model to evaluate solutions to flooding on Pumpkin Harbor Road. The Model was also provided critical data needed to complete a feasibility study of flood proofing the Johnson Public Library. Additional modeling is underway in the Town of Wolcott. In the future, the model will be another tool for communities working to become more flood resilient. The model is a public document available to any community, and was also recently used by a University of Vermont PhD candidate to test alternative “river friendly” abutment designs.

The project also included three flood resiliency workshops. LCPC worked with Stevens and Associates in Brattleboro, VT to run the workshops. The first workshop was geared towards business owners. A second workshop was targeted towards homeowners and business owners. A second workshop was targeted towards homeowners and business owners.

**The Cambridge Greenway Trail Bridge**

The Cambridge Greenway Trail Bridge in Jeffersonville, VT crosses over the Brewster River, replaces an older bridge which had a low elevation and as a result was affected by flood waters on an almost annual basis. The new bridge is adequately sized and proportioned and will reduce the potential for flooding in Jeffersonville Village. The project included removing the existing abutments and restoring the floodplain in the vicinity of the abutments.

The Lamoille County Planning Commission served as project manager for the bridge. Caleb Magoon, Chair of the Board of Directors stated, “We are so pleased that our many partners came together to create a longer, higher bridge that will allow the passage of more water out of the Village.”

**The Boardwalk at Barnes Camp**
The Boardwalk at Barnes Camp opened for Vermonters and visitors on October 27, 2017. The Boardwalk was a collaborative project facilitated and managed by the Lamoille County Planning Commission and supported by many organizations.

The five-foot-wide walkway is constructed on helical piers - pretty much large screwdrivers - over a wetland and was designed and built with attention to the sensitive environment of Smugglers Notch. The piers were installed by drilling, rather than excavating soil. And during construction, an excavator with hydraulic attachment was moved about on cedar mats so it wouldn’t touch the wetland. Sawdust was bagged up and carried out by hand.

The elevated boardwalk allows wildlife to move through the wetland and accommodates natural water level variations. This attribute proved key when the beavers moved in, changing water courses and adding a beautiful pond right at the end of the walkway.

The Long Trail relocation to connect with the Boardwalk will be complete next spring and takes hikers into the woods and no longer down the side of Route 108 next to the traffic. Actually, a big part of the point of a Scenic highway is to get out of the car and away from the road.

“People tend to protect what they know, and one of the major goals of the boardwalk is introducing the general population to wetlands, the wildlife that lives in them, and the benefits wetlands provide us, like clean water,” said Seth Jensen, Principal Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission.

The Boardwalk at Barnes Camp was recently awarded the 2018 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations.

**ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING**

In 2018, The Commission implemented all updated internal financial processes and procedures to ensure compliance with all federal, state and grant requirements. The LCPC also updated both the Personnel and Procurement Policies to be in conformance with all State and Federal statutory changes. The LCPC is audited on an annual basis. The Organization received a clean audit for 2017, conducted a fraud risk assessment and reviews all policies and practices on an ongoing basis.

The Commission continued to actively engage in Board recruitment resulting in more board seats being filled from a diversity of municipalities and a newly energized and engaged board. The Commission also updated the new Board Member Handbook and assisted in training new Board members.
The LCPC receives most of its funding through grants, and through performance-based contracts with the state. Town assessments constitute a small but very important percentage of our funding.

Revenue from virtually all federal and state grantors requires matching funds, and typically non-federal matching funds. Required match ranges from 10 percent (Transportation Planning Initiative) to 50 percent (Emergency Management Planning Grant & Northern Vermont Economic Development District).

For the 2018 fiscal year, the LCPC’s total projected revenue of approximately $980,000 dollars was derived from a mix of regional project grant funding, municipal project grant funding, EPA brownfields funding, state performance contract funding, non-profit organization grants and a small amount from town assessments.

Virtually all of the LCPC’s revenue sources are tied to contracts with scopes of work, guidelines and/or performance measures. The commission’s performance contract with the state is also necessary to provide matching funds required by grantors. The grants we receive enable us to work with municipalities on areas such as transportation, emergency planning, community development, brownfields redevelopment, water quality, energy, and natural resources.