

Frequently Asked Questions – Updated 10/27/2022

What is the platform that you will be using to edit the regional plan?

We use Microsoft Word.

Does NVDA have any specific objectives for the migration of mapping products into an online platform?

The report-sized maps that are currently embedded in the plan don't have much detail for closer examination. We can produce wall-sized maps that may be scrutinized more closely, but these are hard to distribute regionally to 50 municipalities. Therefore, the online maps would serve as the "official" spot where users can do a deeper query. Ultimately, however, our maps need to be in a format that our GIS staff can maintain. We already use ARCGIS, so we also need to be mindful of maintaining licenses, etc., which can be costly. We are open to suggestions.

Given the relatively aggressive timeline for completion, where is NVDA at on the update process? Has staff begun to formalize the review, analysis, and recalibration process?

Yes, staff is starting on this process already and are aware of the aggressive timeline. Staffers will be assigned elements and will be required to update information and streamline content.

Has NVDA established a budget for consulting work in support of the RFP?

No. We are looking for an itemized cost proposal broken out by task.

The RFP indicates that staff are currently updating the Regional Plan. Can you elaborate on the work that has already been done? Do you expect that the consultant's main role will be to review their work and provide

Staff have taken on individual chapters to identify core planning issues (including ones not discussed in the current plan) and overarching goals. These will be organized into a proposed outline that is comprehensive without being needlessly duplicative. From there, staff will identify planning considerations for each topic area and suggested strategies. Planning considerations may incorporate existing data or

suggestions for improvements for each volume of the plan?

studies, but only in support of a 8-year visionary document. Additional supporting data may be integrated into appendices to improve readability of the plan. (We have already done this with the volumes of data that accompany the energy plan.) Staff will remain responsible for identifying planning considerations and articulating goals and strategies, but we would look to the consultant to general direction that improves usability and innovation for a diverse general audience. This direction may include new approaches to organization, articulation of overarching themes, and identification of additional planning considerations. We would also look to consultant to facilitate public engagement opportunities by developing the public outreach survey, establishing the structure and format of the engagement sessions, and interpreting and synthesizing input.

Do you expect the consultant to conduct region research to inform the plan?

No. Our existing plan is data heavy, and we aim to create a plan that uses data more effectively without compromising its readability. We would look to the consultant to identify datasets that would be most illustrative of core planning issues.

As part of an engagement process, the RFP outlines a survey, public engagement sessions, and board/subcommittee meetings. Do you expect these engagements to take in person, virtually, or a combination? How many on-site engagements do you wish to have?

We expect that two of the engagements would be on-site.

Do you want the consultant to design web-based mapping? Does mapping data already exist or will this require data collection and analysis?

The GIS layers already exist. We are trying to find a way to integrate live mapping into the process as cost-effectively as possible. Our planning statute requires us to maintain a certain number of maps; however, the statute was written at a time when maps were static and on paper. To date, a number of

online mapping portals exist, such as Biofinder (priority habitat blocks), Vermont Planning Atlas (designated downtowns and village centers), and the Vermont Flood Ready Atlas. What we are hoping to achieve is a mapping interface that meets our statutory requirements, is compatible with ARGIS (our platform) and is not duplicative of mapping resources.

Has a committee been formed to work with the consultant?

The planning staff has formed an ad hoc team to work on this plan, and the executive committee of NVDA will be apprised at its regular meetings throughout plan development.

Who will be the main point of contact for the project?

David Snedeker will be the main point of contact.

What is the source of funding for the project?

Our funding mix may contain federal funds that are subject to procurement requirements.
