

# David E. White, FAICP

Dept. of Planning & Zoning  
City of Burlington  
149 Church Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
802.865.7194  
[DEWhite@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:DEWhite@burlingtonvt.gov)

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## Summary

David White, FAICP has been a public-sector planner working at both the local and regional level in Vermont for nearly 30 years. His professional practice has served some of Vermont's smallest and largest, poorest and wealthiest communities. Today he is the Director of Planning and Zoning for the [City of Burlington, VT](#) - Vermont's largest city with a population of ~42,000 nestled on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain. In his 22+ years of service to the City, David has played a leading role in securing Burlington's place as one of the country's most celebrated progressive livable and dynamic small cities.



## Education:

- **Masters of Environmental Management**, Resource Economics and Policy, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University Durham, NC (1989)
    - Inclusive of coursework in land use law, urban and regional planning, alternative dispute resolution, and geographic information systems completed at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.
  - **Bachelor of Arts**, Geography, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT (1984)
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## Professional Experience

**Director of Planning and Zoning**, [City of Burlington, Dept. of Planning and Zoning](#), Burlington, VT, 2007 to present.

Working under the direction of the City's Planning Commission, David leads a politically-independent department responsible for citywide long-range and comprehensive planning, and all permitting and development review functions under the City's zoning and subdivision regulations. Notable projects and accomplishments include:

- Overseeing the 2011, 2014, and 2019 revisions to the [planBTV: Burlington Comprehensive Plan](#)
  - Participating in the [Evaluation of Burlington's Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance](#) and the Inclusionary Zoning Working Group
  - Led the creation of the [planBTV: Downtown Code](#)
  - Overseeing the creation of the [planBTV: South End Master Plan](#)
  - Overseeing the creation of the [Great Streets BTV Downtown Street Design and Construction Standards](#) and conceptual plans for redevelopment of Main and St. Paul streets and City Hall Park
  - Playing a leadership role in the multi-department Permit Reform Initiative
  - Participating in the [Railyard Enterprise District Project](#)
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- Participated in the development of [planBTV: Walk/Bike Master Plan](#)
- Participated in the development of [planBTV: Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#)
- Oversaw the [Burlington Town Center Redevelopment](#) public engagement process, rezoning, and development review process
- Oversaw the [Cambrian Rise Redevelopment Project](#) rezoning and development review process
- Participated in the development and implementation of the [Downtown Parking & Transportation Management Plan](#)
- Oversaw the creation of the [planBTV: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan](#)
- Participated in the development of the *Residential Parking Management Plan*
- Participated in the Downtown Transit Center siting and development
- Led the creation of the *2011 Burlington Transportation Plan*
- Participated in the creation of the [2008 Burlington Climate Action Plan](#)
- Led the successful nomination of the [Church Street Marketplace](#) as an APA Great Places in America 2008 Great Public Space
- Oversaw [Visualize Burlington 3D](#) that created 171 Sketch-Up models of downtown buildings
- Participated in the City's applications for [Downtown and Neighborhood Development Area](#) designation and renewal by the VT Downtown Development Board
- Collaborated with the Harvard Graduate School of Design in conducting an Urban Design Studio Course focused on Burlington's downtown
- Directed the *Lower Winooski River Base Flood Elevation and Floodplain and Floodway Restudy*

**Comprehensive Planner**, City of Burlington, Dept. of Planning and Zoning, Burlington, VT, 1995-2007

In this role David had overall responsibility for citywide long-range planning, and was the principal staff to the Burlington Planning Commission. He was responsible for the review and preparation of land use plans, policy, and regulations on behalf of the Commission for consideration by the City Council. He served as a technical and policy resource to the Mayor and other city departments including Public Works, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, and the Community Economic and Development Office regarding land use and development issues. Until 2005, David served as City's Certified Local Government Coordinator. Notable projects and accomplishments include:

- Led the completion of the 2008 Zoning Rewrite
- Participated in the creation *2000 Burlington Climate Action Plan*
- Participated in the creation of the [Champlain College Master Plan](#)
- Participated in the creation of the [Burlington Legacy Project Action Plan](#)
- Led the creation of the [Burlington Design Guides](#) (see more below)
- Led the creation of the *Burlington Historic Sites and Structures Survey Plan*
- Led the creation of the [Conservation Legacy Program](#) and Conservation Legacy Fund
- Led the development of the [2000 Burlington Open Space Protection Plan](#)
- Led the creation of the [North Street Revitalization Plan](#)
- Participated in the creation of the *Burlington Street Tree Planting Plan*
- Led the creation of the *Waterfront Urban Reserve Interim Use and Stewardship Plan*
- Led the development of the 1996, 2001, and 2006 *Burlington Municipal Development Plan*

**Assistant Director**, Lamoille County Planning Commission, Morrisville, VT, 1989-1995

In this role David had overall responsibility for regional planning and land use policy development. He also provided direct technical assistance to 10 member communities in the development and implementation of municipal plans and bylaws. Notable projects and accomplishments include:

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- Led the development of the [Smugglers Notch Scenic Highway Management Plan](#)
  - Led the development of the [Lamoille County Short Range Transit Plan](#)
  - Established and managed a [Regional Transportation Planning Program](#) under contract with the VT Agency of Transportation
  - Led the regional review of the [Stowe Mountain Resort](#) Master Plan
  - Established a [Regional GIS Service Center](#).
  - Led the development of Lamoille County's first regional plan developed under the 1988 VT Growth Management Act (Act 200).
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## **Professional Leadership and Public Service**

For more than 25 years David has been engaged as a leader in his profession - helping to advance the practice of planning at the local, state, regional, and national level.

- **American Institute of Certified Planners** (admitted 1997)
    - AICP Candidate Pilot Program Mentor 2018-present
    - Membership Standards Committee 2011-present
    - Marketing Task Force 2007-2008
  - **American Planning Association** (member since 1987)
    - National Planning Awards Jury 2011
    - Chapter President's Council 2003-2005
  - **Northern New England Chapter, American Planning Association** (member since 1989)
    - Chapter Historian 2007-2018
    - Past President 2005-2007
    - Chapter President 2003-2005
    - Chapter Vice-President 2001-2003
    - Annual Chapter Conference Co-Chair 1997 & 2000
    - Vermont Director 1995-2001
  - **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission**, Planning Advisory Committee, 2015-present
  - **University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service**, Community Planning & Development Program Board of Advisors, 2012-2015.
  - **VT Agency of Transportation and Smart Growth America**, Vermont Transportation Reform Demonstration Project: Strengthening Vermont's Economy by Integrating Transportation and Smart Growth Policy, 2013
  - **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy**, New England Planning Director's Retreat, Cambridge, MA, 2011
  - **FHWA Office of Human Environment**, Regional Livability Workshop, Cambridge, MA, 2010
  - **Vermont Planners Association** (member since 1989)
    - Vermont Director to NNECAPA 1995-2001
  - **Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Council** (Founding Member in 1991)
    - Chair 1997-1999
    - Vice Chair 1995-1997
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## Awards and Recognitions

- **College of Fellows, American Institute of Certified Planners** (elected 2018)
  - **2016 March Blucher Professional Planner of the Year**, Vermont Planners Association
  - **2013 Plan of the Year**, *planBTV: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan*, Northern New England Chapter, American Planning Association, Project Supervisor
  - **2013 Plan of the Year**, *planBTV: Downtown and Waterfront Master Plan*, Vermont Planners Association, Project Supervisor
  - **2008 Great Places in America: Public Spaces**, *Church Street Marketplace*, American Planning Association, Nominator
  - **1999 Project of the Year**, *Burlington Design Guides*, Northern New England Chapter, American Planning Association, Project Lead
  - **1999 Project of the Year**, *Burlington Design Guides*, Vermont Planners Association, Project Lead
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## Selected Presentations

David is a well-know and frequent presenter at state and chapter planning conferences, and has been a presenter at several national conferences. He also gives generously of his time working with university faculty on course projects, as a guest lecturer, and speaking one-on-one with aspiring planners.

- **Invited Guest Lecturer**, University of Vermont Rubenstein School of Natural Resources, University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Champlain College, Burlington High School, and Middlebury College Dept. of Geography
  - **Setting Up For Success: A Succession Plan For New England's Planners**, 2018 Northern New England Chapter of the APA Annual Planning Conference, Northport, ME
  - **Implementing Your Community Vision with Form Based Codes**, 2016 Northern New England Chapter of the APA Annual Planning Conference, Portsmouth, NH
  - **Comp Plans and Outreach 2.0: The Consequences of a Comp Plan that People Actually Read**, 2015 Northern New England Chapter of the APA Annual Planning Conference, Portland, ME
  - **planBTV: Mapping the future of Burlington's Downtown and Waterfront**, 2015 Northeast Arc Users Group Annual Conference, Burlington VT
  - **A Vibrant and Walkable City: Creating a New Form Based Code for Burlington's Downtown and Waterfront**, Northeast Region CSI Conference 2013 - Green and Sustainable Vermont, Shelburne, VT
  - **planBTV: Downtown & Waterfront Plan**, HUD Region I 2013 Sustainable Communities Conference, Amherst, MA
  - **A Tale of Two Waterfronts: Burlington, Vermont's Story**, 2012 Northern New England Chapter of the APA Annual Planning Conference, Brunswick. ME
  - **Planning Directors in the Hot Seat**, 2011 American Planning Association National Planning Conference, Boston, MA
  - **Energy Planning within the Context of a Comprehensive Plan**, 2008 American Planning Association National Planning Conference, Las Vegas, NV
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- **30 years of Design Review in Burlington, VT**, 12th National Conference on Planning History: Joint Conference of the Society of City and Regional Planning History and the Northern New England Chapter of the APA, Portland, ME, 2007
  - **Unique Community Sustainable Development Campaigns**, 2006 Northern New England Chapter of the APA Annual Planning Conference, Meredith, NH
  - **Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Planning**, 2006 American Planning Association National Planning Conference, San Antonio, TX
  - **Planning for Healthy Lifestyles**, 2005 Northern New England Chapter of the APA Annual Planning Conference, Bar Harbor, ME
  - **2000 Burlington Open Space Protection Plan**, The Wildlife Society National Conference, So. Burlington, VT, 2003
  - **Writing Design Guidelines**, 2002 American Planning Association National Planning Conference, Chicago, IL
  - **The Role of Greenspace in Smart Growth Planning**, 1999 Vermont Smart Growth Conference, Burlington, VT
  - **Stewardship of the Urban Landscape**, UVM Extension System Urban and Community Forestry Workshop, 1997 and 1998
  - **Multimodal Transportation Planning**, 1996 Northern New England Chapter of the APA Annual Chapter Planning Conference, Portsmouth, NH
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## Personal

David has been a member of the National Ski Patrol since 1981 serving as both a professional (Alta Ski Lifts, 1984-87) and volunteer (Smugglers' Notch, 1981-84 & 1999-present). He holds current certifications as an Outdoor Emergency Care Technician, CPR and AED Professional Rescuer, Alpine Senior Patroller, Level I Avalanche Instructor, and Ski and Toboggan Instructor and Trainer/Evaluator.

David and his wife Susan have three adult sons, and are passionate about being outdoors as much as they can. They are often found in the mountains skiing and hiking, on their boat enjoying Lake Champlain, or traveling to new destinations.

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