



What does a
next-generation Vermont
city look like?

South Burlington's Economic Development Strategy

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City Manager
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Our Community



Approximately **21,713** residents



8% population growth from 2018 to 2023 — 2x faster than Vermont and the U.S.



70% of South Burlington residents aged 25+ have a BA or Higher



Prime talent pool (ages 25-44) is 5% larger than the U.S. average and 13% more than Vermont



\$97,229 median household income — approximately 24% higher than the U.S. average.



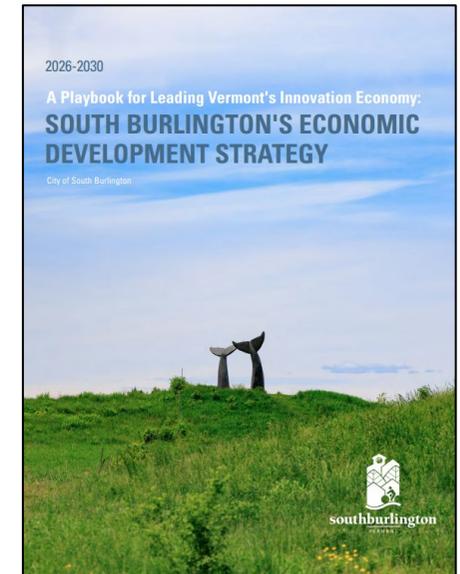
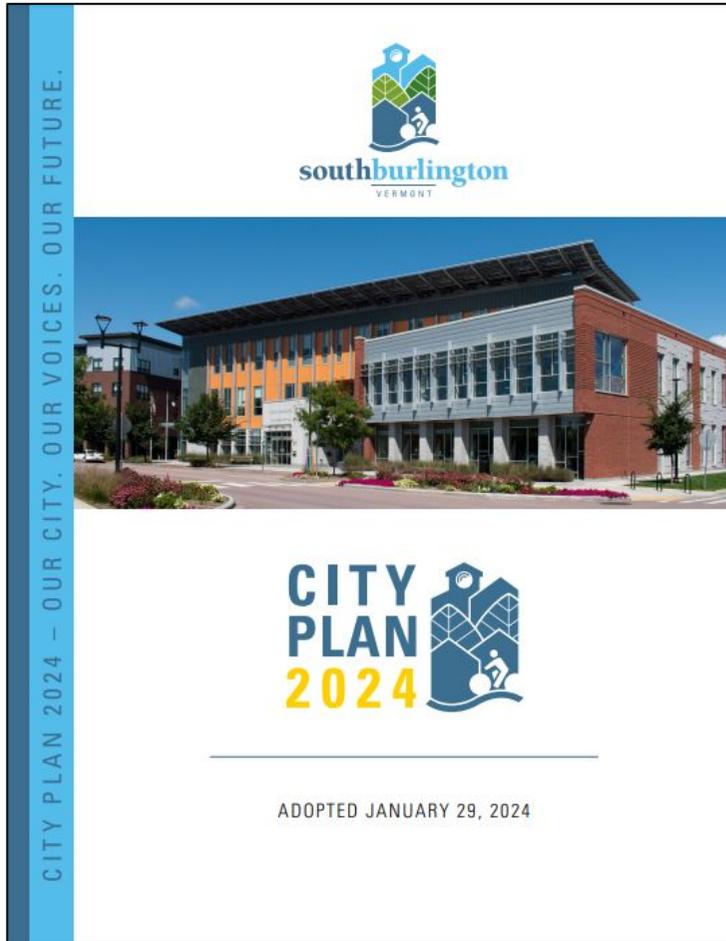
73.5% labor force participation rate — 10% higher the national average



18-minute median commute — shorter than many peer cities



Standing on the Foundation of Shared Goals



Addressing the Housing and Climate Crisis

Progress to Date



Invested in City Center

- \$70M invested in infrastructure
- 950 new homes
- 87,000 ft² of commercial space
- \$109M in assessed value added



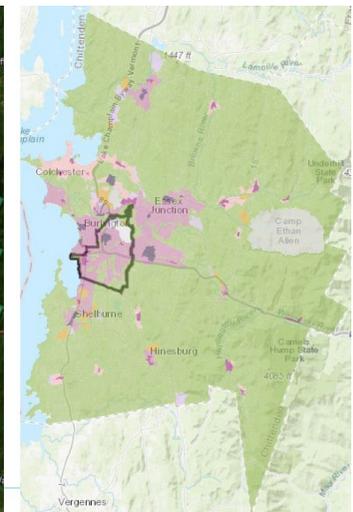
Updated Zoning in City Center

- What we learned from the 20 new buildings over past 10 years
- Increased maximum heights to 12-14 stories



Partnering with State and Region

- Supported housing targets to add 7,500 new homes by 2050
- Requested Tier 1B status and working toward Tier 1A – exemption from Act 250
- Eliminated residential density caps and reduced minimum lot sizes throughout the city to support infill
- Consolidated commercial use categories in zoning to simplify process for new businesses to be established



South Burlington: A More Innovative Future—With You at the Center



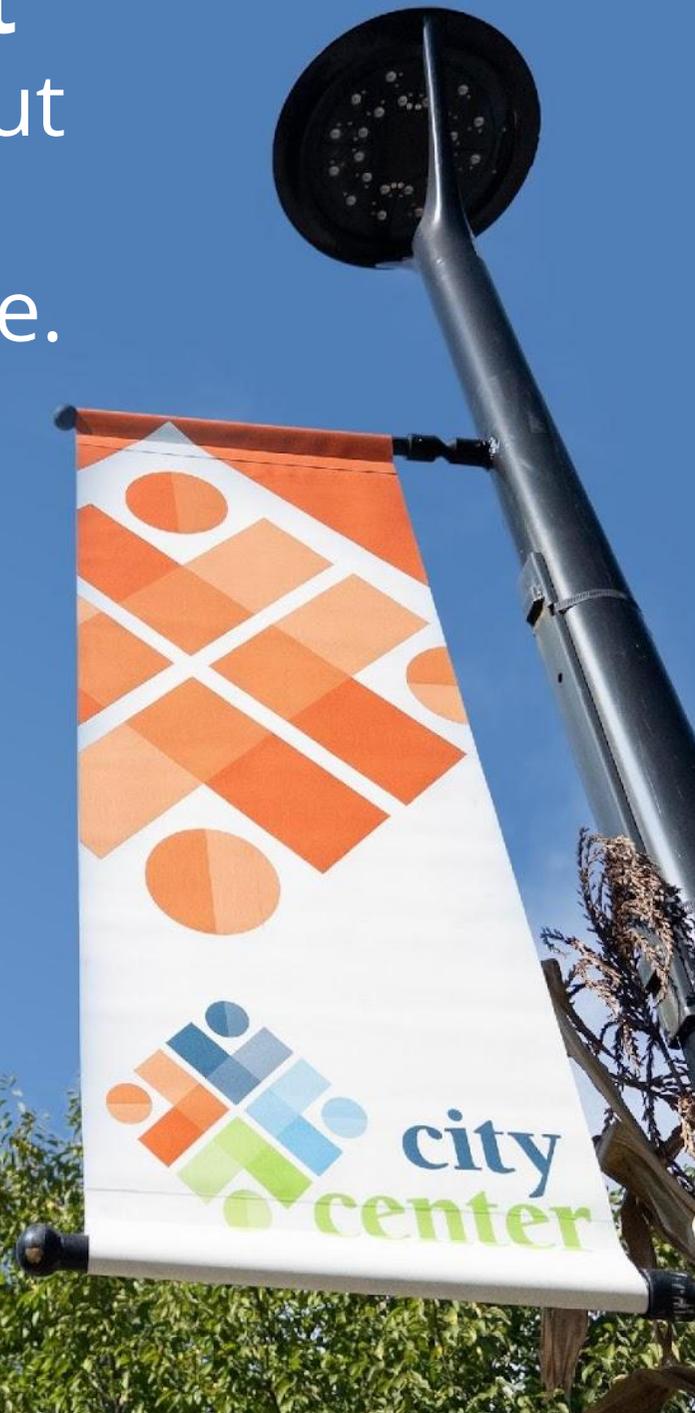
We stand at a defining moment.

- Already the economic heart of Chittenden County, with nearly 20% of the region's jobs.
- A hub for life sciences, clean manufacturing, and electric aviation.
- Global firms are investing, homegrown innovators are scaling, and a highly educated, civically engaged population is ready to lead what's next.
- Younger and faster-growing than Vermont as a whole, we offer a glimpse of what's possible for the state's economic future.
- And we are placing climate action at the center of that future—treating sustainability not as a constraint, but as a catalyst.

But this transformation isn't just about industry—it's about people, place, and the small businesses that power local life.

City Center is becoming Vermont's next entrepreneurial and civic hub: a vibrant district for startups, culture, and community connection.

Downtown energy, local ownership, and placemaking are ensuring that talent and businesses are not just coming, but staying.





SOUTH BURLINGTON—BOLD BY NATURE. POWERED BY INNOVATION.

A landscape for us: creatives, founders, builders, and doers. Where next-generation industries scale, talent thrives, City Center comes to life, and climate and community values lead the way—powering Vermont's next economy.

South Burlington — Bold by Nature. Powered by Innovation.

Goal 1
Bold Innovation That
Powers the Future.

We will grow South Burlington into a hub for leading-edge, clean, and high-value innovation.

Goal 2
A Place Where Talent
Belongs.

We will make South Burlington the place where diverse talent and entrepreneurs stay and succeed.

Goal 3
A Destination That Draws You
In.

We will transform South Burlington into a vibrant destination that appeals to residents and visitors alike.

Goal 4
Ready for What's Next.

We will prepare South Burlington to welcome quality growth and investment—with aligned processes, ready sites, and the tools to support them.

Goal 5
Built to Deliver.

We will build an economic development team to deliver on South Burlington's potential.

GOAL 3

A Destination That Draws You In



We are transforming South Burlington into a vibrant destination that appeals to residents and visitors alike.

3.1

Activate City Center as a year-round civic and entrepreneurial hub through partnerships, programming, and business activity that bring the district to life.

3.2

Support the transformation of University Mall into a mixed-use district that blends housing, retail, and public space.

3.3

Launch a hospitality and placemaking initiative to enhance both the visitor and resident experience.

3.4

Strengthen South Burlington's destination appeal by working with regional partners to promote the city as more than a gateway— an experience in its own right

3.5

Invest in active transportation infrastructure to create a destination shaped by both mobility and quality of life.

Three target sectors anchor Chittenden County's innovation-driven growth.

Sector	Why It Matters	Current Strengths
Electric Aviation & Aerospace	A fast-growing, export-oriented cluster that positions South Burlington at the forefront of the clean aviation and defense innovation.	Anchored by BETA Technologies, Vermont Air National Guard, and General Dynamics; strong export activity and workforce specialization
Life Sciences	One of the region's fastest-growing and most productive clusters, driving high-wage research and commercial potential.	Strong base in diagnostics and testing; supported by the University of Vermont, Eurofins, and Aspent Health; GRP per job is over \$215,000
Chips & Advanced Electronics	A highly specialized cluster with national relevance and strategic supply chain value.	Home to OnLogic and near GlobalFoundries; sector specialization; \$120 M+ in imported inputs indicating supply chain opportunity.

Join Us!



South Burlington Business Association membership



South Burlington City Center Collaborative membership



Build, develop, open a small business (or a large one!)



Volunteer on a Committee or at an Event

Tell our shared story as a welcoming community and region!

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southburlington
VERMONT