



**What's Next for Vermont?
Building Strong Communities in the "New Normal"**

-AGENDA-

- 1:00 **Welcome** – Jenna Koloski, VCDA Board Chair
- 1:10 **KEYNOTE** – Paul Costello, Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development
*What are the most significant impacts of Covid-19 on Vermont's economy and communities?
What are the potential needs and opportunities for future recovery, resilience, and renewal?*
- 1:30 **What does the data tell us?**
Current impacts and considerations going forward—what indicators are important to track our recovery in the future?
- Kevin Stapleton, Assistant Director, Economic & Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor
- 2:00 **Housing—the Landscape Today and Available Resources**
How has the pandemic affected the housing market, what new programs are available to address these challenges, and how can communities leverage these investments to support their residents and local housing markets?
- Maura Collins, Executive Director, Vermont Housing Finance Agency
 - Joe Kasprzak, Assistant Town Manager, St. Johnsbury (Rental Housing Improvement Program)
- 2:30 **The Future of Vermont's Businesses and Downtowns**
What does recovery look like for Vermont's downtowns? How have consumer behavior, retail, and dining been transformed, what creative strategies are businesses pursuing, and what will the lasting impacts be?
- Tripp Muldrow, Arnett Muldrow & Associates, Ltd
 - Representative Matt Birong, owner, 3 Squares Restaurant, Vergennes
- 3:00 **Breakout Discussions: Workshopping challenges and opportunities together**
- 3:25 **Report Out & Adjourn**