

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

**Meeting Notes for November 16, 2011**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at SWCRPC in Ascutney, VT, at 7:00pm. The quorum was not met.

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Bruce McEnaney (Chair), Chester; Sharon Bixby (Vice Chair), Ludlow; Kristi Morris, Springfield; Neil Daniels, Weathersfield; and Mary Habig (CRT).

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

**2013 Regional Transportation Plan (handout)**

Discussion of new transportation plan update.

Some potential regional transportation issues to consider:

- Transportation funding
- Aging infrastructure (highway and rail)
- Rural/ community character
- Demographic shifts
- Land use development patterns
- Access to jobs/ Commuting options
- Alternative modes of transportation
- Tourism
- Energy and climate change
- Hazard mitigation and emergency planning – including evacuation routes
- Safety and security
- Environmental mitigation
- Park and rides

Other items discussed

- bring ANR to the table – What do they recommend when we are planning for transportation?
- Green Mountain railroad trestle conditions
- Park and rides needs – particularly exits 7 and 9.

**Tropical Storm Irene Recovery**

Overall recovery is going well, with VT-131 opening last week and VT-106 due to re-open soon. Most local roads and bridges are now open. Katharine is currently working on a project with ANR to map areas where debris/ice jams or bank destabilization that be an issue over the winter/ in the spring/

Question

- How is recovery going for the railroads?
- What efforts are being taken to look at the contributing factors to the movement of the rivers – such as the Cavendish avulsion?
- What is being done to assess the condition of all the waterways? Abit like a bridge inspections, but instead looking at the streams

## **Updates and announcements**

- a. *South Woodstock bridge project (SEP-14)*. New project in South Woodstock. Although outside the region, we felt it would be useful to keep track of the project as it may affect commuters using VT-106, particularly those living in Reading. The project is going ahead with phased construction so the impact to travelers is likely to be minimal.
- b. *State Public Transit Plan* – VIT hearing November 16<sup>th</sup> and Intercity Bus Needs Consultative Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Katharine and Mary were in attendance.
- c. *Transportation Enhancement Grants* – Review of applications has been delayed.
- d. *MUTCD (Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices, ie signs and road markings)* – Public comment period closed at the end of October for proposed revisions to the manual which would relieve pressure on towns to replace all their signs so fast. Changes have not yet been approved.
- e. *Byways* – Katharine attended the Vermont Byways Summit in Montpelier. The new National Byways Grant round was announced last week.
- f. *Complete Streets* – On July 1, 2011, the new Complete Streets law came into effect. Practical interpretation of the new law is still being worked out. It would affect construction projects on all paved roads (town and state) – whether they have to apply the principles or they can prove that they do not need to. Katharine attended a Complete Streets Workshop in October which included an interesting session on classifying roads according to the types of users you want to encourage on a section of road (see handout) – enabling a community to recognize the areas where, for example, through traffic is secondary to local (pedestrian) traffic.

**Next Meeting:** January 18, 2011 at 7 pm

## **Future agenda items**

- Legislative update – what might come up over the next year
- Project Prioritization