

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

**Meeting Notes of November 20, 2013**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the SWCRPC office in Ascutney at 6pm. The quorum was not met.

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon (Vice Chair); Michelle Lindberg, Cavendish; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; and Jeff Taft-Dick, Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition.

Others present: Katharine Otto and Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC; and Matthew Langham, VTrans.

**Meeting Opened:** Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

**Welcome and introductions**

**All agenda items that needed quorum were postponed until the next meeting**

Tom Kenyon had a correction for the 6/19/2013 minutes to be considered at the next meeting – change reference to the FFY 2013 Transportation Work Program to FFY 2014 in the motion.

**Comments from TAC to VTrans**

Tom Kenyon raised a concern about the upcoming major maintenance work on Bridge 7 in West Windsor – that the shoulder width on the bridge was not being expanded enough to safely accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians during the deck reconstruction project which is due to happen next summer. The West Windsor Selectboard would prefer to see the project delayed and wait for enough funding so that the expanded shoulders could be included. It was explained that the bridge may take a very long time (decades even) for the bridges to rise in the priority lists that also include sub and superstructure work – as only the deck is in bad condition.

**Regional Transportation Plan Update**

Jason Rasmussen gave an overview of why the Update is needed. Reasons included:

- Required to update transportation plan at least once every five years (even though now 8 years for the remainder of the Regional Plan)
- All Vermont Regional Planning Commissions had their Regional Plans reviewed for conformance with statutory requirements, effectiveness in development review proceedings (Act 250 and Section 248), and user-friendliness. SWCRPC’s Transportation section did not do so well in some areas – so these sections need attention (eg prioritized list of transportation improvements, effectiveness in development review proceedings).

Katharine and Jason then led discussion of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update drafts:

- Introduction
  - o No comments at this time
  - o Please let Katharine know if you have any additional user groups or connections you would like us to make during outreach on this plan.
- Chapter 3 – Transportation Networks
  - o 3.1.1. Regional Road Corridors.
    - Page 8 – can we refer to high risk locations, not just high crash locations? While the statewide method of determining eligibility for projects is currently led by proven high risk locations (ie there has been several crashes), the TAC wants to make sure the RTP also includes places with high risk (ie where several near misses or where crashes are likely to happen but have not yet). Example of VT-44 and VT-44A intersection discussed.
  - o Recently complete, programmed and future needs
    - Add 2 scoping bike-ped projects (North Ludlow and North Springfield)
    - Remove point 57 – about improving safety on steep incline on VT-100

- Sort list by Category for next meeting so easier to prioritize. Prioritizing list will be hard, but TAC will try to separate the more urgent needs from the wish list projects.
    - Check whether bridge 7 in West Windsor is listed twice
  - Tom Kenyon – Should prioritize work on road which stayed open during Irene – eg Brownsville-Hartland Road – which are important regional connections when state roads are closed in a major event – eg Irene, July 2014 storms. Should also note which roads are likely to be adversely affected by events – eg Tyson Road, County Road – so that evacuation and emergency services can plan ahead for movement around the area in a disaster.
  - Consider adding information to the RTP about the location of gravel pits and other sources of material needed to restore roadways and bridges during a disaster.
- Maps – were not discussed in this meeting

## **VOBCIT**

Katharine Otto gave an overview of the newly revised Vermont Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool which can be found at [www.vtculverts.org](http://www.vtculverts.org). Katharine handed out a Quick Users Guide to VOBCIT – which is also available online on the website. The tool should contain nearly every town bridge and culvert in the Region – as the RPC has been helping Towns to update their inventories each summer and uploading the information. This summer/ fall there were updates for Reading, Windsor and Andover, with some other minor work done with the West Windsor, Ludlow and Chester inventories. Within the inventory (without logging in) you can see information about the culverts and bridges – including dimensions, location (with interactive map), condition and other useful information.

## **Updates and Announcements**

- a) Amtrak bikes on trains – Jeff Taft-Dick gave an update on the pilot of allowing bikes on Amtrak Trains. Despite some unfortunate mishaps for the Vermonter pilot which Jeff was due to participate in (including extremely warm weather and train delays), the Ethan Allen pilot on the western side of Vermont went well. News about the pilot being extended to permanent ability to bring bikes on trains has not been heard.
- b) Construction Projects
  - a. I-91 bridge in Windsor over VT-44 – Rolling road blocks will be happening again – this time in the first week of December. Then both bridges will be opened up quite soon after for the winter, and construction on the southbound bridge will start in the spring.
  - b. VT-131 repaving in Weathersfield is almost complete.
  - c. VT-131 repaving in Cavendish – have not seen any plans or heard any construction updates recently
  - d. VT-131 Bridge 1 in Cavendish (Whitesville) – will include a bridge closure next summer. Michelle Lindberg is concerned about the potential effect of increased traffic on the local roads which have several culverts in poor condition

## **Next Meeting Date**

December 18, 2013 and then January 15, 2014.

*Meeting concluded at 7:45pm*