

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

**Meeting Notes of March 16, 2011 (No quorum)**

No quorum was present, so an informal meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at SWCRPC in Ascutney, VT, at 7:00pm.

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Sharon Bixby (Vice Chair), Ludlow; Kristi Morris, Springfield; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; and Steve Cottrell, Windsor.

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

**Review of high crash sites**

Jason Rasmussen explained how the High Risk Rural Roads program works. The High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) program is intended to implement the VT Strategic Highway Safety Plan in reducing crashes on local roads and rural state highways. VTrans is funding only projects on local roads, even though certain state highways are eligible under federal rules. A short list of locations was determined based on state crash data and input from local police departments. Springfield's Pleasant Valley Road went through the Road Safety Audit part in summer 2010 and is expecting some minor safety upgrades as suggested by the Audit later this year.

The TAC reviewed three locations:

- French Meadow Road in Springfield, between Spoonerville and Bellows Roads
- Fairground Road in Springfield, at the intersection of Route 11
- Reservoir Road in Weathersfield, at the intersection with Wellwood Orchard Road

Discussion points:

- French Meadow Road – used as a short cut in the right seasons. The top of the hill can be bad
- Fairground Road – definite improvement to sight distances since the burst water main. A few minor signs might help, although the issues are mainly on the VT-11 part of the intersection (and VT-11 is not eligible).
- Wellwood Orchard Road is steep as it approaches Reservoir Road and the stop sign comes up fast. There is a visibility issue for all approaches to the intersection

Points to follow up on:

- Is Reservoir Road slated for rebuild?
- Alter methodology slightly for coming year? Crash data is not showing many high crash locations. Look to collect more of the anecdotal information about crash locations which are not reported to the police.

**Update to access management permit categories**

Katharine Otto and Jason Rasmussen explained a little of the background of the access management category updates:

**The Task from VTrans** -Update the current Access Management Map used by VTrans in the approval of Sect. 1111 access to State Highways Permits and in successful completion of Corridor Management Planning. The current map was created 10 years ago and an update is necessary to ensure accuracy.

**The Need:** VTrans Utilities/Permits unit utilizes the Access Management Classification Map (AMCM) when approving Sect. 1111 permit applications. The classifications describe the desired level of mobility for individual highway corridors. Each of the 6 Access Management Categories recommend evaluation criterion such as travel speed, traffic volume, and travel distance. VTrans Planning, Outreach, and Community Affairs utilize the AMCM when undertaking Corridor Management Planning with the RPCs/MPO and the municipalities. Access Management is one of the most effective tools in the Planning toolbox when planning for future transportation and land use. Effective Access Management has the potential for reducing future high cost transportation roadway projects.

**Steps taken so far:**

1. Contact Utilities and Permits Unit for their opinion on how the current access categories are working in our region – Theresa Gilman (D3), Larry Wheeler (D4), Del Thompson (D2)
2. Reviewed all state access permits issued by the state over the last 10 years. Received a list of all permits issued, denied and withdrawn from 2000-2010 on January 18, 2011 from Sabine Frost. Processed this information (including adding it to a map) to see if there are any particular clusters of development. A summary and map of this information was provided to the TAC as a handout.
3. Looked at aerial images of highways to see whether the categories make sense.
4. Field Work. Drove sections with unusual characteristics (106 in Springfield, Route 10 from North Springfield to Gassetts, 103 from Gassetts to Chester, 11 from Chester to Springfield).
5. Now bringing it to TAC for review and to brainstorm how to move forwards.

**The TAC looked at an annotated map of the locations which seemed logical according to work already done:**

Villages (Make category 6)

1. Felchville – need to move related category six slightly further north to the intersection with Tyson – where the settlement actually is.
2. Perkinsville – need to add
3. Gassetts – need to add
- Other sections where increased development – should we encourage further development outside of villages?

Places without categories

4. Route 100 in Andover (Make category 4)
5. Route 11 near Chester/ Springfield border (make consistent with points 8 through 10 below)
6. Route 10 and 106 intersection (make consistent with point 11 below)

Places where category should be changed

7. Route 5 in Ascutney - Move change from Category 6 to 4 on Route 5 to after the intersection with VT-131
8. Route 11 - Change to Category 4? or keep at Category 3 and upgrade section 10?

9. Route 11 - Change to Category 4? or keep at Category 3 and upgrade section 10?
10. Route 11 - Upgrade to category 3 or downgrade sections 8 and 9?
11. Route 106 in Springfield - Where should the category change from 4 to 3? Or should the area be recognized as category 6?

**Points to follow up on and next steps:**

- What would the implications be of making Route 11 category 3 or 4?
- Talk to the DTA?
- Review zoning?

**Updates and announcements**

**Legislative Updates**

A summary of transportation legislation for this session was handed out. Nothing major going on. Project deletion seems to be moving forward.

**Non-metropolitan Local Official Involvement Document Comments**

On March 14<sup>th</sup> SWCRPC submitted comments on the non-metropolitan local official involvement document. No comments were received from the TAC from the email soliciting comments. The main comment from SWCRPC was asking to extend commenting periods so that TACs can participate (2 months preferably) and also updating references to document releases to include distribution by email and website.

**State Freight Plan**

Jason will be attending a follow up focus group meeting in Brattleboro on Friday

**Updated town road and bridge standards**

It has been confirmed that the copy of the update town road and bridge standards included in the December 2010 legislative report is the final version. Still unclear whether all towns have received notification of the updated standards with the materials for the Class 2 road and structures grant materials.

**VT-100 Scenic Byway**

Materials are now online. Come and support the effort at the public hearing on March 24<sup>th</sup> if you can.

**Way To Go Week (May 16-20)**

Keep thinking about it. Will be doing more outreach in the next month as more promotional materials become available.

**Future Agenda Topics**

- Salt brine
- Access management permit categories

**Next Meeting:** April 20, 2011 at 7 pm

*Meeting finished about 8:20pm*