

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

Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2013

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the SWCRPC office in Ascutney at 6pm.

Attendance – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice Chair); Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Jeff Slade, Weathersfield; and Mary Habig, CRT.

Others present: Katharine Otto and Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC; Jennifer Peterson, Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

Meeting Opened: Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Emergency Assistance and Relief Fund (ERAF) Rule

Jason Rasmussen gave an update on the new ERAF rule which was finalized in October 2012 and will come into effect October 23, 2014. In the event of a federally declared disaster, this rule determines how much match the state and local government contribute after FEMA awards 75% (or 90%) of the project cost for repair or replacement of damaged public infrastructure. . The updated rule has a sliding scale, depending on how what codes, standards, plans and regulations a town has in place. For towns to get 50% of the state and local match covered by the State, they must have:

1. Town road and bridge standards consistent with or exceeding those listed under the most current version of Town Road & Bridge Standards, *Handbook for Local Officials*, published by the Vermont Agency of Transportation;
2. A flood hazard bylaw, or an adopted interim flood hazard bylaw as an intermediary step (24 VSA §4415), to secure enrollment and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), if applicable;
3. A local Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets the provisions of 44 CFR § 201.6 that has been approved by the local community, and is approved or in the process of securing final approval by FEMA. The local mitigation plan may be part of a larger multijurisdictional or regional mitigation plan; and,
4. Adopted a local Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in accordance with State standards.

Jason will email around the final rule – which has more details. If anyone has further questions about the new rule and whether towns have these 4 items, they should talk to Jason or John Broker-Campbell (Emergency planner in the RPC office).

Katharine and Jason also discussed the newest version of the Town Road and Bridge Standards – which were developed by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and VTrans, with input from a variety of other groups including road foremen, Vermont Local Roads (VLR) and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). These standards were sent to towns a few weeks ago. Several towns have already adopted these new standards and those who have not are encouraged to. These revised standards include clarification about culvert replacement standards complying to the VTrans Hydraulics Manual – to avoid future FEMA confusion. There is a detailed cover letter with the new standards which explain all the changes.

Acceptance of minutes of January 16, 2013 minutes

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of January 16, 2013 with a change to say that Complete Streets were discussed as part of the HUD Sustainability Plan section, but not agreed upon as a method for reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled. Seconded by Sharon Bixby. Approved unanimously with Jeff Slade abstaining.

Critical Transportation Issues – results of the TAC survey in Fall 2012

Katharine handed out a summary of the Transportation questionnaire results – which was completed by everyone on the TAC in the fall. The TAC briefly discussed:

- the difference between the adequacy of maintenance of state and local infrastructure

- how important safety was and preserving the condition of roads and bridges
- the barriers faced when addressing transportation issues – funding, regulations, permitting, etc

High Risk Rural Roads Program

Katharine 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, road foremen and town managers. Projects would go through a Road Safety Audit in summer 2013, then recommendations of minor safety upgrades (eg lines, guardrails, signs) would be made to the town for their approval and then the minor safety upgrades would be funded and installed by VTrans the next summer.

The group discussed the following potential sites for the High Risk Rural Roads Program and ranked them as follows:

Town	Location	Type	Comments	Rank by type
Ludlow	Okemo Mountain Road (near Okemo Ridge Road intersection)	Intersection	Town Manager, Police Chief and Road Foreman comments make sense	1
Springfield	Summer St and Summer Hill St	Intersection	Town Manager, Police Chief and Road Foreman comments make sense.	2
Windsor	Juniper Hill Road (modified to be intersection with County Road)	Section (modified to be intersection)	Police Chief and Road Foreman comments make sense. Biggest problem near intersection with County Road so suggest focusing on that. County Road is used as an alternative to US-5.	3 (dependent on Town Manager okay)
Springfield	South St - on uphill section between Mineral St and Union St	Section	Town Manager, Police Chief and Road Foreman comments make sense	1
Springfield	Park St near Union St and Prospect St	Section	Town Manager, Police Chief and Road Foreman comments make sense. Lots of crashes outside Jasinskis. Issues with people staying in lane	2
Springfield	Fairground Road	Section	Town Manager, Police Chief and Road Foreman comments make sense. Access near recycling center was widened a few years ago. This road is a short cut for VT-106.	3
Andover	North Hill Road	Section	Remove – not enough crashes	Remove

Project Prioritization

Katharine reviewed the prioritization process for this year, including both prioritizing projects in VTrans’ budget as well as identifying new “pre-candidate” needs for the Town Highway Bridge program. Katharine presented the list of transportation projects, including programmed projects the TAC prioritized last year. Katharine reviewed the process to prioritize town bridge projects in two separate categories based on VTrans guidance:

1. “Front of Book” and “Development & Evaluation” Projects – programmed town bridge projects
2. “Pre-Candidate” Needs – evaluating potential new town bridge projects that VTrans should consider to program as “Candidate” Town Highway Bridge Program projects

The TAC established a list of the Region's priority project priorities (listed by category):

Bike and Pedestrian Facilities

1. (Joint) – Ludlow bike path project

Park and Ride Lots

1. Springfield Park and Ride

Paving

- Katharine received information late on Wednesday afternoon about the potential of listing Class 1 Town Highway Paving projects to the list but has not followed up with the potential towns yet.
- Tom Kenyon had an update for VT-44 on the list – that sewer construction would most likely be 2015-2017
- Discussion postponed until next March

Roadway projects

1. Smithville Reconstruction project in Ludlow/ Cavendish on VT103

State Highway Bridges

1. Andover Bridge 41 on VT-11 – already in Development and Evaluation
 2. Chester bridge 14 on VT-103 – big bridge across railroad and river
- TAC assumed that Culverts BR15 and BR11B have already been replaced ahead of this summer's paving on VT-131 and thus did not prioritize.

Town Highway Bridges (just Front of Book and Development & Evaluation projects)

1. Ludlow Bridge 25 (Walker Bridge) on VT-103 (Main St)

Discussion of the Town Highway Bridge Program Candidates and Pre-Candidates was postponed until the March meeting – as Katharine has not finished compiling information for this list yet.

Updates and Announcements

- a. Regional Transportation Network Needs and Priorities for Regional Transportation Update
- b. Legislative update
 - a. Road and Bridge standards update – released a few weeks ago.
 - b. Trans Funding study and public meetings
<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/Documents/Sec%2040%20Funding%20Study%20-%20Final%20Legislative%20Report%20Jan%208%202013.pdf>
 - c. Transportation Board Report 2012 <http://tboard.vermont.gov/>
- d. Construction projects
 - a. VT-131 – Due to go out to bid in March. Construction summer 2013. Crosswalk.
 - b. South Woodstock – in 2014
 - c. Andover bridge - Regional Concerns Meeting on March 14 at 6:30pm at Andover Town Hall.
 - d. Interstate bridges – Governor's Budget included three interstate bridges in the region – one in Springfield, the one at exit 8 in Acutney and the Windsor bridge over the Narrows/ VT44.
- e. Scenic Route 100 Byway – final application for extension will be mailed on Friday with Public Hearing in front of the Vermont Byways Council in Londonderry on March 15.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be March 20, 2013 and will include completing Project Prioritization and discussing the Town Highway Bridge Program Pre-Candidates.

Gordy Eastman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Seconded by Jeff Slade. Approved unanimously.