

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

Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2012

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at SWCRPC in Ascutney, VT, at 7:00pm.

Attendance – TAC members present: Bruce McEnaney (Chair), Chester; Sharon Bixby (Vice Chair), Ludlow; Kristi Morris, Springfield; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Neil Daniels, Weathersfield; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; and Mark Huntley, Cavendish.

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

Meeting Opened: Bruce McEnaney opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Introductions

Welcomed new TAC member appointed by the Town of Cavendish, Mark Huntley.

Acceptance of minutes of February 15, 2012 minutes

Neil moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2012 as written. Seconded by Kristi Morris. Approved unanimously.

Election of Officers and Appointment of At-Large Members

Several TAC members have not been re-appointed yet by their towns so this agenda item is tabled until the April meeting.

Project Prioritization List

Jason Rasmussen 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. Jason and Katharine Otto presented the list of transportation projects, including programmed projects the TAC prioritized last year. The list of pre-candidates has not yet been released by VTrans and will be prioritized at the next TAC meeting.

The following categories remained the same as prioritized at the last meeting:

Bike and Pedestrian Facilities

1. Ludlow bike path project

Park and Ride Lots

1. Springfield Park and Ride

Roadway

1. Cavendish-Ludlow (Smithville)

The TAC opted not to rank two projects – Weathersfield Scenic Byway land acquisition and Windsor TCSE projects – due to those being very different funding programs. However, both projects are important for the region.

Safety and Traffic Operations

1. Springfield to Hartford – Replace signs along US-5.

Town Highway Bridges

1. Ludlow Br25 (Walker Bridge)

The TAC re-prioritized the following categories by consensus:

Paving

1. Weathersfield – resurface VT-131
2. Chester-Springfield – resurface VT-10 & Chester – resurface VT-11 and VT-103 in the village
3. West Windsor – resurface VT-44

NOTE: The Town of Chester requested paving the Class 1 portions of VT Routes 11 and 103 within the Village. Mike Folwer (VTrans) suggested adding that on the the scheduled VT Route 10 paving project. Therefore, the two projects are combined as the #2 project since they will occur at the same time.

State Highway Bridges

1. Weathersfield BR15 (big culvert) on VT-131
2. Ludlow BR102 (big culvert) on VT-100
3. Weathersfield BR11B (big culvert) on VT-131

The TAC did not rank the Cavendish Bridge 1 on VT-100 as it is funded through the Emergency Relief program.

Discussion points:

- Paving projects – Addition of two new projects following a discussion with Mike Fowler (VTrans Pavement Management Engineer). The two additions (resurfacing VT-11 and VT-103 in Chester and resurfacing VT-44 in West Windsor) would not be projects on their own, but tacked onto existing big paving projects since they are either Class 1 Town Highways or have low AADTs – VT-10 for Chester village paving (due in FY2015) and US-5 for VT-44 (about 5 years out).
- VT-131 resurface – request addition of rumble strips if possible to improve safety of VT-106 intersection.
- State Highway Bridges – Neil looked at Culvert Br11B in Weathersfield and says it is reinforced concrete and looks as good as when installed and there is no evidence in the roadway of a problem. RPC to check with District about condition of this culvert. Neil also looked at Culver Br15 in Weathersfield, which is a corrugate metal pipe, but couldn't see enough of the structure to judge condition.

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the priorities as discussed. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Prioritizing the Pre-Candidate Bridge List

Katharine and Jason explained how the prioritizing the Pre-Candidate Bridge list helps VTrans to determine which projects get funded in the future under the Town Highway Bridge Program.

Two bridges included on last years list were removed:

- Howard Hill Bridge in Andover (Br 28) – was being repaired when Irene hit, some damage was sustained to the footings. All repairs to the bridge are now complete.
- Green Mountain Turnpike bridge 13 in Chester – was damaged by Irene and repaired through FEMA Public Assistance.

The TAC established a list of the Region's pre-Candidate Town Highway Bridge project priorities:

1. Cavendish Bridge 58 on Depot Street
2. Springfield Bridge 62 (McDonalds) on Chester Road/ VT-11
3. Windsor Bridge 55 on US-5
4. Springfield Bridge 79 on Park Street
5. Chester Bridge 62 on Thompson Road

6. Weathersfield Bridge 48 on Lavigne Road
7. North Springfield Bridge 56 on Main Street
8. North Springfield Bridge 47 on Elm Street
9. Chester Culvert 28 (upgrade to bridge) on Poppledungeon Road
10. Chester Bridge 75 on Goodrich Road/ Wymans Falls Road
11. Ludlow Bridge 26 on Main Street/ VT103

The TAC recommended the following bridges seek funding through the Structures Program:

- Andover Bridge 9 on Weston-Andover Road
- Springfield Bridge 13 on Massey Road

Discussion points:

- Unknown eligibility for 2 new structures on the list – Chester Culvert 28 (upgrade to bridge) on Poppledungeon Road and Weathersfield Bridge 48 on Lavigne Road – so TAC prioritized as if eligible. Remove from list if not eligible.
- TAC wanted to recommend some of the smaller structures for the Structures Program, concentrating on prioritizing a top 10

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the priorities as discussed. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Regional Transportation Network Needs and Priorities for Regional Transportation Plan Update

The committee continued to identify project needs and recommendations for our major travel corridors for the Regional Transportation Plan Update. This map can be viewed at

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF&msa=0&msid=204794083331047901328.0004b7e8f045708cac52e>.

The TAC discussed the VT-44 and VT-44A corridors during the meeting and added and altered points on the map. Discussion of VT-11 was postponed until the next meeting.

Updates and Announcements

- a. Killington Act 250/ Ski Corridor Traffic Evaluation – Jason gave a brief summary of the two new Killington Act 250 applications – one for moving a parking lot and the other for the implementation of the first phase of their village master plan. The RPC is seeking party status in the application in order to ensure the traffic impacts are considered along the VT Route 100/103 corridor as far as Chester. We are currently attempting to revive the Ski Corridor Traffic Model which was developed nearly a decade ago when Okemo and Killington first began to talk about their master plans.
- b. Draft Report on Economic Impact of Walking and Bicycling in Vermont – VIT public meeting was held on March 15th. Comments due by March 29th to VTeconBP@rsginc.com
- c. Ludlow Walker Bridge Project – Sharon and Katharine gave an update on the project after attending the alternatives presentation on March 8th. Construction is due in Summer 2014 and would most likely require a 4-6 week closure/detour. The new bridge will be considerably wider – from 26ft now to 38ft, which includes 11ft travel lanes, shoulders and at least a 5ft sidewalk.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2012 at 7 pm

Future agenda items

- TAC bylaw amendments

Gordy Eastman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Seconded by Sharon Bixby. Approved unanimously.