

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

**Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2012**

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

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice Chair); Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Neil Daniels, Weathersfield; and Mary Habig (CRT).

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Mike Fowler, Josh Schultz and Nick Wark, VTrans; and Jim Mullen and Jeff Slade, Weathersfield.

**Introductions**

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 7 pm, followed by introductions.

**Bridge and culvert hydraulics**

Nick Wark, VTrans Hydraulics Engineer gave a presentation on bridge and culvert hydraulics, particularly as they relate to the hydraulics studies which VTrans can provide for towns. This presentation included discussions about aquatic organism passage, maintenance issues and costs, 25 year storm events, box and arch culverts vs. pipes, and culvert sizing.

**VT-131 Paving Project in Weathersfield**

Mike Fowler (VTrans Pavement Management Engineer) and Josh Schultz (VTrans Traffic Design and Safety Project Manager) discussed the VT-131 paving project due in the summer of 2013 and received feedback on existing conditions along the roadway – particularly the VT-131/VT-12/US-5 intersection in Ascutney.

The TAC discussed the following issues related to the VT-131/VT-12/US-5 intersection in Ascutney:

- Protected left turn signal is proposed for VT-131 and VT-12 approaches.
- Move islands back on VT-131 and VT-12 in order to improve turning movement space for left-turning vehicles on both US Route 5 approaches (dependent on truck turning movement study – which will use the maximum length truck of 75ft)
- Signals will be replaced and timing optimized
- Inclusion of video detection for signals (not loop)
- The Town noted pedestrian crossing safety issues. VTrans policy is to install a pedestrian crossing only if there is a sidewalk on both sides. Currently, there is no sidewalk on the SE corner of the intersection. There is a potential for pedestrian phase in lights, if warranted.
- Emergency signal pre-emption – used by emergency vehicles at Claremont’s NH-12/NH-12A intersection to turn all lights red. Potential to include them at this light if meets VTrans policy. Would need to coordinate to get same system as Claremont’s if possible. Jim Mullen was going to contact Claremont for this information.
- Loss of power at this intersection is very common. Can a 30 minute battery backup be installed to cover the time until the emergency services arrive to direct traffic? Can flip up stop signs be re-installed?
- Sight distances bad – particularly looking toward VT-12 where they are coming up a hill and around a corner from Claremont
- Speed issues – Is there any way to calm traffic? Reference to 2008 Exit 8 Interchange study. SWCRPC will provide VTrans with speed data for VT-131 collected a few years ago.
- Can advanced warning of the intersection be improved for vehicles driving along VT-131 towards the intersection?
- Will have 3ft paved shoulders for better cycling environment

The TAC discussed the following additional issues along VT-131:

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- Will the two culverts on VT131 in the VTrans budget be replaced before the repaving?
- T-up the I-91 northbound exit ramp onto VT-131 in order to minimize speeding and improve intersection safety
- VT-131/VT-106 intersection – people run the stop signs on VT-131. Not sure what else to do: rumble strips or 4-way stop? Weathersfield Police Chief says crashes at this intersection are a behavior issue – people don't "see" vehicles coming on VT-106 because they are so used to rural leisurely driving along VT-131. Access management could be improved at the intersection by (removing or narrowing existing accesses). Although, it would be difficult to accomplish at the Country Creemee stand – that may be a long term issue to address.

Tom Marsh had to leave early for another meeting – thereby no longer meeting a quorum. All action items were tabled until the next meeting, including the TAC bylaw amendments.

#### **Updates and Announcements**

- a. New Vermont Bike Map is just released: [www.vermontvacation.com/bikemap](http://www.vermontvacation.com/bikemap)

**Next Meeting:** July 18, 2012 at 7 pm

#### **Future agenda items**

- TAC bylaw amendments – final approval
- Chris Williams – Accelerated Bridge Construction