

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

Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2011

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; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Kristi Morris, Springfield; Neil Daniels, Weathersfield; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; and Tom Marsh, Windsor.

Others present: Wayne Symonds and Sue Clark, VTrans; Jason Rasmussen and Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

Meeting Opened: Bruce McEnaney opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Discussion of Replace I-91 Bridge 33 N&S over RT 44 in Windsor [IM 091-1(64)]

VTrans has programmed a project to replace Bridge 33 N&S in Interstate 91 over Mill Brook and VT Route 44. The current schedule is to complete a Design-Build RFP by mid-September and have a Design-Build Team (Contractor and Engineer) under contract by the end of the calendar year. Construction is anticipated to last for two full summers, and completed in October of 2013.

The traffic on the Interstate will be maintained by the use of crossovers such that one bridge at a time may be constructed. Traffic on Route 44 can be maintained for the majority of construction activities. However, VTrans would like to work with Windsor to close VT Route 44 for short durations during certain activities such as over head demolition and large beam installations. These closures would be planned and intermittent.

Wayne Symonds from VTrans discussed the design-build process in general and provided details on the proposed design-build project on the bridge in Windsor. The project would be the 3rd or 4th Design-Build project in Vermont. He also discussed how the project detour can be scheduled to limit the disruption to Windsor and surrounding communities.

Issues raised by TAC members:

- Duration and timing of VT-44 road closure. There would probably be four week long (7 day) closures, one in late April/May and one in late August/September in both 2012 and 2013. Expected detour would probably be VT-44A and US-5. VTrans has noted the steep turn from VT-44A to Route 5.
- Snow falling from I-91 onto VT-44. To be considered when doing specifications for new bridge barriers and maybe snow fence.
- Information about the road closures. The road contractor must have a full time PR person for communication who will, amongst other things ensure the local population is well notified about the road closures, as much ahead of time as possible.

Action items:

- Let Wayne know if there are any particularly bad weeks for closing VT-44.
- In late August/ beginning of September Wayne is hoping to have a draft RFP ready so TAC and local officials can check it over.

Acceptance of Minutes of May 18, 2011

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of May 18, 2011 as written. Second by Kristi Morris. Approved unanimously.

Tree Maintenance

Tom Kenyon raised a concern about the number of dead and dying trees along state roads. CVPS are good at removing trees, but for sections of roadway where there are no utility lines tree removal is a problem.

Action point - Jason/Katharine to reach out to DTA about how they deal with dead and dying trees. Also ascertain how local residents (maybe tree wardens) can help identify or prioritize problem trees.

Updates and announcements

- North Springfield Biomass Plant Project – Springfield, Chester and the RPC received the pre-filing package last week, comments are due within 38 days. The project will require a Certificate of Public Good issued by the Public Service Board under Act 248. The complete petition (or application) should be submitted later in August or September. The pre-filing package does not contain much detailed information. The SWCRPC will be reviewing the petition once it arrives to evaluate traffic and other impacts, as well as deciding whether to file for intervener status.
- Airport access road in Weathersfield – Weathersfield was not awarded a Class 2 Roadway grant to re-pave the Airport Road, but the Town has budgeted \$10,000 to shim the roadway this year. There is an on-going effort to look into transferring ownership of the road to the State. Strafford and surrounding towns are currently asking the State to take over ownership of VT 132. That process can be used as a model for how/if to proceed with such a request.
- Chester bridge project – Both bridges were re-opened to traffic on Monday. Bruce reported that the general consensus is that the closures had not been as bad for local businesses as expected. Sharon shared photos of the new bridges.
- Way To Go Program – Handed out a summary sheet on activities leading up to the event from May 16-20th. Results are slowly being released. SWCRPC came 5th statewide in the micro-business category. Data about where participating commuters were going from and to should be released in the next few months.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2011 at 7 pm

Future agenda items

- Prioritizing Transportation Enhancement projects
- Train trip

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Second by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.