

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

Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2012

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

Attendance – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice Chair); Shep Thomas, Baltimore; Mark Huntley, Cavendish; Bruce McEnaney, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Jeff Slade, Weathersfield, and Mary Habig (CRT).

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

Meeting Opened: Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Acceptance of minutes of May 16 and June 20, 2012 minutes

Shep Thomas moved to approve the minutes of May 16 and June 20, 2012 as written. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.

I-91 bridge over VT-44 in the Narrows – Windsor (Wayne Symonds)

Wayne gave a quick update on the Design-Build project for I-91 over VT-44 in Windsor. The bid opening is scheduled for next week. Windsor and the RPC will be involved in the Public Relations plan.

Accelerated Bridge Construction Program (Wayne Symonds and Chris Williams)

Chris and Wayne talked about the relatively new Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) program and what it means for towns, with an example of the Chester bridges 2011 project.

Discussion points included:

- There is a reduced share (half of the normal local match) for ABC projects in the Town Highway Bridge program. This does not apply for Structures grants. Installation of a temporary pedestrian bridge would make the project ineligible for reduced share even if the remainder of the project was ABC (could be an issue for the Ludlow Walker Bridge project).
- Bridge removal
- Irene made closures seem more acceptable
- Potential projects which could use ABC – Depot St bridge (Bridge 58) in Proctorsville (currently ranked 1st by RPC in Pre-Candidate Town Highway bridge list) and McDonalds bridge (Bridge 62) on VT-11 in Springfield (currently ranked 2nd by RPC in Pre-Candidate Town Highway bridge list)
- Andover and Cavendish have just completed the new enhanced outreach questionnaires which are now being done as soon as a bridge is programmed and has funding. The responses help VTrans to understand at a very early stage some of the issues that may come up as they begin project development.

TAC Bylaw amendments

Sharon Bixby moved to adopt the TAC Bylaw amendments as discussed and reviewed at the May 17, 2012 meeting. Seconded by Shep Thomas. Approved unanimously.

Updates and Announcements

- a. *Grants* – Current grant opportunities include the newly reinstated Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Safe Routes To Schools Infrastructure Program, Municipal Park and Ride Grant Program. Four southern Windsor County towns submitted letters of Intent for the Transportation Enhancements program, which were due to VTrans last Friday. Check out <http://swcrpc.org/wp/rfp/grants/> for more information.
- b. *MAP-21* (“Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century”) was signed into law on July 6th and replaces SAFETEA-LU as the federal surface transportation funding and authorization. It is a 2 year bill, with funding

running until September 30, 2014. There are some significant changes to many programs. For example, the old Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes To School and Recreational Trails programs are now all consolidated into the new Transportation Alternatives Program. There is also no dedicated funding for Scenic Byways under this law. The federal government and VTrans are currently interpreting the law to determine how programs will work and how much funding they have.

- c. *VT-131 repaving project in Weathersfield* – Mike Fowler and Josh Schultz (with others) have already started making significant efforts to act upon their discussion with the TAC in the June meeting.
- d. *Town Representatives* - Bruce McEnaney announced this would be his last meeting representing Chester. Neil Daniels resigned as the Weathersfield representative in early July and Jeff Slade was appointed by the town as their representative.

Regional Transportation Network Needs and Priorities for Regional Transportation Plan Update

Discussion tabled until the next meeting

Next Meeting: September 19, 2012 at 7 pm

There is no TAC meeting in August.

Tom Kenyon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Seconded by Jeff Slade. Approved unanimously.