

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

**Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2012**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at Hartness State Airport in Weathersfield/Springfield at 6pm.

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice Chair); Shep Thomas, Baltimore; Mark Huntley, Cavendish; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Jeff Slade, Weathersfield; and Mary Habig, CRT.

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Jim Thompson and Larry Perry, VTrans; Peter MacGillivray, Kathleen Fellows and Mike Knoras, Springfield Airport Commission; and Jennifer Petersson, Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

**Meeting Opened:** Tom Kenyon opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**Tour of Hartness State Airport - Larry Perry (Airport Operator, Hartness State Airport)**

Larry gave is a tour of the airport and an overview of how the airport serves the region. Discussion points included:

- 25 airplanes, single and multiple plane hangers, aircraft and gliders
- history – oldest airport in Vermont, where Lindberg landed in Vermont in 1927, important for precision industries in the region
- State owns the airport, property, hangers and fuel farms
- Since July 1, 2012 the Fixed Based Operator (FBO) of the airport has been the State of Vermont
- Airport is purchasing additional land next to the airport for future hanger development
- Hosted several events over the summer and planning to host more in future.
- Will have more educational opportunities in the future – not just Civil Air Patrol but also a Ground School
- Hoping to increase “operations” (ie any take off or landing)
- Working to get connection to a rental car facility for the airport. Springfield’s in-town bus route may also be able to make connections.

**Overview of State Aviation - Jim Thompson (Aviation Operations Manager, VTrans)**

Jim gave an overview of state aviation and plans for Hartness airport. Discussion points included:

- Big projects for Hartness – improved heating of terminal building in 2011, acquiring adjacent property in 2012, hoping to complete perimeter fencing in 2015, and replacing hazard beacons (important given surrounding terrain). Hoping to bring freight to the airport
- Discussions with ski resorts and airlines to improve and get fly-ski abilities for Vermont airports

**Acceptance of minutes of July 18, 2012 minutes**

*Shep Thomas moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2012 as written. Seconded by Jeff Slade. Approved unanimously.*

**Appoint representative to the Connecticut River Transit (CRT) Board Regional Advisory Committee**

*Sharon Bixby moved to table this discussion until the next TAC meeting. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*

**Updates and Announcements**

- a. *MAP-21* (“Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”) - The federal government and VTrans are still interpreting the law to determine-how programs will work and how much funding they have.
- b. *Permit Applications* – Jason gave an update on the Act 250 application in Killington by SP Lan Company and the Act 248 application in Springfield for the Biomass Plant – particularly focusing on the traffic implications.

- c. *Byways* – Annual Vermont Byway Summit was held last week in Manchester and attended by Katharine. With the lack of funding for the Byways Program through FHWA for the next two years there has been a shift towards the tourism side of byways. Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing is being very active in promoting Byways and discussed their plans for Byways in the next year.
- d. *Grants* – 3 grant applications were submitted for the Vermont Bicycling and Pedestrian Program in August. Transportation Alternatives (formerly Enhancements) has been put on hold until the logistics of the new program criteria and funding have been worked out by federal government and VTrans.

**Next Meeting:**

TAC discussed moving all future meetings to 6pm rather than 7pm. All members in attendance agreed 6pm was good.

October 17, 2012 at 6 pm. Agenda topics – Regional Transportation Plan and CRT Representative

*Shep Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*