

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

**Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2012**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the SWCRPC office in Ascutney at 6pm.

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice Chair); Shep Thomas, Baltimore; Gordy Eastman, Reading; and Jeff Slade, Weathersfield.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

**Meeting Opened:** Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**Acceptance of minutes of September 19, 2012 minutes**

*Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of September 19, 2012 as written. Seconded by Jeff Slade. Approved unanimously.*

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

*Tom Kenyon moved to table this discussion until the April TAC meeting. Seconded by Jeff Slade. Approved unanimously.*

**2012 Regional Bicycling and Pedestrian Count Annual Report**

Katharine presented the newest bicycling and pedestrian count annual report. In addition to the automatic counts done by SWCRPC, VTrans also carried out some manual counts in the region which gives us an idea of how many people walk and how many are using bicycles. If anyone would like an automatic count done in their town, let Katharine know.

**Regional Traffic Patterns Technical Bulletin**

Katharine presented a new technical bulletin which looks at regional traffic patterns using both commuter and non-commuter data. This technical bulletin will be useful in the preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan Update.

Notable facts highlighted in the bulletin:

- Majority of people commute less than 10 miles to work
- Since 1990 there has been a slight increase in commuting travel time for the region, although some communities have seen a decrease.
- Since 1990 while the average household size has decreased, the number of cars per household has increased
- Over three-quarters of the region's residents drive alone to work

**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-103, VT-11 and US-5 corridors during the meeting and added and altered points on the map. The TAC commented that in several areas clearing brush and trees better would improve the safety of roadways – sight distances, black ice, etc.

The TAC has now discussed all major roadway corridors. In the new year, Jason Rasmussen and/or Katharine will be visiting town selectboards to introduce this list, as well as solicit input for the annual project prioritization and needs list.

**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* – The region has had several notable permit applications in the last few months. If you would like more information about how the RPC has been involved, talk to Jason or Tom Kennedy

- c. *October 30 Hearings*
  - a. *STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program)* – Nothing notable to report. Walker Bridge project in Ludlow may be delayed by a year.
  - b. *Transportation Board* -
- d. *Byways*
  - a. *Scenic Route 100 Byway* – Katharine will be visiting the Cavendish selectboard next week about potentially joining the Scenic Route 100 Byway for the section of VT-103 between the Ludlow townline and VT-131. This is part of an effort to significantly expand the Byway from 6 towns, to add 4 towns to the north and towns to the south all the way to the Massachusetts border.
  - b. *Connecticut River Byway* – Katharine handed out the newest River Byway News which gives an overview of the byway and gives an update on the Itineraries project which SWCRPC is coordinating.
- e. *Cavendish Bridge 1 in Whitesville* – This project is near the deli, east of Cavendish village. The bridge was significantly damaged in Irene so now has a weight limit. The bridge will be going through the Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) program and is due for construction in the summer of 2014. The bridge will be closed to all traffic for 4-6 weeks.
- f. *Complete Streets* – Guidance for towns to adhere to the Complete Streets Act has just been released and is available at <http://healthvermont.gov/family/fit/target.aspx#streets>. The Complete Streets Act applies to all paved roads and requires the consideration of all transportation users when developing and implementing transportation projects. For more information about the Complete Streets Act which took effect on July 1, 2011, check out our [Vermont's Complete Streets Law Technical Bulletin](#).

**Next Meeting:**

There will be no meeting in December due to the holidays. Next meeting will be January 16, 2013.

The committee agreed that in the case of bad weather, the RPC will email around to see if the committee wants to postpone the meeting. Bylaws also now allow the ability to call into the meeting by conference call.

*Shep Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*