

SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2014

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); Michelle Lindberg, Cavendish (By phone); Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; and Jeff Taft-Dick, Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition (At-Large).

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

Meeting Opened: Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Welcome and introductions

Acceptance of minutes

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2014. Seconded by Sharon Bixby. Approved unanimously.

Project Prioritization and Pre-Candidate Town Highway Bridge List

Katharine reviewed the prioritization process for this year, including both prioritizing projects in VTrans' budget as well as identifying new "pre-candidate" needs for the Town Highway Bridge program. Katharine presented the list of transportation projects, including programmed projects the TAC prioritized last year. Katharine reviewed the process to prioritize town bridge projects in two separate categories based on VTrans guidance:

1. "Front of Book" and "Development & Evaluation" Projects – programmed town bridge projects
2. "Pre-Candidate" Needs – evaluating potential new town bridge projects that VTrans should consider to program as "Candidate" Town Highway Bridge Program projects

The TAC established a list of the Region's priority project priorities (listed by category):

Paving

1. Resurface VT-10 in Chester and Springfield
2. Resurface VT-44 in West Windsor

Roadway projects

1. Smithville Reconstruction project in Ludlow/ Cavendish on VT103

State Highway Bridges

1. West Windsor Bridge 7 on VT-44 – Construction due summer 2014
2. West Windsor Bridge 4 on VT-44 – Construction due summer 2014
3. Andover Bridge 41 on VT-11 – in Development and Evaluation
4. Chester bridge 14 on VT-103 – big bridge across railroad and river

Town Highway Bridges (just Front of Book and Development & Evaluation projects)

1. Ludlow Bridge 25 (Walker Bridge) on VT-103 (Main St)
2. Cavendish Bridge 58 on Depot St

Katharine explained how the prioritizing the Pre-Candidate Bridge list helps VTrans to determine which projects get funded in the future under the Town Highway Bridge Program. The TAC established a list of the Region's pre-Candidate Town Highway Bridge project priorities:

1. Springfield Bridge 62 ("McDs") on VT-11 (Chester Rd)

2. Windsor Bridge 55 on US-5 (Main St)
3. Springfield Bridge 79 on Park St
4. North Springfield Bridge 56 on Main St (N)
5. Ludlow Bridge 17 on Pleasant St Extension
6. Andover Bridge 9 (“High”) on Weston-Andover Rd
7. Ludlow Bridge 26 (“Vail”) on VT-103 (Main St)
8. Weathersfield Bridge 63 on Ascutney Basin Rd
9. Chester Bridge 62 on Thompson Rd
10. Windsor Bridge 24 on Brook Rd

The TAC did not rank the following bridges in the top 10:

- Ludlow Bridge 57 on Mill St

The following bridges were asked to be removed by the towns:

- Chester Bridge 13 on Missing Link Road – being funded through FEMA
- Reading Bridge 28 on Town Farm Rd – Town Selectboard will be sending letter
- Windsor Bridge 22 on Brook Rd – being funded through FEMA

Sharon Bixby moved to recommend these priorities (Project Prioritization and Pre-Candidate Town Highway Bridge List) to the RPC Board for approval prior to submittal to VTrans. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.

High Risk Rural Roads Program

Katharine explained how the High Risk Rural Roads program works. The High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) program is intended to implement the VT Strategic Highway Safety Plan in reducing crashes on local roads and rural state highways. VTrans is funding only projects on local roads, even though certain state highways are eligible under federal rules. A short list of locations was determined based on state crash data and input from local police departments, road foremen and town managers. Projects would go through a Road Safety Audit in summer 2014, then recommendations of minor safety upgrades (eg lines, guardrails, signs) would be made to the town for their approval and then the minor safety upgrades would be funded and installed by VTrans in 2016.

The group discussed the following potential sites for the High Risk Rural Roads Program and ranked them as follows:

Town	Location	Type	Comments	Rank by type
Springfield	Park St from Clement Rd to Prospect St	Section	Lots of local traffic (hospital, school, residential)	1
Springfield	VT-143 (Summer St and Skitchewaog Trail) from Wall St to Eureka Rd	Section	High volume of traffic and several crashes which were not attributed to behavioral issues.	2

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Regional Road Safety Forum – May 12, 2014 – Bellows Falls* – Focus on bringing together stakeholders concerned with improving safety on the road (eg Selectboards, police, drivers ed, etc). More details to follow.
- b) *Way To Go Week – May 12-16, 2014* – An annual event to encourage people to find alternative ways to travel
- c) *SWCRPC Title VI Plan* – RPC recently adopted a plan to outline how they will uphold and assure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related federal and state statutes and regulations. Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs and requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or mental or physical disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance. The new plan is available online at <http://swcrpc.org/title-vi-and-civil-rights/> as well as other information.
- d) *2013 Vermont Transportation Board Report* – just released at <http://tboard.vermont.gov>

e) *Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative* – Connecting Boston to Montreal. Public meeting on January 22nd in White River Junction. Katharine will forward the details in the new year.

Next Meeting:

March 19, 2014. Decisions about whether it is a snow date will be made by noon on the day of the meeting.

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. Seconded by Michelle Lindberg. Approved unanimously.