

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

Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2013

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); Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Jeff Slade, Weathersfield; and Jeff Taft-Dick, Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition (At-Large).

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

Meeting Opened: Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Welcome and introductions

Acceptance of minutes and meeting notes

Jeff Slade moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2013 with an amendment on page in the motion from FFY 2013 to FFY 2014. Seconded by Sharon Bixby. Approved unanimously.

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the meeting notes of July 17, 2013 with an amendment to change the description of the meeting location to remove reference to the SWCRPC office. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the meeting notes of November 20, 2013. Seconded by Jeff Slade. Approved unanimously.

TAC Bylaw Amendments

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the amendments of the Bylaws to change to Articles 4 and 6. Seconded by Jeff Slade. Approved unanimously. Amended Bylaws signed.

Appoint At-Large Members

Jennifer Grant stepped down as an at-large member this month. Jeff Taft-Dick is already an at-large member. There is no additional interest in becoming an at-large member at this time so no vote was held.

District Pavement Leveling Projects FY2015

Katharine Otto introduced a new task for the TAC – to prioritize district pavement leveling projects. These projects are a lot smaller than the Paving projects the TAC usually sees in the Annual Project Prioritization task in the Spring. These projects do not include Class 1 Town Highway Paving – which has a separate program.

There is only one project on the District's current list for prioritizing:

- US-5 (Missing Link Road) from around Randall Hill Road in Rockingham to the VT-11 intersection in Springfield

The TAC discussed suggesting one additional project to the district. Roadway sections discussed included:

- VT-106 in Reading from VT-44 to the Woodstock townline
- VT-106 from VT-131 in Weathersfield to VT-44 in Reading – in worse condition than the section further north and also more traffic. Would be helpful to smooth the roadway after all the recent culvert replacements.
- VT-106 (River St) in Springfield from downtown to VT-10 – not a bumpy ride, but pavement is very cracked.
- VT-44 from VT-106 in Reading to VT-44A in Windsor – needs a lot more work than just leveling

The TAC will establish their priorities at the January meeting.

New Annual Reports 2013

Katharine Otto gave an overview of the new Bicycling and Pedestrian Counts Annual Report. Discussion included:

- No particular pattern of increase or decrease since 2007 for the automatic counts, but numbers seem relatively steady
- More reliable counts are for 7 days or more
- Number of pedestrians are significantly affected by factors such as weather and major events. Katharine tries to avoid major events and discount bad weather days where possible – so that counts are more representative.
- Some interesting daily patterns – with some areas having significantly more foot traffic during the week while others during the weekend.
- Manual counts by VTrans help to broaden the picture. Since those counts are for less than 24 hours and for different time periods they cannot be easily compared to the automatic counts, but they help to give an indication of mode share (bicyclists v pedestrians)
- Hard to capture cyclist usage – most are not (and should not) be cycling on sidewalks (one path is shared use where it is permitted), and it is hard to capture their numbers on the road using traditional car/truck traffic counts.

Katharine also gave an overview of the new Park and Ride Lot Counts Annual Report. Discussion included:

- Usage has gone down slightly from the previous year – especially at Exit 8 (Ascutney) lot where the usage was notable beyond official and physical capacity for several months and then significantly dropped.
- Usage includes a significant number of carpoolers – this can be seen by the arrival and leaving times captured during a traffic count at the Ascutney Park and Ride lot. Some carpoolers are being dropped off while others are parking and then carpooling.
- Official capacity of Springfield and Hartland lots is significantly less than the physical capacity of the lot which includes additional unpaved areas for parking.
- How much did construction on VT-131 affect the usage of the Ascutney lot this summer? Probably mainly July, August and September numbers

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

The TAC prioritized project needs/ wish list for entire Region, including considering suggestions from the District Techs provided by Katharine. The TAC used the following criteria:

- High – Project likely in next 5 years or of high importance to start very soon.
- Medium – Project of high importance but unlikely to happen for about ten years, or project of medium priority
- Low – Low priority project, or the project is needed but a barrier may prevent it occurring for at least ten years or more –eg no clear solution, extremely high project cost, complicated project solution. May not even happen within next 20 years

Updates and Announcements

- 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.
- Construction Projects* – I-91 open in both directions with 2 lanes on the Bridges over VT-44.

Next Meeting:

January 15, 2014, with the snow date set as January 16th. 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 9:15pm. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.