

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

Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2014

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

Attendance – TAC members present: Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice-Chair); Charlie Golden, Andover; Derek Suursoo, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; and Jeff Taft-Dick, At-Large.

Others present: Arne Jonynas, Chester Alternate; Katharine Otto and Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC; and Jackie Cassino, Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

Welcome new members and introductions

The TAC welcomed three new members – Derek Suursoo (Chester), Arne Jonynas (Chester Alternate), and Charlie Golden (Andover). Katharine also informed the TAC that Shep Thomas (Baltimore) has had to step down so for the moment there is no representative for Baltimore.

Open Meeting Law Changes

Jason Rasmussen gave an overview of the recent changes to the Open Meeting Law and how it would affect the TAC. The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Board at their August meeting passed policies about how they and the advisory boards of the RPC (including the TAC) were to address the open meeting law requirements. The TAC webpage holds the current agenda, previous minutes, Bylaws and current membership.

Quorum was met, and meeting opened: Tom Kenyon opened the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Center Line Rumble Stripes on Vermont Highways, including VT-103

Jackie Cassino from VTrans gave a presentation on center line rumble stripes. VTrans has recently revised its policy about center line rumble stripes on Vermont Highways and is just about to hold two public meetings examining the potential to add centerline rumble stripes to sections of VT-103 between Rockingham and Clarendon, including Chester, Cavendish and Ludlow. There will be public meetings about the VT-103 rumble stripes 8/28 in Rutland and 9/9 in Mount Holly.

The TAC had some discussion about:

- What is the effect on speed and the noise of the rumble stripes?
- Would there be rumble stripes in the villages (eg Ludlow)? – very unlikely since the majority of the village areas have a speed limit lower than 45mph or a house within 100ft
- How do rumble stripes affect maintenance? Do they collect water and freeze? Does it reduce the life of the pavement?
- What is the effect of rumble stripes on motorcycles?
- How do rumble stripes affect how people overtake cyclists? Does it encourage them to take risks and overtake closer to cyclists to avoid crossing the centerline?
- Will the centerlines continue through the Proctorsville Gulf?
- What is the cost per mile for installation?

Acceptance of minutes

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2014. Seconded by Derek Suursoo. Approved unanimously.

New Strong Communities, Better Connections (SCBC) Program

Jackie Cassino from VTrans gave a presentation. In August 2014 VTrans and ACCD (Agency of Commerce and Community Development) launched the pilot of this program. The program website is <http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/programs/scbc> . The TAC had some discussion about some potential project ideas.

Transportation Infrastructure Inventories and Capital Budgeting

Jason Rasmussen gave a presentation about capital planning – including a Capital Budget and Program adopted under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 as well as informal forms of capital improvement plans. Both options are valuable tools for municipal financial management of transportation infrastructure and other facilities. Each summer the SWCRPC assists Towns to update transportation infrastructure inventories – bridges, culverts, roads, sidewalks and signs. In the past few years, the SWCRPC has assisted a number of towns with capital planning.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *7/28 storms and roadway damage* – Chester and Andover were badly affected by very heavy rains on 7/28. In some areas the damage was said to be the same as or worse than during Tropical Storm Irene. Both towns are working on repairs.
- b) *Transportation Alternatives Grant* – Applications due 10/16. Can use funds for variety of transportation projects including sidewalks, multi-use paths, scenic overlooks, environmental mitigation. This grant is similar to the VT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant that was released earlier this summer. More details at <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/sections/ltf/transportationalternatives>
- c) *Legislative Update* – The federal bill which provides the majority of funding for highway projects and planning, MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century), was extended for the short term on 7/10/2014.
- d) *Upcoming Construction Projects* – Quick update on current and upcoming construction projects – with many of the summer’s projects now heading rapidly towards completion. Reminder that updates on the construction projects are regularly posted online at <http://swcrpc.org/transportation/>
- e) *I-91 Hartford Bridges Slide* – An interesting and innovative new project just outside the region, but might affect travel by the region’s residents. www.i91wrj.vtransprojects.vermont.gov
- f) *CRT-DVTA merger* – On 8/6/2014 Connecticut River Transit (CRT) and Deerfield Valley Transit Association (DVTA) announced they would be merging. For more information see <http://crtransit.org/news/>
- g) *UVTMA’s Smart Commute Home Edition Survey – Windsor* – Interesting new survey of residents of Windsor. See www.windsorvt.org/documents/energy-committee/Smart%20Commute%20Windsor%20Survey.pdf
- h) *Vermont Highway Safety Alliance Annual Meeting – 10/14/2014* – More details to come as they become available.

Other Business

None

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Ideas for future agenda items included Aquatic Organism Passage in bridges and culverts, and Electric Vehicles.

We will be meeting on the 4th Wednesdays of the month from now on – 9/24, 10/22

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Seconded by Derek Suursoo. Approved unanimously.