

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

Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2014

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

Attendance – TAC members present: Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice-Chair); Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; John Saydek, Cavendish; Derek Suursoo, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; and Jeff Taft-Dick, At-Large.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Jackie Cassino, VTrans.

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

Welcome and introductions

Wayne Wheelock from Baltimore was welcomed to the group. Jeff Slade has stood down from his position as Weathersfield representative.

Changes to the agenda - None

Acceptance of minutes

Derek Suursoo moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2014. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

District Leveling/ Paving Prioritization

Katharine Otto gave an overview of the District Leveling Program and the input VTrans would like from the TAC. This does not include Class 1 Town Highways – which are in a separate program. All state roadway segments were considered. Katharine provided updates on recently completed and upcoming projects on roadways. The following priorities were assigned for District leveling:

- High – VT-44 from VT-106 to VT-44A – Needs a lot more work than just leveling, but if major paving project won't be coming through for 10 years or more, this would help. Sewer work in Brownsville village area next year.
- Medium – VT-106 from Reading/Weathersfield townline to Reading/Woodstock townline. Needs quite a bit of work.
- Medium – VT-106 from VT-10 to around Stoughton Pond Road in Weathersfield. Mark Pickering (District Tech) says Perkinsville is pretty rough and this would help keep it to a decent standard.
- Low – US-5 from around Wilgus State Park to Windsor Class 1 Town Highway. Poor condition and poor drainage, and major paving project still many years out.

VTrans On-Road Bicycle Plan

Katharine Otto gave an overview of the VTrans On-Road Bicycle Plan and the TAC looked at the wikimap for collecting input at <http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/bikeplan>. The kick off public meeting originally scheduled for December 9th was postponed to January 7th from 2pm-4pm at all VIT sites. The TAC discussed the following points:

- Need to get word out to any contacts you have – both those who bicycle on the roads, but drivers in the region (eg where do you find it hard to share the road with cyclists because the shoulders are too small)
- Katharine to add bicycle related comments that were identified for the Regional Transportation Plan Update earlier in the year
- Where are there toilet facilities? Eg state parks and boat launches. Can be useful for longer rides.

Annual Reports

- a) *Park and Ride Counts.* The TAC reviewed the 2014 Report. They noticed the very low gas prices and the high usage of lots by NH residents.

- b) *Bicycling and Pedestrian Counts*. The TAC reviewed the 2014 report. They discussed potential use of the data – including grant applications and assisting with prioritizing sidewalk investments. If anyone would like a bicycle and pedestrian count done in their community, let Katharine know – it can be done in any season.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Regional Transportation Plan Update*. Alongside Volume 1 of the Regional Plan, the Regional Transportation Plan (Volume 2 of the Regional Plan) was adopted on November 18, 2014 and will go into effect on December 23, 2014. The Plan is available on our website at <http://swcrpc.org/publications/>
- b) *Northern New England Rail Initiative (NNERI) meeting*. In November there was a public meeting which presented the alternatives being looked at for higher speed rail connections Boston to Springfield MA, New Haven and Montreal. All costs are very high. VTrans, MassDOT and other transportation agencies are now discussing with the consultant hybrid approaches.
- c) *Major Commuter Corridors Map*. The TAC looked at a map prepared by Katharine of the major commuter corridors within the Region. The map was created in order to assist VTrans with their Park and Ride Facility Plan. It should be noted that the routes identified take into consideration a variety of factors, including traffic volumes, commuter travel (from Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data from W-2 tax forms), as well as local knowledge.
- d) *Connecticut River Transit (CRT)*. Connecticut River Transit will be merging into Deerfield Valley Transit Association (DVTA) on January 1, ahead of DVTA becoming Southeast Vermont Transit Association on July 1, 2015. The users of transit will not see much changes – since the Current and Moover buses will still be running around and the garages/ offices in Rockingham and Wilmington will still be operational. For more information see <http://crtransit.org/news/>
- e) *Springfield Park and Ride*. Construction of this project will be next summer, starting no earlier than May 1. VTrans is working with CRT to find alternative parking for the people who use the lot and public transit. Other users of the lot will likely have to make their own arrangements due to constraints on the funding, but VTrans and others are looking into some potential options.
- f) *Andover VT-11 Bridge*. Due to increased scour on one of the abutments, the project has been expedited. This means the project will be constructed the summer of 2015 rather than 2016. VTrans is currently still planning on a 10 day closure period between July and mid-August. Katharine will be working with VTrans to ensure that local and regional users are aware of the closure – towns, emergency personnel, businesses, etc – as they have been doing for a few years with all construction projects.
- g) *Connecticut River Byway*. Katharine has just finished work on the new printed Connecticut River Byway Travel Guide which was funded through the Federal Highway Administration's Byway Program. The website which accompanies the guide (www.ctriverbyway.org) will be completed in January 2015.

Other Business

Several members of the group remarked on how the newly installed rumblestrips on VT-103 are not as bad as they thought, and are actually rather useful.

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 1/28 and then 4th Wednesday of the month
Request Scott Bascom visit to talk about NNERI.

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.