

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

Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2015

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

Attendance – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice-Chair); Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; John Saydek, Cavendish; Derek Suursoo, Chester; and Gordy Eastman, Reading.

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

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

Welcome and introductions

Changes to the agenda - None

Acceptance of minutes

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2014. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates

Katharine Otto gave an overview of 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 gave a handout which explains why the TAC does this and how. Katharine presented the list of potential 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 will be prioritizing the lists at their February meeting. Katharine will be talking to the road foreman and town manager in each town for their input, particularly on the pre-candidate town highway bridges. The TAC is encouraged to review all the handouts given at this meeting and come ready to prioritize projects. If anyone has questions about projects, Katharine gave a handout which lists various resources to get further information, or you can contact Katharine.

Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative (NNEIRI)

Scott Bascom from VTrans gave a presentation about NNEIRI which is a study into higher speed intercity passenger rail service between Boston and Montreal via Springfield MA, and New Haven and Boston via Springfield MA. Scott presented the alternatives being considered for review. The TAC were particularly interested in the projected costs and ridership, including the implications for local stations. For more information about the project see

<http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/northernnewenglandrail/Home.aspx>

As part of the discussion Scott also announced that passenger service on the existing Vermonter service will likely reach Montreal QC in the next 2-3 years – good progress has been made for the border control complication of extending the route.

Updates on current and upcoming VTrans planning projects

Due to time constraints this discussion was tabled until later in the spring, but the TAC was given the handout which outlines the projects. Of particular interest to the Towns – Class 1 Town Highway White Paper and Street Tree Policy. If anyone has questions or particular projects they would like updates on, they should contact Katharine.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *VTrans On-Road Bicycle Plan* – Reminder that the deadline for input on the wikimap is 2/14.
<http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/bikeplan>
- b) *Rail Update* – Katharine will forward two emails from Chris Parker – a rail advocate in Vermont.
- c) *Legislative Update* – Mark Huntley from Cavendish (formerly a member of the TAC) is on the House Transportation Committee. So far there is not much major on the transportation side due to come up – except the aspects of implementation of the Lake Champlain Plan which will affect all of Vermont, including Town Highways. At the moment the Governor’s proposed budget looks pretty good for town roads and structures.

Other Business

TAC requested update on the success of rumblestripes (Route 4?).

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 2/25 and then 4th Wednesday of the month

February meeting will be Project Prioritization, Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates and High Risk Rural Roads Request Scott Bascom to do an update on NNEIRI this time next year.

Gordy Eastman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.