

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

**Meeting Minutes of February 26, 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; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; and Gordy Eastman, Reading.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Mark Huntley, VT House of Representatives

Others calling in by phone: Jackie Cassino, VTrans.

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

**Welcome and introductions**

**Changes to the agenda** - None

**Acceptance of minutes**

*Sharon Bixby moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2015. Seconded by Derek Suursoo. Approved unanimously.*

**Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates**

Following on from the opening discussion at the January TAC meeting the TAC discussed their priorities for Project Prioritization and the Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidate list. The TAC established a list of the Region's priority project priorities (listed by category, with additional comments where relevant):

**Paving**

1. Resurface Class 1 town highways in Chester, Springfield, Windsor and Rockingham – Construction due summer 2015
2. Resurface VT-103 between Rockingham and Clarendon
3. Resurface VT-44 between VT-44A and VT-106 in West Windsor and parts of Windsor and Reading. Sewer work in 2015 in West Windsor
4. Resurface VT-131 in Cavendish and Weathersfield between VT-106 and VT-103.
5. Resurface VT-10 in Chester and Springfield

**Roadway projects**

1. Smithville Reconstruction project in Ludlow/ Cavendish on VT103

**Safety and Traffic Operations**

1. Installation of new traffic signal at intersection of VT-103 and VT-100N in Ludlow

**State Highway Bridges**

1. Andover Bridge 41 on VT-11 – construction due summer 2015
2. Chester bridge 14 on VT-103 – big bridge across railroad and river

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

1. Ludlow Bridge 25 (Walker Bridge) on VT-103 (Main St)
2. Springfield Bridge 62 (McDonald's Bridge) on VT-11 (Chester Rd)
3. North Springfield Bridge 56 (Willard Bridge) on Main Street (NS)
4. Chester Bridge 62 on Thompson Road

5. Cavendish Bridge 58 on Depot St
6. Ludlow Bridge 57 on Mill St

The TAC established a list of the Region's pre-Candidate Town Highway Bridge project priorities:

1. Windsor Bridge 55 on US-5 (Main St)
2. Springfield Bridge 79 on Park St
3. Ludlow Bridge 17 on Pleasant St Extension
4. Andover Bridge 9 ("High") on Weston-Andover Rd
5. Ludlow Bridge 26 ("Vail") on VT-103 (Main St)
6. Windsor Bridge 24 on Brook Rd
7. Weathersfield Bridge 63 on Ascutney Basin Rd

*Wayne Wheelock 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 Derek Suursoo. Approved unanimously.*

### **High Risk Rural Roads Program**

Katharine explained how the High Risk Rural Roads program works and gave a handout explaining the methodology and projects completed in the past. 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 2015, 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.

This year no particular location that is considered a "high risk" (90% or 95% confidence) according to the crash data seems appropriate to submit – the locations have either been evaluated in previous years, low cost changes would not solve the issues, the roadway is too "urban" in character, or there are too few crashes that the site merits a project. There is one roadway which might be suitable in future years, if the crash trends continue (Commonwealth Ave in Ludlow).

*Sharon Bixby moved to not submit any recommendations to the High Risk Rural Roads Program this year. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*

### **Letter to Connecticut River Transit/ Deerfield Valley Transit Association**

Connecticut River Transit recently merged into Deerfield Valley Transit Association (DVTA), ahead of their change of name to Southeast Vermont Transit Association on July 1, 2015. Katharine Otto is proposing that the TAC and SWCRPC write a letter to the board requesting route evaluation and planning for the Springfield, Ludlow, and Bellows Falls area – where routes have shown a decrease in ridership in the last 5 years (even before the fares were established late last summer). DVTA would need to apply for funds in their grant and SWCRPC could assist with the process with some of their funding through their Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) funds.

*Sharon Bixby moved for Kristi Morris, Chair of the TAC, to sign the letter to Deerfield Valley Transit Association about route evaluation and planning in their SFY 2016 and SFY 2017 budget. Seconded by Derek Suursoo. Approved unanimously.*

### **Updates and Announcements**

- a) *Legislative Update* – Mark Huntley from Cavendish is on the House Transportation Committee. He gave an update on what has been going on – including paving, transportation construction jobs, budgets, Transportation Infrastructure Bond (TIB), filling budget gaps while the gas prices are so low, and the Lake Champlain Plan.
- b) *Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan 2014* – Now available online  
[http://publictransit.vermont.gov/sites/aot\\_public\\_transit/files/VT%20HSTCP%202014%20FINAL.pdf](http://publictransit.vermont.gov/sites/aot_public_transit/files/VT%20HSTCP%202014%20FINAL.pdf)

- c) *Charlestown-Springfield bridge* – Katharine just received information that the bridge will be closed for part of this summer for deck replacement. Katharine will share details as they become available.
- d) *Vermont Transportation Board Report* – The report on Millennials and transportation which follows up on the Fall 2014 hearings is available at <http://tboard.vermont.gov>

**Other Business**

Derek requested update on VTrans outreach to the business owner on VT-103 who was having issues with the new rumble stripes.

**Future agenda items and next meeting date**

Next meeting – 4/22 and then 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month (March meeting is cancelled unless something urgent comes up)

Agenda items – Construction schedules, summer field trip to see roads, bridges and culverts of the region (including District and Highway Garage?), Election of officers, Letter of Support for DVTA’s grant application

*Wayne Wheelock moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*