

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

**Meeting Minutes of April 22, 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); Charlie Golden, Andover; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Jeff Taft-Dick (At-large); and Mark Huntley (At-large).

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC

**Meeting Opened:** Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:05pm

**Welcome and introductions**

**Changes to the agenda** - None

**Acceptance of minutes**

*Gordy Eastman moved to approve the minutes of February 26, 2015. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.*

**Election of Officers**

*Gordy Eastman moved to appoint Kristi Morris as Chair. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.*

*Gordy Eastman moved to appoint Tom Kenyon as Vice Chair. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.*

**Appoint At-Large Members**

*Tom Kenyon moved to appoint Jeff Taft-Dick (Bicycle and Pedestrian) and Mark Huntley (Legislative) as at-large members of the TAC. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*

**Transportation Resilience**

Katharine Otto gave an overview of how Vermont has been moving towards resilience since Tropical Storm Irene. The TAC looked at how resilience is defined in a variety of places as well as efforts being made on the state, regional and town level, particularly as focused on transportation resilience. Some examples of what has been happening includes home buy-outs, planting trees for stream buffers, revised regulations about working in and near streams, new flood regulation requirements, new town planning requirement, and revised bridge and culvert construction standards.

**From A to B Mobility Project**

Katharine gave an overview of a new project that she is heading up – which is looking at how people get from A to B if they don't have their own vehicle or cannot drive themselves. This project will build upon some work already completed – particularly the 2014 Vermont Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan and work of Springfield Hospital's Community Health Team – and take it the next step. There are a wide variety of service providers in the region that Katharine is already aware of (over 30!) and a wide variety of partners who should be brought into the project (transportation service providers, human service agencies and many others). The goal is to have one or more face-to-face meetings of partners in late May/ early June, and complete the project in the next six months.

**Way To Go Challenge**

Katharine gave a quick overview of the Way To Go Commuter Challenge which this year runs 5/4 to 5/15 and includes fare free Friday on The Current buses both weeks. For more information go to [www.waytogovt.org](http://www.waytogovt.org) or see [www.swcrpc.org/transportation](http://www.swcrpc.org/transportation)

## Updates and Announcements

- a) *Legislative Update* – Katharine gave an update on the Water Quality Bill – particularly as it relates to town road permits. Mark Huntley gave an update on what has been going on – including DMV bill and Transportation Bill.
- b) *Bridge and culvert inventories and [www.vtculverts.org](http://www.vtculverts.org)* – In the last two weeks there has been a new additional feature added to the inventory tool which assesses whether culverts are big enough to carry the water which potentially flow through them. It was emphasized that this is just a preliminary computer model and cannot be used as a substitute for an opinion from the ANR River Engineer and/or VTrans Hydraulics Engineer (depending on which permit/ permissions are needed).
- c) *State Rail Plan* – Katharine will forward via email the March bulletin with updates on the Plan
- d) *Construction Updates* – Katharine gave a handout with info on all the upcoming construction projects she is aware of. She also updates construction information on the [www.swcrpc.org/transportation](http://www.swcrpc.org/transportation) website as needed - particularly for projects occurring this summer, but also for the biggest upcoming projects for several years in the future. Contact Katharine if you would like any additional information about any particular project. Given how many projects there are now (9 scheduled for this summer alone!), she will just copy in TAC members when the project might affect their town (in their town, or notable numbers of residents or workers of the town might be affected).

Katharine also gave quick updates on things coming up very soon related to construction:

- a. Woodstock Town Highway Bridge on US-4 – truck detour was originally going to use VT-106, VT-44 and US-5. Katharine spoke with VTrans last week with several concerns and they have considered them and moved the truck detour to a different location outside the region which is more suitable.
- b. Springfield Exit 7 Park and Ride Lot – due to close 5/4 – 7/31. VTrans is still working on alternative parking arrangements
- c. Rail projects – Katharine does not always hear about these in a timely manner – there is a chance she doesn't have the most up-to-date information.
- e) *New England Regional Transportation Map* – Katharine handed out a new brochure completed by Massachusetts Department of Transportation that includes information about travel options in and around Vermont and the rest of New England.
- f) *Vermont On-Road Bicycling Facilities Meeting* – Next Thursday 4/30. Katharine emailed further details. Please do pass on the information to those who might be interested.
- g) *Bicycling count on roadway this July* – Katharine asked for ideas about where to put a manual bicycle count on a major route in the region. Count would be in mid July somewhere between 7am and 5pm mid-week. TAC discussed VT-106 River Street and VT-11 Clinton St.
- h) *TPI Work Program Tasks* – Katharine will be starting to pull together next year's transportation work program in the next month or so. Let her know if there are any projects you would like her to consider adding to the list.

## Other Business

### Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 5/27 and then 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month (June 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?), TPI Work Program

*Gordy Eastman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. Approved unanimously.*