

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

Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2015

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; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading.

Others present: Katharine Otto and Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC

Meeting Opened: Tom Kenyon 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 April 22, 2015. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.

Transportation Planning Initiative FFY 2016 Work Program

Katharine Otto explained how the majority of the transportation work completed by the RPC is funded through a cooperative agreement known as the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI). This program has been running for 20 years. Katharine gave a handout which outlined the key activities that have been suggested by VTrans as activities, as well as outlined some other projects which may be interesting. The TAC discussed the following additional projects:

- Re-study the safety of the VT-103/VT-11 intersections in Chester
- Assist Towns with implementation of Springfield’s Downtown Plan and West Windsor’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans – both soon to be completed.

If anyone on the TAC has any additional ideas of projects they would like to suggest, they should talk to Katharine as soon as possible so it can be included in the work plan that is reviewed by the SWCRPC Board of Commissioners.

Sharon Bixby moved to recommend the TPI work program to the SWCRPC Board of Commissioners for approval. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Bicycling and Pedestrian Projects in Southern Windsor County

Jason Rasmussen gave an overview of some of the Bicycling and pedestrian projects in the region. Key points included:

- Total sidewalk network in Southern Windsor County of just over 41 miles
 - 22 miles of the network is in Springfield alone
 - Over 15% of sidewalks are in poor condition
 - Over 50% of sidewalks are less than 5ft in width (ie do not meet Americans with Disabilities standards)
 - Would cost \$18.4-\$44.4 million to replace the narrow sidewalks (using average construction numbers from VTrans Study).
 - Several sidewalk projects in the towns at the moment – including Windsor and Springfield South St
- Total multi-use path network in SWC is just over 3 miles. Several new paths being scoped and designed.
 - Toonerville Trail extension from current Toonerville Trail end to Springfield Downtown
 - New path from Riverside Middle School to North Springfield (and potentially the Reservoir)
 - Path from Ludlow Park and Ride Lot (Fire Dept) to Jackson Gore and Buttermilk Falls
 - Path from Ludlow village to the Rec fields (next to Cavendish)
 - All paths will be expensive to build, but towns and communities are looking for funding, as well as ways to make the projects either cheaper or phase the project.

- Sources of funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian projects – including Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, Downtown Transportation Fund, Recreational Trails Program
- SWCRPC has been helping towns with inventories and capital budgeting
- Other current projects with Bicycle and pedestrian components
 - 2015 Springfield Downtown Master Plan
 - 2015 West Windsor Bicycling and Pedestrian Master Plan

Proposed National Highway System Changes

Katharine gave a brief overview of the National Highway System (NHS). It was created for the movement of people and goods for economic and strategic priorities. With the passing of the MAP-21 Federal Transportation Authorization, all principal arterials not previously on the NHS were added. VTrans would like to make amendments to some road functional classifications (eg principal arterials) so the NHS makes sense. There are no changes proposed for SWC – which has had I-91, VT-103 and the small section of VT-131/VT-12 between I-91 and New Hampshire on the NHS since before MAP-21. There was some discussion about the implications of being on the NHS – particularly funding and design standards. The TAC requested that someone from VTrans be invited to speak to the TAC.

Updates and Announcements

- Legislative Update* – Katharine gave an update on the Water Quality Bill – particularly as it relates to town road permits – and the Transportation Bill.
- Construction Updates* – A few quick updates.
 - Reminder construction information on the www.swcrpc.org/transportation website as needed
 - Springfield Exit 7 Park and Ride Lot – closed beginning of May. Springfield Regional Development Corporation (SRDC) is providing land for alternative parking during construction.
 - Cavendish Depot St Bridge – funded through Town Highway Bridge program. Substructure (ie the base part of the bridge) recently downgraded to “3” – ie serious condition. (“2” is a guaranteed closure.) Bridge replacement will not be until summer 2018 due to the process that needs to be gone through. VTrans met with Town in early May to present the alternatives the Town has to choose from for design.
 - Andover VT-11 bridge – will be a 10 consecutive day closure some time between July 6 and August 14. Katharine will forward details when she has them
- Traffic Count Report* – TAC should have received the 2014 report by email earlier this month. Please let Katharine know ASAP if you have any requests for count locations this summer.
- Grant Opportunities*
 - Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant - <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/local-projects/bike-ped> . Due July 17. Has a set aside for smaller projects which would use just state funds – and thus allow for quicker construction (next summer).
 - Transportation Alternatives Grant. Will be announced later this summer, and due after the announcement of VT Bike-Ped Grant. Includes \$1.1 million set-aside for Water Quality related projects

Other Business

- Tom Kenyon asked for details about the VT-131/US-5/VT-12 roll over crash last week, particularly as it relates to the safety improvements made to the intersection during the recent repaving project.
- Gordy Eastman asked about the success of the Morrisville bypass.
- Jason Rasmussen gave an update about a recent Request for Qualifications that SWCRPC released for engineering firms to assist with potential transportation projects and disaster recovery. Would be available to all SWC Towns to help speed up the process by having a pre-qualified list of companies to choose from.

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 6/24 (in West Windsor), 7/22

Agenda item requests – National Highway System

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