

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

Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2015

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the West Windsor Town Garage, 2308 Route 44, Brownsville, VT.

Attendance – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice-Chair); Charlie Golden, Andover; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Dick Beatie, West Windsor Selectboard; Mike Spackman, West Windsor Road Foreman

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 May 27, 2015. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. 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.

Tour of West Windsor Highway Garage

Mike Spackman gave an overview of highway garage operations in West Windsor:

- Just over 50 miles of roads
- 3 man crew, with 4 man coming on to train up in July
- Current highway garage built in 1999
- 3 town trucks with a new 10 wheeler due next week. Regular replacement schedule of vehicles – enabled by dedicated equipment fund
- Newest innovation – a race track jet dryer that can give 200mph winds. Attached to the front of a tractor it is great for moving leaves and debris off the roads without disturbing underlying gravel and soil on the roads – so good for water quality. Also takes a lot less time to do the work - instead of 3 men with loader, grader and tractor for 3-4 weeks, it takes 1 man with tractor 3-4 weeks.
- Regular training is important – usually through Vermont Local Roads. Safety is important – especially for all the different equipment.

- Keeping up to date with developments in good water quality practices is important – eg Town Road and Bridges Standards.

Tour of West Windsor

Mike Spackman gave a tour of a few sites in West Windsor:

- a. Bowers covered bridge on Bible Hill Road – Came off its footings during Tropical Storm Irene, some issues with oversize and overweight vehicles since re-opening in 2012.
- b. Better Backroads sites on Sheddsville Road. Several years of work to stabilize steep clay slopes and improve water quality in the area. Used better backroads grants of \$10,000 each year.
- c. Route 44 Bridge 4 – Deck replacement in summer 2014
- d. Using matting and underdrains on steep hills

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates* – A few quick updates.
 - a. 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 – although it is looking more like late July/early August at the moment.
- b) *Grant Opportunities*
 - a. 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).
 - b. Transportation Alternatives Grant. Will be announced later this summer

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 7/22, 8/26

Agenda item requests – Construction updates, calendar of grant opportunities

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