

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

**Meeting Minutes of August 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); Charlie Golden, Andover; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Arne Jonynas, Chester; and Sharon Bixby, Ludlow.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Jennifer Fitch (VTrans)

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

**Welcome and introductions**

**Changes to the agenda** - None

**Acceptance of minutes**

*Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of June 24, 2015. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.*

**Accelerated Bridge Construction Program**

Jennifer Fitch from VTrans, who heads up the Project Initiation and Innovation Team (PIIT), gave an overview of the Accelerated Bridge Program and the PIIT. Some notable points of discussion:

- PIIT officially started in 2012. Tries out new things, and repeats what works, in an effort to streamline and speed up the process from scoping through construction.
- What bridges had elements of Accelerated Bridge Construction, and what were fully part of the Accelerated Bridge Program (everything from Scoping through construction).
  - Only 2 bridges were fully part of the ABP – Cavendish VT-131 Bridge 1 and a large culvert on VT-131 in Weathersfield.
  - Many bridge projects have had elements since 2010.
  - Alternative Contracting methods – like the I-91 Windsor Design-Build Project – are a different program, but similar concepts of innovation and increasing speed of project delivery.
- Engaging the public
  - new methods like the clickers are used to help all people at a meeting have a voice, not just those who speak the loudest. TAC tried out the clickers for input
  - What method is best to get info out to the public? tv, radio, facebook, newspapers, email, key stakeholder meetings, public meetings, fact sheets? others ideas?
- Local Bypass agreements – While official detours only use state routes, often local roads are informally used. VTrans now consider an agreement which includes some compensation to the towns, calculated by formula that considers length of detour, length of road, and class of road
- Act 153 - passed a few years ago means that if a town agrees to closed the road/ bridge, they have a reduced local share.

The TAC watched a short video about the Cavendish VT-131 Accelerated Bridge Program Project – which was completed in 2015. The video was at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nP-cbGFgPQw>

**Setting Speed Limits**

Katharine Otto described how the SWCRPC does a speed study to assist with setting speed limits and/or reducing travel speeds on roadways. TAC will watch video from Maine DOT in their own time. <http://media.maine.gov/cgi-bin/vid?id=WpS3JHzpraiGFFf> , and part of the “VTransTV” channel on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKnAQcn3p5ePI3ezFJJashg>)

## **TAC Vision**

Katharine Otto was interested to know what the TAC wants to do – so the committee can stay fresh and engaged. The TAC quickly reviewed their Bylaws which states what the TAC is required to do, and then focused on what the TAC finds useful/ wants to see more of:

- More scoresheet/ tallying of what the TAC accomplishes - eg projects completed and projects on the horizon
- Know what has happened, what is happening and what is coming up – construction projects and other things
- Seeing how the towns fit together as a region, balancing needs, regional awareness - important to have a town rep
- Building relationships is important on a regional level - eg TS Irene help between towns
- Fieldtrips are helpful
- Paving needs more attention in construction - seems forgotten
- Field trips are helpful to raise awareness
- Diversity of subjects helpful - rail, transit, roads, bridge, pedestrian, etc.

## **Updates and Announcements**

- a) *Construction Updates* – Katharine handed out an updated Construction Project List. Major items highlighted:
  - a. Class 1 Town Highway Paving projects – 2015 Bellows Falls and Chester, 2016 Windsor and Springfield
  - b. New I-91 Bridge project – over Williams River in Rockingham, just north of exit 6
  - c. Hartford I-91 Bridge Slide this weekend
  - d. Charlestown-Springfield Bridge construction is definitely delayed until 2016
  - e. Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge construction due in fall 2016.
- b) *Grant Opportunities*
  - a. Transportation Alternatives Grant. <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/local-projects/transportation-alternatives>

## **Future agenda items and next meeting date**

Next meeting – 9/23.

Katharine will be surveying all members to find their availabilities on Wednesdays and Thursdays as Jeff Taft Dick can no longer attend Wednesdays.

Agenda item requests – Construction updates, calendar of grant opportunities, National Highway System, Park and Ride Facility Study, Transit

*Wayne Wheelock moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.*