

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

**Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2016**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the SWCRPC office in Ascutney, VT, at 5pm.

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Tom Kenyon, West Windsor (Vice-Chair), Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Bruce McEnaney, Cavendish Alt; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Gordy Eastman, Reading; and Jeff Taft-Dick (At-large).

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Marie Caduto, Jim Ryan, John Broker-Campbell and Todd Menees, ANR; Michael Quinn, Windsor resident.

**Meeting Opened:** Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 5:10pm

**Welcome and introductions**

**Changes to the agenda**

None

**Acceptance of minutes**

*Wayne Wheelock moved to approve the minutes of January 27, 2016. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved by five people. One abstention (not in attendance).*

**Municipal Roads General Permit**

Jim Ryan presented on the upcoming Municipal Roads General Permit which will be required under Act 64 (Vermont Clean Water Act). A copy of Jim's presentation is available at

[http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/stormwater/htm/sw\\_municipalroads.htm](http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/stormwater/htm/sw_municipalroads.htm).

Some of the interesting points and areas of discussion included:

- Paved roads and developed lands contribute about 14%, and unpaved roads about 6%, of the phosphorus that is causing issues in the Lake Champlain Basin. Percentages are similar in the Connecticut River watersheds, except it is the nitrogen pollution that is causing more issues (because the water heads to salt water body rather than fresh water)
- Permit will focus on "connected"/ "priority" areas – which probably be around half of the roads in town
- Developing new standards and guidance for Best Management Practices – including compaction, stone lined ditches, etc.
- Funding is available for cooperative purchase of equipment – eg hydroseeders and compaction rollers – through ANR – contact Marie Caduto for more information
- All town roads are included. State roads will have their own permit
- Permit will only focus on ROW – not on private land
- Class 4 roads are included in this permit – but focus on point fixes rather than the larger system
- Some concerns about how people will hear about all the new requirements under Act 64 – ANR will be doing lots of presentations and roundtables, and RPCs will be helping with outreach. Will be working with Selectboards, Town Managers, Road Foremen, Regional TACs, RPC boards etc – and getting word out in a variety of ways including emails, handouts, presentations, roundtables, site visits, etc.
- Lots of education planned – including road roundtables, road salt and sand pile workshops, etc
- Draft permit will ready by the end of 2016 and the final permit will be ready by the end of 2017
- Permit coverage will be phased in between 2018 and 2021

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

Before commencing with project prioritization, Katharine briefly reviewed the results from the recent District Leveling prioritization. Unfortunately the TAC's highest priorities (VT-44, VT-106 and VT-11) were not in the VTrans Final List for this year – as they were too far down in the asset condition and district rankings for the regional ranking to bring them up high enough next to the other projects in the state. The TAC should be careful how they assign their highest priority points so they are not wasted – with district leveling, project prioritization and town highway bridge pre-candidates.

Tom Kenyon raised a concern that VT-44 would not be repaved as the Town was making decisions on the assumption that repaving would be happening. Katharine will follow up with Tom, West Windsor and VTrans to get everyone on the same page.

Last meeting Katharine Otto gave an overview of the methodology for project prioritization and town highway bridge pre-candidates. Katharine distributed the lists to be prioritized by email a week before this meeting, which included pre-assigned responses for the regional criteria, as well as input from Town Road Foremen and Town Managers/ Selectboard Chairs. A map of all the bridge projects is available at <http://swcrpc.maps.arcgis.com/home/>. The TAC established a list of the Region's priority project priorities (listed by category, with additional comments where relevant):

### **Paving**

1. Resurface VT-103 between Rockingham and Clarendon
2. Resurface VT-131 in Cavendish and Weathersfield between VT-106 and VT-103.
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-10 in Chester and Springfield

### **Roadway projects**

1. Smithville Reconstruction project in Ludlow/ Cavendish on VT103
2. Replacement of culverts 48A and 48 on US-5 in Springfield (near the Weathersfield townline)

### **Safety and Traffic Operations**

1. Installation of new traffic signal at intersection of VT-103 and VT-100N in Ludlow
2. Safety improvements around I-91 exit 7 in Springfield

### **State Highway Bridges**

1. Chester bridge 14 on VT-103 – big bridge across railroad and river
2. Ludlow bridge 99 on VT-100N – deck replacement

### **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. Cavendish Bridge 58 on Depot St
4. North Springfield Bridge 56 (Willard Bridge) on Main Street (NS)
5. Chester Bridge 62 on Thompson Road
6. Ludlow Bridge 57 on Mill St

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

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

*Bruce McEnaney 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 Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*

#### **Updates and Announcements**

- a) *Construction Updates*
  - a. District leveling – discussion of VTrans final priority list earlier in meeting
  - b. No other major updates this month
- b) *Grant Opportunities*
  - a. Better Backroads – Applications were released in January, and are due April 15. Some towns are definitely interested in applying already – for both inventories and construction projects  
<http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/better-back-roads>
- c) *Meetings*
  - a. 4/4 – Ludlow Br 99 Deck Replacement – Regional Concerns Meeting
- d) *Legislative Updates*
  - a. Not aware of anything major. Will have a bigger update next time
  - b. VTrans funding study was completed in January – Katharine sent around the link last week

#### **Other Business**

Bruce would like the effort to create a bike-path from Cavendish to Ludlow to be re-started. Katharine indicated that she or Jason Rasmussen from SWCRPC would be in touch.

Tom Kenyon mentioned a recent head-on crash on the newly widened Bridge 41 in West Windsor.

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

Next meeting – 3/23/2016 at 6pm

Agenda item requests – National Highway System, legislative updates, revised HRRR, Information about best management practices (eg good material for gravel roads to stop run off, using compaction roller, etc), Rail meeting (including maintenance practices), sign markings

*Gordy Eastman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Seconded by Bruce McEnaney. Approved unanimously.*