

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

**Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2016**

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), Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; John Saydek, Cavendish; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; and Jeff Taft-Dick (At-large).

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC

**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 February 24, 2016 with a spelling correction for Marie Caduto. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*

**Election of Officers**

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

**Appoint At-Large Members**

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

Katharine had not heard from Mark Huntley – and so will check if he wishes to be re-appointed as an at-large member.

**Systemic Local Road Safety (formerly High Risk Rural Roads)**

Katharine Otto gave an overview of the new Systemic Local Road Program which replaced High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) in 2016. Katharine gave a handout which explained how in rural areas the program is looking for roadways with sharp or slight curves on a hill – and that there can be multiple areas spread over multiple roads. For all the towns in the region, Katharine called and spoke with at least the Town Manager/ Selectboard Chair and Road Foreman to get their ideas. She also contacted the Police Chief and Fire Chief in some cases.

Only two towns had areas which seemed suitable for this project:

- Springfield
  - Brook Road between Valley St and Weathersfield townline
  - South St from the High School to Parker Hill Road
  - Parker Hill Road from South St to the Rockingham townline
- Cavendish
  - Tarbell Hill Road
  - Knapp Brook Road
  - Felchville Gulf Road
  - Greenbush
  - Chubb Hill Road

Katharine emphasized that this is a year of transition from HRRR to the new program and that more details would become clear after this first year. The TAC briefly discussed a few things including:

- Who provided input for choosing the areas
- The effectiveness of previous highway safety projects (HRRR, Road Safety Audits, etc) – and whether there were still issues at those sites

*Sharon Bixby moved to approve the Springfield and Cavendish projects as presented. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*

### **Bus Route Evaluation Study**

Katharine Otto gave an overview of The Current Bus Route Evaluation and Planning Project which started in November 2015 and is due to be completed by June. The project website (<http://swcrpc.org/bus-route-evaluation-project-2016/>) includes the draft report which is due to be finalized soon. The project focused on bus routes around the Springfield, Ludlow, Chester and Rockingham/ Bellows Falls area. It did not include the I-91 commuter routes. The project included a variety of components, including:

- A survey of riders and non-riders in January 2016
- Analyzing ridership and cost data
- Public meetings in April 2016
- Making short and long term recommendations for either changes or areas of further study

The TAC had the following questions/ comments:

- Do gas prices influence ridership in these areas?
- Can you take bikes on buses?
- Most did not complete the survey because they would not use transit
- How good are the buses at staying on schedule?
- What efforts are being made on advertising? Radio could be a key part of this
- How can people get to Walmart and Market Basket in Claremont? Is there service into New Hampshire?

### **Updates and Announcements**

#### **a) Construction Updates**

- a. Katharine gave an updated construction projects spreadsheet. Many projects including a few new ones, some just started construction this month, and some unfortunately got cancelled.
- a. Construction Updates – <http://swcrpc.org/transportation/>
- b. Also check out <http://vtransparency.vermont.gov/> (“Project Information section” includes a map of upcoming construction projects)

#### **b) Grant Opportunities - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>**

- a. Strong Communities, Better Connections Grants – Chester and Springfield were 2 of the 3 2016 awardees. Projects will be getting momentum by late summer/ early fall. For more information about the program see <http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/programs/scbc>
- b. Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant Applications are due to be released in early May, due in July and announced in September. More details to follow by email when available.

#### **c) Meetings**

- a. 6/8 – Roads and Ditches Best Management Practices – Ludlow – <http://localroads.vermont.gov/> - Information about best management practices (eg good material for gravel roads to stop run off, using compaction roller, etc). Katharine recommends that TAC members attend this meeting if they are interested – rather than her bringing the training to a TAC meeting which is not really the best audience.

#### **d) Legislative Updates - Legislative season due to finish this week. Katharine has not yet heard what got included**

- e) *Way To Go Commuter Challenge* - Used to be in May. Now in the Fall - 9/26 – 10/7 - <https://waytogovt.org/>
- f) *Bicycles on Amtrak Trains* – Should be starting May 1. Katharine will forward the press release once available

g) *Road Relocation maps and images*

- a. On March 9, 2016, SWCRPC and LEPC-3 hosted the [UVM Spatial Analysis Lab](#). We now have some great aerial images and elevation information for a new road relocation site in Chester – Popple Dungeon Road. It's really interesting to see what a small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) (aka "drone") can capture in just 20 minutes of flying over a site. Check out the before-after aerial map and the aerial/elevation map - <http://swcrpc.maps.arcgis.com/home/>.

**Other Business**

Tom Kenyon asked about how bridge projects get funded. Katharine and Gordy explained.

**Future agenda items and next meeting date**

Next meeting – 5/27/2016 at 6pm

Agenda item requests – Legislative updates, FFY 2016 Work Program, VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan Outreach, Rail meeting (including maintenance practices), sign markings

*Tom Kenyon moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*