

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

Meeting Minutes of May 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; and Sharon Bixby, Ludlow.
Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Bill Ahearn, 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 April 27, 2016 with a date correction for the future meeting to "5/25/2016". Seconded by John Saydek. Approved unanimously.

VTrans research on safety features for roadways

Bill Ahearn from VTrans Research gave an overview on several projects VTrans has carried out. VTrans carries out research on a wide variety of topics and is part of a wider network of transportation research including Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, New England, and at the national level. Project amounts range from \$30k to over \$1 million, and usually involve federal funding and some in-kind match from manufacturers of the products being tested.

Some interesting projects highlighted during the presentation and discussion:

- Using adaptive orange signal timings on signalized intersections. First done on VT-62 in 2010 and now in 15-20 sites as it was successful at reducing crashes and improving safety
- Pavement markings – many different materials which are constantly being improved (polyurea, epoxy, waterborne, thermoplastic, etc). Some are slightly recessed into the pavement so they are worn off less, some are painted on while the asphalt is still hot, and a variety of paint mixes are used. Retroreflectivity of the lines is an important consideration when trying out new paints, as well as durability during snow-plow season and contrast to the road surface (wet, dry and as it ages). Glass has also been added to some lines in order to increase the friction of the lines for smaller tires like bicycles.
- Asphalt plug joint for bridges
- Crack sealing on pavements
- Porous pavement has worked really well at the Randolph P&R to reduce run-off, but unfortunately due to excessive salt usage the surface has broken up so they will be switching it to porous asphalt in the future.
- Rumble stripes in the roadway to slow down traffic near construction zones
- Raised pavement markings
- Rapid flashing beacons and LED for pedestrian crossings
- Brine usage for snow removal, with additives to make it stickier (eg brewery waste)

More information about VTrans Research Projects can be found at
<http://vtransplanning.vermont.gov/research/research/projects/completed>

Transportation Planning Initiative FFY 2017 Work Program

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. FFY 2017 runs from October 1, 2016 until September 30, 2017. The TAC had no particular questions or comments. 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.

Traffic Counts

- a) *2015 SWCRPC report.* Katharine handed out the 2015 Traffic count report. Some counts are done regularly every 2-3 years while others are completed upon request from town staff and law enforcement. Traffic counts can also be adapted for vehicle type classification and speed studies.
- b) *New online traffic counting database.* Katharine gave an overview of the new Vermont online database for traffic counts performed by both VTrans and Regional Planning Commissions. Portal includes a map of locations and information on volumes, vehicle type classifications and speed. The database is mostly open to the public - <http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Vtrans&mod>

Transportation Inventories online

Katharine gave a quick reminder about two places to find out information:

- a) Town culverts - <http://vtculverts.org/>
- b) Town long bridges, and many VTrans inventories (bridges, pavement, projects and maintenance district activities) - <http://vtransparency.vermont.gov/>

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates*
 - a. South Woodstock bridge closed until June 6th. Alternating one way traffic until July 1
 - b. Weston bridge alternating one way until June 2. Closed June 3 – June 23. Alternating one way until July 10. 2 way traffic during Memorial Day and July 4th weekends.
- b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>
 - a. Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant Applications - <http://vtransengineering.vermont.gov/bureaus/mab/local-projects/bike-ped>
- c) *Meetings*
 - a. 6/8 – Roads and Ditches Best Management Practices – Ludlow – <http://localroads.vermont.gov/> - .
- d) *Legislative Updates* – Vermont Transportation Bill passed 5/6/2016. A few highlights:
 - a. *More funds for class 2 roadway*
 - b. *Two new positions for water quality*
 - c. *Railroad trespass clarification*
 - d. *Prioritization to consider resilience going forward*
 - e. *Clarification around disaster assistance to towns if damage is more than 10% of non-winter budget*
 - f. *New Statewide Parcel program – headed by VTrans, also involves ACCD, and others*
 - g. *Passing vulnerable users law*

Other Business

None

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 6/22/2016 at 6pm

Agenda item requests – VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan Outreach, Rail meeting (including maintenance practices), Way to Go Commuter Challenge, At-large membership

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.