

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

Meeting Minutes of July 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; Arne Jonynas, Chester; and Sharon Bixby, Ludlow.
Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Michelle Redmond, VTrans District 4

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 25, 2016. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.

District Leveling Prioritization

Katharine explained that the process for prioritizing District leveling projects is almost the same as what was completed by the TAC in December 2015, except that the projects being considered for paving in summer 2018 (FY 2018) will be prioritized in two rounds:

- July/August – for projects using federal funds. Uses 2014 pavement condition assessment. Gives VTrans more time for project development
- December/ January – for projects using state funds. Uses 2016 pavement condition assessment. Should not include any projects already approved to use federal funds.

Michelle Redmond from VTrans District 4 gave an overview of the roadways within her district (West Windsor, Windsor and Reading). Her district considers

- maintenance needs (especially as relates to plowing),
- future projects,
- whether it would help to get leveling now,
- whether rut fill or patching could work instead of leveling,
- whether the whole section needs work or just parts which could be addressed by spot leveling, and
- any safety issues

Michelle told us what the District priorities were

- VT-44 in West Windsor and Reading is priority 2 (behind VT-12 in Hartland)
- US-5 in Windsor and Hartland is priority 3
- VT-106 in Weathersfield and Reading is priority 5, and
- VT-44A in Weathersfield and Windsor is priority 8.

Michelle also told us of how the District now does “Spot leveling” for small areas. One example of this is a section of VT-44 which should be completed by October 15. There was some discussion amongst the TAC about all the different types of paving projects – reclamation, cold plane, shim and overlay, etc.

Katharine then gave an overview of other information that the TAC should be aware of being prioritizing:

- VT-100N in Ludlow is a high priority for District 3 according to Brian Sanderson (District Tech)

- VT-11 in Chester, Andover and Windham is a very high priority for District 2 according to Marc Pickering (District Tech). This project was originally slated to have a major project using federal aid emergency funds, but it was cancelled in early 2016. In the last two weeks VT-11 showed up in the FY 2019 draft paving budget, but since there is no guarantee that will be funded, the TAC should still prioritize the project but add the contingency that if it gets major paving funding it should be removed from the RPC ranking.
- Katharine reminded the TAC that if they prioritize and rank highly segments that are ranked much lower by VTrans and the asset management ranking, these projects may not rise to the top when all the components are combined – so the Region may not end up with any District leveling projects. See 2015 results for an example.

Following discussion, the TAC prioritized the District leveling projects:

- 1) VT-44 in Reading and Windsor
- 2) VT-11 in Chester, Andover and Windham (to be removed if approved for FY 2019 paving funds)
- 3) VT-106 in Weathersfield and Reading (assumed this went to just beyond the Woodstock townline)
- 4) US-5 in Windsor and Hartland
- 5) US-5 in Weathersfield and Windsor
- 6) VT-44A in Weathersfield and Windsor

Sharon Bixby moved to submit these priorities to VTrans with the contingency that the VT-11 project be removed if the FY 2019 funding is approved, and thus all projects underneath are moved up. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.

Bus Route Evaluation Project

Katharine gave an overview of the Bus Route Evaluation Project which was recently completed for some of Southeast Vermont Transit's The Current Bus Routes. Katharine gave an overview of the survey results, other methods of outreach, final conclusions about why ridership is declining, and the recommendations outlined in the study. The final report is available online at <http://swcrpc.org/bus-route-evaluation-project-2016/>.

The presentation sparked the following discussion topics amongst the TAC:

- Are there cheaper ways to provide public transportation than buses on fixed routes?
- How are volunteer drivers thanked for their work providing rides across the region?

Elect At-large Members

There are no nominations so no vote was held.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates*
 - a. Charlestown-Springfield Bridge over Connecticut River – One way traffic is now in operation. Have not yet managed to find out from NHDOT when the 5 days of full closure is scheduled.
 - b. Class 1 Town Highway repaving projects are almost completed in Windsor and Springfield
- b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>
 - a. Municipal Park and Ride Grant applications now out
 - b. Expect Transportation Alternatives grant soon
- c) *Meetings*
 - a. 9/9 – Municipal Day at National Life (ANR with ACCD and VTrans)
- d) *Permit Applications*
 - a. No news
- e) *Way to Go Commuter Challenge* – 9/26 – 10/7 – <http://waytogovt.org>
- f) *TPI FFY 2017 Work Program* has been approved by the RPC Board and VTrans. Contract due to be signed soon.
- g) *New VTrans website* - Released last Thursday - <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/>
- h) *Click to Fix website and mobile app* – This allows you to report issues you find along state maintained roadways – roadkill, guardrails, sink holes, etc <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/click2fix>

- i) *Vermont 511* – Vermont is now coordinated with New Hampshire and Maine to provide one 511 map which shows roadway, traffic incidents, road conditions, etc. <http://newengland511.org/>

Other Business

- a) Oversize loads on roadways - Arne asked about oversized loads and whether a town can influence what is allowed. This is particularly related to a large wind farm that is currently going through permitting and would, if approved, have significant impact with the very large oversize loads. Katharine will pass along information and contact info related to oversize and overweight loads that she compiled for a Regional Road Foreman meeting a few years ago.
- b) Bowers Covered Bridge in West Windsor – Tom reported that the Town installed a dip in the road before the bridge and seems to be working to stop vehicles which are too tall from going through and damaging the project

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting – 8/24/2016 at 6pm

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

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.