

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

**Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2016**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the 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; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; and Gordy Eastman, Reading.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Dave Pelletier, VTrans.

**Meeting Opened:** The meeting opened at 6:05pm

**Welcome and introductions**

**Changes to the agenda**

Acceptance of September 28 minutes not July 27.

**Acceptance of minutes**

*Sharon Bixby moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2016. Seconded by Tom Kenyon. Approved unanimously.*

**2016 Statewide Transportation Public Opinion Survey**

Dave Pelletier, a planning coordinator at VTrans, gave an overview of the 2016 Statewide Transportation Public Opinion Survey. The following are some highlights from the discussion:

- Survey is completely approximately every ten years and usually coincides with preparing for the Long Range Transportation Plan. Work on the Long Range Transportation Plan will be beginning in 2017.
- 12,000 surveys sent to the general public with a goal of 1,200 surveys completed. VTrans received back 2,232 surveys (20%) which is excellent
- Five “Regions” in the project with Southern Windsor County falls into the “Southeast Region” of the project
- Commute length is mostly below 20 miles (79% of repondents) and most drive alone (83%)
- Weekday travel is mostly below 30 miles per day (47%)
- Intercity bus usage very high in the Southeast compared to other regions. Greyhound? Dartmouth Coach?
- Public transit use in Southeast second only to the Champlain Valley.
- No clear winner as alternative Transportation Fund Revenue source to the gasoline tax
- Full report available from <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/docs>

**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 (mostly the same as August 2015 TAC Vision):

- 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
- 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.
- Meetings should happen for a purpose – either to learn about a particular topic, to exchange information, or give input

- Use the TAC as a sounding board before going to the public and for the exchange of information (eg test-drive a presentation) – so useful to presenter (eg VTrans), TAC and RPC staff

### **Updates and Announcements**

- a) *Construction Updates*
  - a. Charlestown-Springfield Bridge over Connecticut River – Full closure of bridge this week
- b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>
  - a. (Strong Communities) Better Connections Grant – now out - <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>
- c) *Meetings*
  - a. 10/20 at 4pm in Chester – Michelle Boomhower (VTrans Director of Planning, Policy and Intermodal Development) and Kevin Marshia (Highway Division Director/ Chief Engineer) visited the SWCRPC Board – Good presentation and discussion
  - b. 12/1 – On Road Bicycling Plan Phase 2 Public Meeting - <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/bikeplan>
- d) *Permit Applications*
  - a. No news
- e) *Way to Go Commuter Challenge* – 9/26 – 10/7 – <http://waytogovt.org>

### **Other Business**

None

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

Next meeting in Ascutney. Date to be determined by Doodle Poll – Wednesday or Thursday in late November/ early December

Agenda item requests – VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan Outreach, Rail meeting (including maintenance practices and train track upgrades), Bridge construction presentation by Gordy, vehicle inspections, highway safety

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