

Southern Windsor County RPC 2016 TAC Annual Report

February 2017



The following report was created as a response to a TAC vision request in August 2015 – to have a scoresheet/ tally of what the TAC accomplishes. Some items are collated specifically for this report, while others are extracts from reports SWCRPC already do. If you have any questions about anything referenced in this report, please contact Katharine Otto, kotto@swcrpc.org 802-674-9201.

Outreach methods

During 2016 the following major methods were used for transportation outreach:

- Monthly TAC meetings – 4th Wednesday at 6pm
- Emails
- Website - <http://swcrpc.org/transportation/> and <http://swcrpc.org/tac/>
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SWCRPC>
- SWCRPC newsletter - <http://swcrpc.org/publications/>

TAC Meeting Discussions

During 2016 the TAC discussed the following major topics:

- Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates
- District Leveling/ Paving Prioritization
- Evacuation Routes for Regional All Hazard Resource Guide
- Construction project updates
- Grant opportunities
- Upcoming Municipal Roads General Permit
- Systemic Local Road Safety (formerly High Risk Rural Roads)
- The Current Bus Route Evaluation Study
- Way To Go Commuter Challenge



September 2016 TAC meeting at Hartness Airport in Springfield

- TPI Work Program
- Traffic Counts and Pedestrian Counts
- Transportation Inventories – including culverts, bridges, and roadways
- VTrans research on safety features for roadways
- Fieldtrip to Hartness Airport for discussion about Vermont Aviation and Hartness Airport
- Statewide Transportation Public Opinion Survey
- TAC Vision

TAC Vision

At their October 2016 meeting, the TAC discussed their vision – what they would like to do, and what would help the committee 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

TPI Performance Report

The following is an excerpt from the State Fiscal Year 2016 (July 2015 – June 2016).

TAC Activity:

TAC meetings – Total number of meetings held	7
TAC meetings – Average member participation rate	72%

Other Outreach:

Number of road foreman meetings held	4	
Number of Road Safety Audits held	1	Intersection of VT-131 and Weathersfield Center Road
Number of Transportation Board Forums hosted	0	Not a chosen location. Shared information about other locations.
Municipal Roads General Permit meetings hosted	2	One for Town Staff and Selectboards, one for Road Foremen
Field visits for Municipal Roads General Permit	2	Chester and Weathersfield

Number of Public Transit E&D (Elders and Persons with Disabilities) meetings held	7	Coordinated regional E&D meetings with WRC.
Number of Roads and Rivers Trainings Held	0	No regional training event was held. Staff attended a Roads and Rivers Tier II Training in August.
Various other smaller outreach efforts were accomplished during this period – too many to list.		

Data Collection:

Number of bridge and culvert inventories completed	3	Chester, Reading and West Windsor
Number of road condition inventories completed	2	Chester, Reading
Number of road drainage and erosion inventories completed	2	Chester, Baltimore
Number of sign inventories completed	0	
Number of traffic counts and speed studies completed	32	Various locations
Number of turning movement counts completed	1	VT-131 and VT-103 intersection (Cavendish)
Number of bike/ped counts conducted	9	At 4 routine locations
Number of counts completed at each State Park and Ride lot	12	Monthly counts at state lots. Bi-Annual counts at municipal lots.

Status of Regional Transportation Plan:

- a) During the majority of FFY 2015, the 2014 Southern Windsor County Regional Plan was in effect, which includes the Regional Transportation Plan as a component.
- b) The 2014 Plan was adopted on November 18, 2014 and became effective on December 23, 2014.
- c) The Regional Transportation Plan is incorporated as Volume 2 of the 2014 Southern Windsor County Regional Plan.

Participation in project development activities:

Number of project scoping efforts	5	US-5 Paving in Springfield Ludlow Bridge 99 deck replacement Chester TH Bridge 62 Springfield Interstate Bridges 26N&S Chester State Culvert 52
Number of 502 hearings	0	None were held in the region
Number of accelerated bridge meetings	1	Ludlow Bridge 99 deck replacement
Number of other project meetings	Many	Many others, including: Cornish-Windsor Bridge meeting (NH DOT). Charlestown-Springfield Bridge meeting (NH DOT). Springfield (I-91 Exit 7) Park-and-Ride project meeting.