

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

Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2017

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; and Gordy Eastman, Reading.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC.

Meeting Opened: The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Welcome and introductions

Changes to the agenda

“District Leveling” should actually be “District Paving” (recent name change)

Acceptance of minutes

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of October 26, 2016. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

District Paving Prioritization

Katharine Otto gave an overview of the District Paving Prioritization (formerly known as “District Leveling”) – including a handout which detailed the methodology. The TAC assigned the following ranking to projects (broadly agreed with District rankings:

1. VT-44 (entire length) and VT-44A (entire length). Combined into one. If adding VT-44A means the VT-44 project will not go ahead, drop VT-44A to second place and bump everything down one.
2. VT-106 from VT-131 in Weathersfield to the Woodstock townline
3. US-5 from Windsor (near Weathersfield townline) to Hartland
4. VT-11 in Springfield from Seavers Brook Road to New Hampshire border.

This year, because there is time before the priorities have to be submitted to VTrans, the priorities will be run passed the RPC Board of Commissioners before submittal.

Sharon Bixby moved to recommend these District Paving priorities to the RPC Board for approval prior to submittal to VTrans. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates

Katharine Otto gave an overview of the methodology for project prioritization and town highway bridge pre-candidates for this year – including a handout. Katharine will distribute the lists to be prioritized by email a week before the February TAC meeting, which will include pre-assigned responses for the regional criteria, as well as input from Town Road Foremen and Town Managers/ Selectboard Chairs. The TAC confirmed they like to consider the regional criteria without numerical values.

Katharine also gave the TAC a handout with a list of resources where they can find out information about VTrans funded projects (eg VTransparency, Bridge inspection reports, RPC GIS online maps). We will be using these resources together during prioritization next month.

Bridge Construction

Gordy Eastman, TAC rep for Reading, Reading Selectman and contractor for Parsons Brinkerhoff, gave a presentation about bridge construction projects that he inspects. The following are some highlights from the highway bridge project in New Haven:

- Significant depth for driving piles for abutments and piers
- Wide variety of uses of the river nearby – fishing, kayaking, horses in river, etc.
- Precision of how everything must line up and fit together/ inside each other
- Pros and Cons of Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC)
- “That looks dangerous” ... “Everything we do is dangerous”

SWCRPC Annual Reports

- a) *Park and Ride Counts* – Katharine handed out the annual summary of counts completed at the Park and Ride lots in our Region. Counts are carried out monthly. Counts are pretty low right now compared to previous years.
- b) *Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts* – Katharine handed out the annual summary of automatic bicycle and pedestrian counts completed at four locations in our Region. Counts are carried out through most of the year. There are clear seasonal, weekly, daily and hourly patterns for most of our locations.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates*
 - a. Katharine gave a handout with updates on many of the state funded construction projects around the region. TAC finds this list very helpful.
- b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>
 - a. Better Roads Grants – Applications due March 17. <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>
 - b. Downtown Transportation Grant – Applications due March 6. <http://acd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/downtown-transportation-fund>
- c) *Meetings*
 - a. None on the calendar right now.
- d) *Permit Applications*
 - a. No news
- e) *Other updates*
 - a. Draft Municipal Roads General Permit is available for review <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program> . Formal rulemaking and public hearings in the summer.

Other Business

None

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting in Ascutney. 2/22 at 6pm – Project Prioritization.

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

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.