

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

Meeting Minutes of March 22, 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

None

Acceptance of minutes

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2017. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Two abstentions, 5 yays, 0 nays. Motion passed.

A to B Mobility Study

Katharine Otto gave a presentation of the recently completed A to B Mobility Project. It looks at how people get from point A to point B without their own motorized vehicle. As part of the project a wide variety of stakeholders helped to identify existing services, challenges and opportunities. A key outcome of the project was a summary of available services which was shared amongst all stakeholders – human service agencies, transportation providers, and other interested individuals. Services varied greatly, for example in number of rides provided, eligibility requirements, funding source, allowed trip purposes, vehicle used, hours of operation, advanced warning required to schedule rides, and type of organization/ company. Everyone had their own unique service area which also added to the complexity.

Another key component of the project was talking with a variety of stakeholders to identify the challenges and opportunities related to getting transportation for their clients (in the case of the human service agencies) and for providing the ride (in the case of the transportation providers). A wide variety of stakeholders were involved – local hospitals, transit operators, community groups, social service agencies, and many others.

More information about the project, including the final report and transportation services list, is available from <http://swcrpc.org/a2b-mobility-project/>

Additional questions/ comments from the TAC included:

- Do many of the Towns provide funding assistance to the service providers?
- How can people get the information if they only have a phone?
- Are there any areas which have less service?

TAC Survey from VTrans

Katharine handed out TAC member survey which has been created to help VTrans evaluate the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) which is now over twenty years old. The survey will also be helpful in developing recommendations for “best practices” to ensure continuing productive TAC involvement and engagement. Katharine will pass the completed surveys to VTrans and send an electronic version of the survey to TAC members who could not attend.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates*
 - a. No major updates, although Katharine just found out today about NH-123 Westminster-Walpole bridge being reduced to one-lane this summer for construction
 - b. The condition of VT-11 and its need for paving has had considerable discussion over the last month.
 - c. The proposed changing configuration of the I-91 exit ramp at Springfield Exit 8 has also had considerable discussion.
- b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>
 - a. Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grants – Applications are due to be announced in late April. <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>
- c) *Meetings* – No news
- d) *Permit Applications* - No news
- e) *Legislative updates* – The Vermont Transportation Bill passed out of the House last Wednesday.
- f) *Municipal Roads General Permit* – Information session held 3/21 in Springfield with good attendance from town managers and road crews. The draft permit “framework” is available for review <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program>
Comments on these draft rules are preferred by April 1. Formal rulemaking and public hearings in the summer.
- g) *Other updates*
 - a. Windsor just received a Better Connections grant to prepare an action plan to look at downtown redevelopment, housing affordability and connections to the Connecticut River.
 - b. SWCRPC and neighboring Two Rivers – Ottauquechee Regional Commission will be hosting the 2017 Walk Bike Summit in April/ May of next year. It will be an interesting event and if anyone is interested in helping to plan for the event they should let Katharine know.

Other Business

Update on Gordy’s VTrans – Construction Company Cost Saving Project.

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting in Ascutney. 4/26 at 6pm.

Agenda item requests – VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan Outreach, Rail meeting (including maintenance practices and train track upgrades), vehicle inspections and DMV, highway safety, Gordy’s presentation on the rail bridge.

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.