

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

Meeting Minutes of April 26, 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); Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore (Vice Chair); Charlie Golden, Andover; John Saydek, Cavendish; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow, and Gordy Eastman, Reading.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Bruce McEnaney.

Meeting Opened: The meeting opened at 6:05pm

Welcome and introductions

Changes to the agenda

Added 2016 Traffic Count Report

Acceptance of minutes

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the minutes of March 22, 2017 with a correction (Add Tom Kenyon to the list of attendees) and an amendment (identify Gordy's project as VTrans - Construction Company Cost Saving). Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Sharon Bixby moved to appoint Kristi Morris as Chair. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. Approved unanimously.

Sharon Bixby moved to appoint Wayne Wheelock as Vice Chair. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Appoint At-large Members

Gordy Eastman moved to appoint Jeff Taft-Dick (Bicycle and Pedestrian) as an at-large member of the TAC. Seconded by Sharon Bixby. Approved unanimously.

Railroad 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 New Haven railroad bridge project:

- Complexities added to the project in order to maintain train traffic
- Depth of the project below the train line
- Surrounding constraints such as wetlands and historic
- Local wildlife around and on site
- Complexity of re-welding the rail

Updated Crash Data Public Query Tool

Katharine gave an overview of the newly updated Crash Data Public Query Tool. It is available online at <http://apps.vtrans.vermont.gov/CrashPublicQueryTool/> and includes Vermont motor vehicle crash data. The updated tool includes several new features including crash heat maps, more options for selection which data to look at, and more ways to show the data on a map.

2016 Traffic Count Annual Report

Katharine gave an overview of the 2016 Traffic Counting program that SWCRPC completed. Counts were completed in 6 regular locations and 7 locations requested by towns. Traffic counts also include information about vehicle types and

speed in most cases. SWCRPC regularly counts at 25 locations in the region, visiting each site every 2 – 3 years. Other sites can be requested by towns. The report will be uploaded at <http://swcrpc.org/transportation/> with the other Transportation Annual Reports.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates*
 - a. Ludlow VTrans construction projects start next week – <http://southcentralvtbridges.vtransprojects.vermont.gov/>
 - Public Information meeting on 4/20
 - VT-100 bridge just north of VT-103 – Construction starts next week and will include lane closures for two weeks either side of the full 10 day closure in mid-May.
 - VT-103 bridge in Ludlow Village (Walker Bridge) – Construction starts in late May and will include lane closures before a 35 day full closure which is anticipated to start in early June.
 - b. Woodstock Village Bridge meeting on 5/16 – Truck detour would affect VT-106, VT-44 and US-5 in our region.
 - c. Let Katharine know if you want to be added to the contact list for any upcoming projects that you do not already receive weekly emails from VTrans Public Information Officers (PIOs) for.
- b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>
 - a. Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grants – Applications this week. Applications due July 14th. <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>
- c) *Meetings* – See construction news
- d) *Permit Applications* - No news
- e) *Legislative updates* – No news
- f) *Other updates*
 - a. SWCRPC received a national award for the A to B Mobility Project. The NADO (National Association of Development Organizations) award recognizes “Excellence in Regional Transportation”. For more info see <http://ruraltransportation.org/2017-excellence-in-regional-transportation-awards-announced/>

Other Business

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

North Springfield’s County Road culvert/ bridge will be closing tomorrow.

Arne Jonynas and Charlie Golden expressed continued concerns about the condition of VT-11 and current plans by VTrans to address the issues.

Arne Jonynas asked for more information about how weight limits were set on Route 4 around the Woodstock area. Katharine will try to find out from VTrans.

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting in Ascutney. 5/24 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, Covered Bridge presentation (Sharon’s contact).

Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.