

SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2017

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave, Windsor, VT, at 6pm.

Attendance – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore (Vice Chair); Bruce McEnaney, Cavendish alternate; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; and Tom Kenyon, West Windsor.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Jackie Cassino, VTrans; Tom Marsh and Bob Haight, Town of Windsor.

Meeting Opened: The meeting opened at 6:05pm

Welcome and introductions

Changes to the agenda

Added TPI Work Program FY 2018

Acceptance of minutes

Sharon Bixby moved to approve the minutes of April 26, 2017. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects in Windsor

Bob Haight (Downtown Coordinator) and Tom Marsh (Town Manager) from the Town of Windsor, gave an overview of a variety of projects the Town and its residents have been doing over the last few years. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Long term vision of connecting the downtown to Harpoon
- Several grants to help with planning and visioning. This also is seen as positive for funding entities such as banks and state government.
- Grant funding from a variety of sources – and key to have money available for match
- Windsor Improvement Corp is primarily town funded, but allows more flexibility for implementing projects than if the Town were administering them
- Work included little facelifts to buildings
- Some of the projects have particular issues surrounding their location in the floodplain.
- Town got a road improvement bond a few years ago which is helping to provide matching funds for grants
- Community engagement and buy in is key for success
- Focusing on the value of what you are offering is important. Tax payers like to see the value of what they are paying for

Transportation Planning Initiative FFY 2018 Work Program

Katharine gave an overview and handout which outlined the key transportation activities that have been suggested by VTrans as activities, as well as outlined some other projects which may be interesting. FFY 2018 runs from October 1, 2017 until September 30, 2018. Katharine gave an overview of the new projects which would be added this year, as well as the potential projects. If anyone on the TAC has any additional ideas of projects they would like to suggest, they should talk to Katharine as soon as possible so it can be included in the work plan that is reviewed by the SWCRPC Board of Commissioners. A full copy of the work plan will be available upon request in early June.

Tom Kenyon moved to accept the overview of the Work Program and recommend the Work Program to the RPC Commissioners. Seconded by Sharon Bixby. Approved unanimously.

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Construction Updates*
 - a. Katharine gave a handout with updates on all the major projects
 - b. Katharine passed on information that VT-11 is due to get some spot fixes to keep it going until the bigger paving project comes.
 - 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 due July 14th.
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>
 - b. Several Water Quality grants/ RFPs are due to be released in the next few weeks and are due in June and July. Look out for emails and letters announcing them
 - c. Several towns in the region were successful with their Better Roads Grant applications this year.
- c) *Meetings* – No news
- d) *Permit Applications* - No news
- e) *Legislative updates* – Katharine gave a quick overview of the Transportation Bill. Katharine will send a link to the VLCT weekly legislative update sign up to TAC members who don't already get them.
- f) *Other updates*
 - a. *Rides to Wellness Grant* – Mt Ascutney Hospital, VTrans, SWCRPC and several other stakeholders just started work on a few grant to improve transportation access to healthcare.
 - b. *Better Connections Grant* – Work on the Chester and Springfield projects are drawing to a close. The Windsor project is just getting started.

Other Business

Wayne requested information about the Better Roads grant so he can prepare for next year's grant round.

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting in Ascutney. 7/26 at 6pm. Long Range Transportation Plan

Agenda item requests – Rail meeting (including maintenance practices and train track upgrades), vehicle inspections and DMV, highway safety, Covered Bridge presentation (Sharon's contact).

Wayne Wheelock moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.