

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

Meeting Minutes of July 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); John Saydek, Cavendish; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; and Tom Kenyon, West Windsor.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Jackie Cassino, VTrans (by Phone); Dave Pelletier, VTrans.

Meeting Opened: The meeting opened at 6:05pm

Welcome and introductions

Changes to the agenda

None

Acceptance of minutes

Wayne Wheelock moved to approve the minutes of May 24, 2017, with the correction for first bullet under Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects to be changed from “visit” to “vision”. Seconded by Charlie Golden. Approved unanimously.

VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan

Dave Pelletier from VTrans gave an overview of the new VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan, particularly focusing on the existing conditions and future trends they intend to reference within the plan. Dave was also seeking input on whether there are additional issues VTrans could consider covering within the plan, its policies and priorities. Some of the topics raised by the TAC included:

- Brush issues and roadside mowing
- More information about Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by whether VT residents or not, and whether residential or business.
- Where will transportation funding come from in the future? Tax electricity for Electric Vehicles? Increased registration and inspection costs already here.
- Are there user costs for aviation at state airports?
- Value of TACs and RPCs
- Ditching standards and the new Municipal Roads General Permit
- Good information from VTrans about safety on the radio.

More information about the project is available online at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/long-range-plan>. There will be another round of outreach to TACs in winter 2018 once the draft policies and priorities are compiled, followed by public hearings in spring 2018 once the full draft plan is available.

Updates and Announcements

a) *Construction Updates*

- a. Katharine gave an update on VT-44 paving and Ludlow Walker Bridge re-opening
- b. Wayne informed the group about the temporary closure of the Charlestown-Springfield bridge on August 1st and 2nd.

b) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/>

- a. Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant – Applications due 8/15
<http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>
- b. Grants In Aid Pilot Program - <http://anr.vermont.gov/news/2017-municipal-roads-grants-in-aid>
- c. Transportation Alternatives Grants Applications will be released in the fall.

- c) *Meetings* – No news
- d) *Permit Applications* - No news
- e) *Legislative updates* – No news
- f) *SEVT Transit Route changes* – SEVT is coming to the end of a long process to evaluate bus routes in Springfield, Ludlow, Chester, Cavendish, as well as routes to the Upper Valley. New schedules and routes are anticipated to be finalized in the next few weeks. Katharine will pass on information as it becomes available.
- g) *Other updates*
 - a. *FFY2018 TPI Work Program* – RPC Board confirmed the TAC’s recommendation at their 7/26 meeting.
 - b. *Project prioritization* – The process is currently being evaluated and re-designed. RPCs are involved in this work alongside many other partners and stakeholders. Katharine will keep the TAC in the loop as it progresses.

Other Business

None

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting 8/23 or 9/27. 9/27 meeting will be covered bridge construction and be in Ludlow.

Agenda item requests – 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 7:40pm. Seconded by Wayne Wheelock. Approved unanimously.