

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

Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2018

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the RSVP offices in Ascutney at 6pm.

Attendance – TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore (Vice Chair); John Saydek, Cavendish; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC

Meeting Opened: The meeting opened at 6:10pm

Welcome and introductions

Changes to the agenda

No changes.

Acceptance of minutes

Tom Kenyon moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2018. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates

Katharine emailed a list of all the projects for Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates to the TAC, Town Managers, Road Foremen and VTrans District Managers a week before the meeting. These lists included input from Road Foremen and Town Managers to assist the TAC. A slightly revised list was handed out at the meeting that included input from VTrans District staff.

The TAC discussed the projects according to the methodology shared at the previous TAC meeting.

The TAC had the following priorities and comments:

Paving

There was significant debate about the top two projects (VT-131 in Cavendish and Weathersfield, and VT-11 in Londonderry to Chester) – and it was very hard to decide which came 1st in the list. Both very important and very needed. There is significant concerns from the communities that both projects keep getting pushed back. In the end the TAC put VT-11 as number one because it is a busier road which carries lots of trucks (economic importance).

1. VT-11 from Londonderry to Chester
2. VT-131 in Cavendish and Weathersfield
3. VT-106 (River St) in Springfield
4. VT-10 in Chester and Springfield
5. VT-11 between Chester and Springfield

Roadway Projects

1. Springfield – Replacement of culvers 48A and 48B on US-5.

Safety and Traffic Operations

1. Springfield – Intersection improvements at off-ramp of I-91 SB where it meets VT-11, and the US-5/VT-11 intersection closeby

State Highway Bridges

1. Bridge 14 on VT-103 in Chester
2. Bridge 16 on VT-103 in Chester

Town Highway Bridges

1. Br 62 (McDonald's) in Springfield
2. Br 58 (Depot St) in Cavendish
3. Br 9 (High Bridge) in Andover
4. Br 56 (Willard) in North Springfield
5. Br 62 (Thompson Rd) in Chester
6. Br 57 (Mill St) in Ludlow

The Town of Springfield wanted the County Road Culvert (BR 82 in North Springfield) removed from the list because the work has already been completed. The TAC, therefore, did not prioritize this project.

Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates

Many bridges are new to the list this year

1. Br 26 (Vail on Main St) in Ludlow
2. Br 55 (US-5 near American Precision Museum) in Windsor
3. Br 79 (Park St) in Springfield
4. Br 23 (Brook Rd near Hewett) in Windsor
5. Br 74 (Blue Hill Rd) in Chester
6. Br 63 (Ascutney Basin Rd) in Weathersfield
7. Br 12 (Rod and Gun Club Rd) in Ludlow
8. Br 27 (Johnson Rd) in Windsor
9. CB 83 (Henry Gould Rd) in Weathersfield

Arne Jonynas moved to recommend these priorities (Project Prioritization and Pre-Candidate Town Highway Bridge List) to the RPC Board for approval prior to submittal to VTrans. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.

New Active Transportation Plan

Katharine gave an overview of existing conditions and trends. The TAC then discussed the findings and their knowledge about the area. There was also some discussion of needs in the Region. Some notable items of discussion from the TAC included:

- Ludlow has walking Wednesdays and workplaces also do regular walks
- Why do school buses pick up children just 3-4 blocks from school?
- Ability of the walker is important
 - Easy access from walking resources to a car can be important – for example if doing walking for exercise/ rehab but can only go so far before have to stop. Then someone else can pick them up.
- Known local loops
 - Lovers Lane – particularly for mountain bikers
 - Dug Road, Depot St and High St in Ludlow
 - Depot St, VT-103 and VT-131 in Proctorsville
 - Depot St, Center and Church St in Chester
- Impediments to adding new sidewalks
 - ROW issues
 - Condition of the ground
- Knowledge of routes
 - Need better signage/ designation of class 4s. People can use them more. Unfortunately, private landowners like them to appear more closed than they are
- New recreation trails
 - Miss Fanny's lookout in Ludlow behind Fletcher Farm

- Butternut Trail which connects to the Lost Mine Trail in Chester (NW corner of the town forest)
- Trails behind the Chester High School
- Making connections
 - A group in Bellows Falls, Saxton's River and Grafton have been working to connect their trails. Would it be good for other towns to try to connect in?

Updates and Announcements

- a) *Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)* - Final standards were released on January 30th. There was a useful webinar by ANR which was recorded and is available at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcE3IVeRioHtVMqAeBLVDZQ> . For more information about the permit visit <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program> .
- b) *Project Prioritization Process Update* – No updates
- c) *Construction Updates* – No updates
- d) *Grant Opportunities* - <http://swcrpc.org/grants/> -
 - a. No new grant opportunities right now
 - b. Better Roads grants were awarded in February. In this round the region has 3 inventory grants (Andover, Baltimore and Chester Part A) and two construction grants (Reading and Weathersfield).
 - c. Better communities grants were awarded this year to Danville, Enosburgh and Hyde Park
- e) *Meetings* – None upcoming or to report on
- f) *2018 VT Walk Bike Summit in WRJ* – Friday, May 4th – Registration now open <https://vtwalkbikesummit.com/>.
- g) *Permit applications* – No applications of regional concern
- h) *Legislative updates* – No major updates. There is a new tree warden bill which would influence highway maintenance. For a summary of the proposal see www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/wlr_09.pdf For more information about what can be done in and near the ROW see <http://swcrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ROWissues-RoadForemanMeeting-27july2011.pdf>

Other Business

None

Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting 3/28

Future topic ideas: Rail meeting (including maintenance practices), sign markings, highway safety, automated vehicles, Reading bridges construction, E911 dispatch center

Gordy Eastman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Seconded by Sharon Bixby. Approved unanimously.