

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

**Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2017**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the Town Hall in Ludlow, at 6pm.

**Attendance** – TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield (Chair); Charlie Golden, Andover; John Saydek, Cavendish; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Gordy Eastman, Reading; and Tom Kenyon, West Windsor.

Others present: Katharine Otto, SWCRPC; Jeremy Desjardins, VT Department of Motor Vehicles; Brett Wright and Joe Poston, Wright Construction.

**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 July 26, 2017, with the correction to add Charlie Golden from Andover to the list of attendees. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*

**The New Automated Vehicle Inspection Program**

Detective Jeremy Desjardins from the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicle's Southern Investigations Unit gave the TAC an overview of the inspections process. Some of the highlights of the discussion included:

- The new Automated Vehicle Inspection Program (AVIP) was released in 2016 and started to be used on inspections in 2017. It did not change the manual or practices for inspection which were last revised in 2013, but made an automated system for information collection rather than paper forms.
- The first vehicle inspections in Vermont occurred in 1935 with emissions added to the inspection criteria in 1996
- Vermont has partnered with Parsons to select equipment, create software, and train users. The choice of tablet was guided by mechanics – including high durability, ability to be wiped clean, and withstand extreme cold.
- Some people have seen the cost for their inspections go up significantly – Vermont does not tell mechanics how much they can charge for their inspections.
- Some notable advantages of the new system:
  - Less fraud during inspections process
  - More seamless ordering of new inspection stickers
  - Tablet can store a variety of information including photos of items that failed inspection and recall notices by VIN.
  - Tablet can aid with training of mechanics – all registered users have notices and updates concerning inspections sent to them electronically rather than the old system of paper mail.
- Creation of a “conditional pass” to give a grace period for some people to get up to speed if failed emissions test.

**Covered Bridge Reconstruction**

Brett Wright and Joe Poston gave a presentation about covered bridge reconstruction. Some of the highlights of the discussion included:

- Wright Construction has been working on covered bridges since 1985 and has worked on 30 covered bridges in 4 states, including two built from scratch.
- Upper Falls Covered Bridge in Weathersfield – reconstructed in 2008
- Bath Village Bridge in New Hampshire in 2013

- Gifford Covered Bridge in Randolph
- Mount Holly Culvert in 2015
- Contractors need to be pre-qualified to do covered bridge work in Vermont
- Furniture grade wood is often used for repairs, including oak.
- Since they are repairing existing structures, they have to tailor some pieces on site to exactly fit spaces which have changed shape or size over time.
- Sometimes use temporary bridges inside the covered bridge to hold the structure in place while work on abutments or key structural elements
- Shoring can be up to 30% of the project cost.
- Also showed a Mount Holly Project from 2015 which had interesting innovations.

## Updates and Announcements

### a) Construction Updates

- a. Katharine gave an update on the Ludlow Bridges, the temporary pilot intersection changes in Springfield on the I-91 southbound exit ramp onto VT-11, and the large culvert replacement in Springfield on VT-11.

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

- a. Better Connections Grant - <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/projects-programs/better-connections>
- b. Better Roads Grant Applications – Due to be announced in the next few weeks with applications due end of November.
- c. Transportation Alternatives Grants Applications were released today. Due November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Look out for an email with more information or check out <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt>

### c) Meetings

- a. 10/16 – Municipal Roads General Permit Public Hearing in Ascutney - [http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/stormwater/docs/Permitinformation/MunicipalRoads/MR\\_GP\\_PublicNotice\\_FINAL.pdf](http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/stormwater/docs/Permitinformation/MunicipalRoads/MR_GP_PublicNotice_FINAL.pdf) (includes other times and locations)
- b. 10/25 – Vermont Transportation Board Fall Hearing in Springfield (and other times and locations outside the region – more details to come)

## Other Business

None

## Future agenda items and next meeting date

Next meeting 10/25 at the Springfield Town Hall at 5/ 5:30 (as needed for the agenda), followed by the Vermont Transportation Board Hearing at 6pm

*Sharon Bixby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Seconded by Gordy Eastman. Approved unanimously.*