

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753

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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Location: Addison County Regional Planning Commission office, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton: Howard Hall
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall: Brian Kemp	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham: Karen Shacket
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski
Lincoln: Will Sipsey, Chair	Waltham:
Middlebury:	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	

Staff: Mike Winslow

Guests: Emily Parkany (VTrans), Elke Ochs (VTrans)

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of August 21, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes. **Moved by Karen; Second by Steve.** Jeff requested that if a proposal for a TAC grants had a sponsor at the meeting to speak to the projects, the sponsor be identified as such in the minutes. Edit accepted by unanimous consent. **The motion then passed without opposition with Brian and Brent abstaining.**
- VTrans Research and Innovation work – Emily Parkany and Elke Ochs - Emily has been with research group for 2.5 years; Elke just joined a little over a month ago. The objective of the research group is to facilitate and promote research for VTrans. All projects need an agency champion. There are limited funds for external research; most of the funds are dedicated to collaborative projects with broader transportation research entities. The group receives \$1.2 million in federal funds with a 25% state match. On-line research idea solicitation happens in early December and projects are selected for funding in April. Last year three distinct projects were funded. Research reports from previous projects are available at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/research>. Emily and Elke then reviewed some of the currently funded work of the group.
- Award TAC grant applications for FY20. The TAC considered the following projects for funding.
 - Bridport – 22A speed and line-of-site at intersections

Cancellations due to weather will be made for winter storm warnings pursuant to ACRPC's Meeting Cancellation Policy (available on ACRPC's website) and will be posted on the homepage of ACRPC's website at: <http://www.acrpc.org>

- Bristol – improve pedestrian access along 116 between Lover’s Lane and Airport Dr./High School
- Lincoln – new alignment assessment for S. Lincoln Rd.
- Panton – corridor study for Lake St., Pease Rd., Jersey St., Panton Rd.
- Middlebury – traffic/intersection study for Rt.7/Boardman St. & Rt.7/Middle Rd.
- Salisbury – intersection study for Lake Dunmore Rd./Upper Plains Rd.

Will gave Howard a chance to represent the Panton proposal as there was no Panton representative at the meeting in August. Howard described the need for a traffic study and identification of cost-effective speed reduction measures between Vergennes and the southwest part of Panton.

TAC members ranked proposals with the lowest scores indicating the most support.

Results were as follows:

- Bristol – 24
- Lincoln – 24
- Salisbury – 32
- Panton – 39
- Bridport – 44
- Middlebury – 47

ACRPC has budgeted \$40K for TAC studies. **Jeff moved and Karen seconded to allocate \$20K to Bristol, \$15K to Lincoln, and \$5K to Salisbury** which matches the request made by those three towns. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) – TCI is a regional proposal to cap the greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by creating sellable allowances for sale of transportation-related fossil fuels. Allowances would be purchased by fuel wholesalers and revenues would return to the states participating. A meeting took place at ACRPC on 9/18 to receive stakeholder input on best practices and innovative ideas to reduce emissions from the transportation sector and to consider priorities for allocating any revenue that might result from the Initiative.
 - Triangle Bike Loop survey – consultants are currently working under a Municipal Planning Grant to identify and improve bicycle routes connecting New Haven, Vergennes, Bristol, and Middlebury. The consultants have established an on-line survey to receive input on the route. The survey can be found at: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=41d3c98ddee74b85b898b527c1deae9e>
 - Open grant opportunities
 - Lake Champlain Basin Program – Due October 3
 - Environmental Mitigation – Due October 4
 - Transportation Alternatives – Due November 22
 - Grants in Aid FY20 site visits – about half completed
 - Benton Wright joined ACRPC this week as the new Ameri Corp intern.
- Business/Roundtable

- Brent noted that VTrans has informed Vergennes they are willing to set aside \$1-million for studies of an alternative truck route, but they need a commitment from surrounding towns that they are supportive of the study. Jeff asked which towns have provided letters. Mike noted that ACRPC has provided draft letters for consideration of the towns. Weybridge shared their letter and informed Mike that it was sent to the state. Ferrisburgh has indicated that they would prefer to draft their own letter. Mike and Brent were not aware of the status of the letters from other communities.
- Brian expressed disappointment in the response of AoT (shared at the August TAC meeting) to the letter about Rt.125 safety issues. Cornwall is considering a letter to the Addison Independent and communicating their frustration with their state representatives.
- Adjourn 8:00 PM

Note: adopted meeting minutes are also available online at the ACRPC website under agendas and minutes. For your convenience, the latest version of the TAC Bylaws are linked here also: <http://www.acrpc.org/tac/>

2019 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

October 16	
November 20	December No Meeting

Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be scheduled for 6:30PM at the ACRPC office at 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT 05753, Telephone Number: (802) 388-3141