

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 20th, 2019

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

Members Present:

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

GUESTS: Rick Bryant (Stantec), Joe Segale (VTrans)

ACRPC Staff: Mike Winslow

AGENDA

Call to Order: 6:30PM

Approval of February, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes

Moved: Peter Seconded: Karen Passed Unanimously

Presentation on the 22A Vergennes Truck Study – Stantec, Rick Bryant

Rick reviewed the draft study and sought comments from the TAC in anticipation of the April 2nd public meeting in Vergennes. Latest draft of the study can be found at

<http://acrpc.org/programs-services/transportation/transportation-projects/> .

- Rick identified the next steps in moving toward construction of an alternative route as: 1. April 2 public meeting, 2. TAC approval, 3. ACRPC full commission approval, 4. Build support from surrounding towns.
- The Capital budget has no capacity for the next five years. Joe mentioned that other work can be done before the project gets into the Capital budget including planning for land use along the alternative route including changing zoning, considering the possibility of a TIF district along the route to help finance the match for federal loans, and including the

project in the regional plan. Shannon noted that the Vergennes Planning Commission has been considering such changes.

- Will asked if the alternative alignment created an opportunity for an intermodal center for freight from the rail cars. Joe said maybe. That is one of many possible opportunities along a new route.
- Tom asked if the study had looked at commodity flow studies. Rick said they had looked at such studies to identify the volume of hazardous materials moving along the existing route.
- Jeff and Will disputed the conclusion of major improvements to quality of life for Alternative C. Rick explained that the conclusion was reached because improvements in quality of life along Route 22A roughly cancelled out harm to quality of life along Route 17, and there would be major improvements in quality of life in downtown Vergennes.
- Brent asked about the need for improved signalization at the ends of Route 17 in Alternative C. Rick said their studies showed the intersections would still operate at level of service C and therefore no improvements were warranted.
- Tom recommended noting that much of the land that would be used for Alternative B is state-owned.
- Jeff asked when the complete document would be available for review. Rick said it would be ready by the May TAC meeting. Jeff requested that it be made available one or two weeks before that meeting.
- Brent asked about the public notice process for the April meeting. Mike noted that it would be posted on Front Porch Forum in Vergennes and invited TAC members to post in their communities as well. The Addison Independent would be notified of the meeting. Joe mentioned that we may have an email list from the prior meeting that we could use to notify people as well.

Transportation Updates

- Road and Bridge Standards- Mike shared these with members last week. They will be discussed at our next meeting and comments are due to the state by April 26.
- Update from Road Foremen meeting – Road Foremen had reviewed the standards and were generally okay with them. There's been some concern about the guardrail standard and about the need for two culverts per road segment with slopes from 5-8%. The latter standard is driven by the MRGP. VTrans expects to complete the standards by May and towns would then have a month or two to sign-on. Tom noted that they would likely not be in place before towns had to sign the next commitment on ERAF funds which is due May 1.
- Clean Water Block Grants – a new round is anticipated in the spring, but the FY19 funds have been exhausted.
- Systemic Local Road Safety Program – The TAC will have to identify a town for participation at our next meeting.
- TAC studies – A consultant has been selected for the Ripton study. The RFP for the Monkton study closes on Monday.

- Rt. 125 safety letter update – the letter has been sent to VTrans
- Notice of officer elections at our April meeting. Will noted that he is willing to serve as chair for another term. Jeff indicated that he would like to step down as vice-chair.
- Project prioritizations – prioritizations agreed to by the TAC at the January and February meetings have been forwarded to VTrans.
- Request for volunteer drivers – ACTR and Agewell are both looking for volunteer drivers to take elderly and disabled people to appointments and to deliver meals on wheels. Mike shared brochures on the programs. Tom mentioned the VA also needs drivers to bring patients to appointments in White River Junction

Other Business

- Peter asked if there had been any response from VTrans about the change in level at Route 116 and River Rd. following the paving project. Mike said there has not been a response.

Adjourn 8:07 PM