

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, March 21st, 2018

Members present:

Addison:	Jeff Nelson	Orwell:	Tom Audet
Bristol:		Panton:	
Bridport:	Andrew Manning	Ripton:	Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Brian Kemp	Salisbury:	Tom Scanlon
Ferrisburgh:	Steve Huffaker	Shoreham:	Karen Shackett
Goshen:		Starksboro:	
Leicester:		Vergennes:	
Lincoln:	Will Sipsey, Chair	Waltham:	
Middlebury:		Weybridge:	
Monkton:		Whiting:	
New Haven:			

Staff: Josh Donabedian, Nikki Boudah
Guests: Dan Monger (New Haven Planning Commission), Brent Newton (Waltham Resident & Addison County Commercial Vehicle Enforcement), Jim Walsh (New Haven Selectboard), Sommer Bucossi & Joe Segale (VTrans)

Will Sipsey, the Chair, called the TAC meeting to order at 6:30PM

Approval of February 21st, 2018 TAC Meeting Minutes

Will opens meeting by requesting a motion on the minutes.

****Steve Huffaker motions to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting of the TAC, seconded by Karen Shackett. Discussion: Jeff Nelson would like the February minutes to note that Will assumed the role of Chair upon his arrival at 7:00pm. Upon no objection to the amended motion and no further discussion, the minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting of the TAC were unanimously approved.**

Note: the requested revision has been made and the revised minutes have been posted to the ACRPC website.

VT 22A Truck Route Study SOW Review & Discussion – Joe Segale, VTrans

Joe Segale began w/ a background of the issue and provided an overview of the Scope of Work, highlighting important points as he guided the TAC through it.

Questions & Comments

- Jeff Nelson
 - Should clarify the SOW to make clear that the final report WILL identify a preferred alternative
 - Regarding 3rd bullet on page 2 of SOW – wants to make sure it is listed in the final SOW
 - The SOW mentions several meetings with the TAC – suggested that a TAC subcommittee is a better, more flexible approach; Joe sees advantages to having the full TAC participate, particularly considering the regional significance of the project and the established structure of the TAC and its regular meetings
- Tom Scanlon – are there adequate areas on Route 22A for law enforcement to setup and weigh/inspect trucks?
 - Brent Newton – absolutely not
 - Asked for clarification from Joe regarding what is meant by “safety”? Just wanted to make sure safety concerns are addressed/identified in report
- Tom Audette – does 22A safety in Orwell/Benson come into play in this project?
 - Josh provided update on Fair Haven – Benson – Orwell construction project on Route 22A
- Jim Walsh – recalled a Gov. Shumlin initiative that would have Global Foundries contribute funding to Route 22A improvements and wondered if that is still a possibility
- Jeff Nelson – wants to make sure VTrans takes ownership of the study and its outcome and concerns regarding management
 - Joe – doesn’t believe that “next steps” following completion of the project will be determined by who manages the project
- Dan Monger – referenced November unanimous vote re: bypass & diverting regular traffic as a result; thought Route 17 alternative was off the table as a result
 - Joe – knows that VTrans will be required to consider all alternatives at some point further down the road (Environmental Assessments are required as part of major federal projects, which include alternatives analysis) and that we need to get all potential options down on paper and documented
 - Jeff Nelson noted that he is agreement with Joe on this issue
- Jeff Nelson – what can be done to try to avoid this study from becoming a shelf-warmer?
- Joe – discussed the new VTrans project prioritization system that is currently in development with a consultant and how a new system will be implemented a couple years from now, which will take regionally significant projects such as this into account

FY18 TAC Study Program Revisited

Josh updated the TAC regarding the Salisbury-Cornwall covered bridge and the meeting that he and Adam had with VTrans and Brian Kemp (Cornwall) and Paul Vaczy (Salisbury); reviewed Adam's memo to the TAC regarding his recommendation for the remainder of the TAC study funds.

****Tom Scanlon, seconded by Karen Shackett, motioned to allocated the remaining \$15,000 in TAC study funds to the Route 22A Truck Route Study.**

Upon call for discussion, Norm Tjossem made the case for the Ripton Bridge Project that was submitted and reviewed at the September TAC meeting. He noted that it is an urgent issue for Ripton, considering how vulnerable the bridge is to extreme weather and that it is a key emergency route and also a utility route, both vitally important things in post-disaster scenarios; not quite in catastrophic condition, but the bridge is highly vulnerable, especially considering increasing likelihood of catastrophic flooding related to climate change.

- Jeff Nelson – given the history of the truck issue in Vergennes and its regional significance, he feels it would send the wrong message to VTrans if the region didn't step up to the plate and contribute some funding as a match to the \$80,000 that VTrans has committed to the project
- Karen Shackett – noted that the TAC program is annual and that Ripton can and should apply again, which we are now only a few months away
- Will Sipsev – noted that it is a matter of when, not if, the Ripton bridge and road gets wiped out

***Upon the suggestion from Tom Scanlon, Will Sipsev received unanimous consent from the TAC to direct Josh to note in the minutes that the Ripton bridge project is the TAC's second highest priority under the TAC study program*

****Will Sipsev then called for a vote on the motion, which the TAC unanimously approved.**

FY20 Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidate Project Prioritization

Josh provided overview of the spreadsheet provided, noting the new "Road Name" column as requested by Jeff during the February TAC meeting.

Jim Walsh inquired as to whether there is a difference in funding allocation between bridges on class 2 and 3 roads, to which Josh replied that there is no difference.

Andrew Manning pointed out that on the "Annual Comparison" spreadsheets that Bridport Bridge 4 is over Potash Brook and not West Branch of Dead Creek as it was listed.

- Note – Josh has updated the spreadsheets accordingly

****Tom Scanlon, seconded by Brian Kemp, motioned to rank Salisbury Bridge 8 first overall in the FY20 rankings only and to drop the TAC’s FY19 rankings one slot each (as seen in the table below):**

TAC Rank	Town/City	Bridge #
1	Salisbury	8
2	Vergennes	27
3	Middlebury	101
4	Lincoln	46
5	Bridport	5
6	Shoreham	8
7	Bridport	4
8	Starksboro	7S
9	New Haven	30
10	Lincoln	18
11	Ferrisburgh	11

Jeff Nelson amended the original motion to clarify that last year’s 10th ranked pre-candidate bridge (Ferrisburgh bridge 11) would be bumped down to 11 (as noted in above table). Upon no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved as amended.

FY20 Capital Program Project Prioritization

Josh provided a brief overview of this year’s projects to be prioritized; discussion amongst the TAC followed.

****Tom Scanlon, seconded by Jeff Nelson, motioned to approve and submit to VTrans the project list as it is. Upon no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.**

Transportation Updates From Josh

Josh provided an update on the Lincoln and Salisbury TAC Studies as well as the Regional Transportation Plan Update (which was approved by the Full Commission at its April 11th meeting).

Member Forum & Comments

Tom Scanlon – just wanted to make sure that the record reflects, and that we keep in mind, that there needs to be safe pull-offs for truck inspection and law enforcement on Route 22A.

Jeff Nelson – per TAC bylaws, believes the TAC is due to vote on officers at its April meeting. If so, he is willing to continue as Vice Chair but is also happy to relinquish the role if others are interested.

All other members pass.

Other Business

None.

****Adjourn – Tom Scanlon motioned to adjourn, seconded by Tom Audet; upon no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.**