

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Members present:

<b>Addison:</b>	Jeff Nelson	<b>Orwell:</b>	
<b>Bristol:</b>		<b>Panton:</b>	
<b>Bridport:</b>	Andrew Manning	<b>Ripton:</b>	Norm Tjossem
<b>Cornwall:</b>		<b>Salisbury:</b>	
<b>Ferrisburgh:</b>		<b>Shoreham:</b>	Karen Shackett
<b>Goshen:</b>		<b>Starksboro:</b>	Jan McCleery
<b>Leicester:</b>	Diane Benware	<b>Vergennes:</b>	Brent Rakowski
<b>Lincoln:</b>		<b>Waltham:</b>	
<b>Middlebury:</b>	Betty Nuovo	<b>Weybridge:</b>	
<b>Monkton:</b>		<b>Whiting:</b>	
<b>New Haven:</b>			
<b>Guests:</b>	Jim Gish, Town of Middlebury; Scott Williams, Pathways Consulting; Sommer Bucossi, VTrans		
<b>Staff:</b>	Josh Donabedian		

Jeff Nelson, the Vice Chair, called the TAC meeting to order at 6:30PM

## Approval of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 TAC Meeting Minutes

**\*\*Karen Shackett motions to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2018 meeting of the TAC, seconded by Jan McCleery. Discussion: Karen Shackett pointed out that the first bullet point under the “SLRS” section on the second page of the minutes reads “at lease on” instead of “at least one.” (note: the correction has been made and minutes reposted). Upon no further discussion, the minutes of the April 18, 2018 meeting of the TAC were unanimously approved.**

## Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project Update and Q&A – Jim Gish

Jim Gish, Community Liaison on the project, gave a brief update on the project and what to expect in terms of construction heading into summer 2018 as well as what to expect in future years. From a “big picture” perspective, the timeline is as follows:

- 2018: installation of drainage system required to accommodate the new rail system in the downtown area
  - Specifically, the centerpiece of the new drainage system will be in Printers Alley; devices are in place to measure vibration from drilling/blasting for potential impacts to historic buildings; there will be a noticeable impact on parking, as 22 parking spaces are expected to be lost due to this work
- 2019: this construction season will be spent in preparation for lowering and rebuilding the rail bed
- 2020: for a 10-week period Vermont Rail will be re-routed up the eastern side of Vermont to accommodate for 24-7 construction, during which both Main Street and Merchants will be entirely closed to traffic
- 2021: project wrap-up and completion of minor tasks

Other important notes:

- Bonus money has been made available to the contractor as an incentive to the contractor to complete the project early, however this is unlikely due to the complicated and time consuming nature of the work to be completed
- Jim maintains a weekly blog on the project, which can be accessed here: <https://www.middleburybridges.org/project-blog>
- The deteriorated pavement on both temporary bridges is what is known as “alligator cracking” and both bridges will be repaved every summer only project completion
- Question: regarding the drilling/blasting, how will that work?
  - Very controlled, small blasts charges that will be covered with blasting mats; traffic and pedestrians will be stopped for about a 5-minute period during blasts, but people in nearby buildings are not required to move
  - There will be 3 vertical pits drilled, then horizontal drilling will take place from within the new pits for drainage into Otter Creek

**Creek Road Erosion Stability Study Presentation – Scott Williams, Pathways Consulting**

Scott provided a PowerPoint presentation on the TAC-sponsored and funded study. The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed here:

[http://54.172.27.91/Downloads/TACmaterials/TACmaterials\\_20180516.pdf](http://54.172.27.91/Downloads/TACmaterials/TACmaterials_20180516.pdf)

**Transportation Updates from Josh**

*Weybridge-New Haven Route 17 Bridge Project*

The bridge is officially closing to traffic at 6:00am on Monday, June 4th. It is anticipated that crews will be working seven days a week until the bridge re-opens on or before August 3rd.

Anyone with questions or concerns regarding this project may contact Stephanie Barrett, Public Outreach Coordinator at 802-862-6085. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the contractors anticipated work schedule, please email [sbarrett@coibsinc.com](mailto:sbarrett@coibsinc.com) your request.

The project factsheet is available here:

<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=12B552>

Visit here for weekly updates: <http://countonitinc.com/category/road-closures/bridge-8-vt-route-17/>

### **Member Forum & Comments**

Jan McCleery – (1) gave update on 116 project, Starksboro portion appears to be completed with just minor wrap-up tasks to be completed; (2) a portion of Lewis Creek, just north of Christmas tree farm on Route 116, is beginning to erode into the ROW and wonders if this site is on VTrans’ radar for a mitigation project

Brent Rakowski – inquired about the VT22A Truck Route Study Project, consultant selection to occur within a week of TAC meeting; Jeff Nelson suggested it would be a good idea to have a representative from a town along the Route 17 corridor on the project steering committee

Diane Benware – (1) Old Jerusalem Road southernmost railroad crossing project upcoming during June; (2) a public meeting re: culvert/bridge replacement on Old Jerusalem Road has also been scheduled

Jeff Nelson – noted that his employer, VHB, was one of the consultants to submit a proposal for the VT22A Truck Route Study Project and that the conflict of interest involving Jeff has been explicitly identified and highlighted in the proposal; he also noted that he requested the Town of Addison appoint an alternate delegate to be involved should VHB be selected.

All other members pass.

### **Other Business**

None.

**\*\*Adjourn – Karen Shackett motioned to adjourn, seconded by Norm Tjossem; upon no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.**