

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

ᐱᐱᐱ. ᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱ

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, August 15th, 2018

Members present:

Addison:	Jeff Nelson	Orwell:	
Bristol:		Panton:	
Bridport:		Ripton:	Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:		Salisbury:	Tom Scanlon
Ferrisburgh:	Steve Huffaker	Shoreham:	Karen Shackett
Goshen:		Starksboro:	Jan McLeery
Leicester:	Diane Benware	Vergennes:	Brent Rakowski
Lincoln:	Will Sipsey, Chair	Waltham:	
Middlebury:	Betty Nuovo	Weybridge:	
Monkton:	Thea Gaudette	Whiting:	
New Haven:			

Guests: Rick Bryant, Stantec; Cindy Cook, Adamant Accord; Sommer Bucossi, VTrans; municipal officials from Addison, New Haven, and Vergennes

Staff: Josh Donabedian

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

Approval of June 20th, 2018 TAC Meeting Minutes

****Thea Gaudette motions to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting of the TAC, seconded by Tom Scanlon. Upon no further discussion, the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting of the TAC were unanimously approved.**

*Josh shared the news with the TAC that he has accepted a position with the Natural Resources Board and that his last day at ACRPC will be Friday, August 17th *

VT22A Truck Route Study – Rick Bryant, Stantec; Cindy Cook, Adamant Accord

All project documents, updates, meeting notices, etc. will be available throughout the duration of the project on the project website here: <http://acrpc.org/programs-services/transportation/transportation-projects/>

The TAC provided feedback and engaged in discussion and Q&A throughout the presentation.

FY19 TAC Study Program Review & Discussion

A total of \$33,000 is available to be awarded under the FY19 TAC Study Program, as the TAC had previously voted to commit \$7,000 of the \$40,000 typically allocated to the VT22A Truck Route Study as part of ACRPC's \$20,000 match. All four study requests are resubmissions from 2017.

- Bridport – requesting \$20,000 to complete a safety study of various dangerous intersections along Route 22A in town. Josh introduced the project on behalf of Bridport; Karen Shackett confirmed that the locations identified in the request indeed have safety issues. A delegate asked whether Bridport had requested increased law enforcement and the answer from Karen was yes; this whole stretch of 22A down through Shoreham and Orwell is a “Safety Corridor” and there has been a visible increase in law enforcement. Important to have a Bridport representative at the September 19 TAC meeting to speak on behalf of the request.
- Ferrisburgh – requesting \$15,000 to complete a traffic safety study at the intersection of Route 7 and Stage/Old Hollow Roads in North Ferrisburgh. Steve Huffaker spoke on behalf of the request. The Town has had an ongoing conversation with VTrans and ACRPC for over two years now regarding the safety issues at this intersection and how to go about seeking safety improvements; VTrans has said that all available minor improvements have been made and that next steps are to complete a traffic signal warrant analysis and a full-scale traffic safety study and alternatives analysis.
- Monkton – requesting \$15,000 for a planning study to fix/improve the Monkton Ridge Road – States Prison Hollow Road intersection. Thea Gaudette spoke on behalf of the request. The study would be part 3 of 3 of a comprehensive Complete Streets, with the 2 previous studies having been funded through the TAC Study Program
- Ripton – requesting \$12,000 for a safety study of Old Town Road to determine if it is a viable emergency route as well as to determine, safe, feasible, cost-effective options for bridge replacement, which is in very poor condition and vulnerable to extreme weather events. Josh reminded the TAC of its previous “vote of confidence” in support of Ripton’s application, particularly considering the regional significance should Route 125 wash out again. Norm Tjossem spoke on behalf of the request. Route 125 has washed out four times in the last decade and it is not a matter of “if”, but “when” it washes out again

Other notes:

- Josh shared his thought regarding the possibility of combining the Bridport/Ferrisburgh safety studies into one request for a total of \$20,000; Thea would like the TAC to consider this option more thoroughly during the September TAC meeting

- Regarding the Ferrisburgh request, it was asked whether the traffic signal warrant analysis should be completed first before moving forward with the safety study the Town is requesting; there should be new developments and updates from Adam at the September TAC meeting.
- Without a formal vote, the TAC decided to resume discussion and vote on the requests at its September TAC meeting

Transportation Updates from Josh

- Weybridge-New Haven Bridge over Otter Creek project: bridge construction was complete and through traffic re-opened several days ahead of schedule at the end of July
- Grants-in-Aid: 14 ACRPC towns completed projects under the FY18 program and all 21 towns are signed up to complete projects under the FY19 program
- Josh gave advanced notice of the Better Roads and Transportation Alternatives Programs that will have anticipated submission deadlines in November. Josh encouraged Lincoln, Ripton, and Vergennes to apply for a Category A grant, as they are among the 6 remaining ACRPC towns that have not yet done so.

Member Forum & Comments

Tom Scanlon – Salisbury Road Foreman inquired about the status of Salisbury’s culvert inventory; Josh confirmed that the culvert inventory was completed as part of the Category A road erosion inventory process.

Jeff Nelson – on behalf of the TAC, offered a heartfelt thanks to Josh for his work at ACRPC and for its towns; Josh is very appreciative of the kind words shared by Jeff and the rest of the TAC.

Jan McCleery – several Starksboro residents are members of the Lewis Creek Association and have been in touch with VTrans regarding the Town’s concern regarding erosion that is approaching the ROW along Route 116; the location is just south of bridge #15 and just north of Hillsboro Road. Stay tuned for developments.

Karen Shackett – Shoreham is moving forward with its salt shed project, as all of its salt and sand is currently stored outdoors.

Brent Rakowski – Vergennes also has salt shed concerns – specifically the storage of material near the river – that he has been pushing the City on. Also announced that as of August 14th, Vergennes has officially hired a new City Manager to replace Mel Hawley.

Diane Benware – VTrans held a public concerns meeting in Leicester regarding the Old Jerusalem Road culvert/bridge replacement project; the Town hopes to have the project completed by 2020.

Will Sipsej – Lincoln Gap Road closed from 8/13 – 8/17 for paving on the Lincoln side of the Gap; noted two cyclist accidents – one resulting in death and the other resulting in severe injury – on the Warren side due to extremely poor pavement conditions.

All other members pass.

Other Business

To the TAC: it has truly been an honor and privilege working with you and for you these last three and a half years. I thank you for the patience and support you showed me throughout my time here and I appreciate the passion, insight, and knowledge you all shared and your commitment to the TAC, your towns, and to the region. As I mentioned at the meeting, among the many reason I chose to make a life here in Vermont, its people and values are at the top of the list; you all have been reminders that I made the right decision. I will genuinely miss working with you and hope that our paths cross again sooner than later. Good luck and be well.

-Josh

****Adjourn – Tom Scanlon motioned to adjourn, seconded by Thea Guadette; upon no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.**