

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2018

Will Sipsey, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present:

Addison:	Jeff Nelson
Bridport:	Andrew Manning
Bristol:	Peter Grant
Cornwall:	Brian Kemp
Ferrisburgh:	Steve Huffaker
Leicester:	Diane Benware
Lincoln:	Will Sipsey, Chair
Middlebury:	Betty Nuovo
Monkton:	Thea Gaudette
New Haven:	Mike Audy (D), Harvey Smith (A),
Orwell:	
Panton:	
Ripton:	
Salisbury:	Tom Scanlon
Shoreham:	Karen Shackett
Starksboro:	Jan McCleery
Vergennes:	Bret Rakowski, Warren Van Wyck
Waltham:	Tom Yager
Weybridge:	
Whiting:	

Staff: Adam Lougee

Guests: Jim Walsh, Dan Monger New Haven; Don Mason, Weybridge; Thad Luther, Stantec; Cindy Cook, Adamant Accord.

Will opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking for a motion on the minutes.

Minutes: Peter Grant moved to adopt the August minutes. Thea Gaudette, seconded the motion. In the ensuing discussion Jeff Nelson noted that the discussion in the minutes was incomplete. It is contained in the consultants' minutes, but those were not attached to the minutes in the package. **Jeff moved to table the August minutes until Adam can distribute the complete copy of the consultant's notes. Thea Gaudette 2nd the motion to table the minutes, which passed unanimously.**

Route 22A Truck Alternatives Study: Will introduced Thad Luther from Stantec and Cindy Cook from Adamant Accord as our presenters for tonight's meeting. He noted that the TAC chose Stantec to work on the Route 22A Truck Study and that at tonight's meeting they would be presenting the TAC with a pre-view of the slide show that they will give at the public meeting in Vergennes next week. The purpose of the preview is to take comments from the TAC regarding proposed changes to the slideshow.

Members of the TAC and the public made the following comments:

Jeff Nelson asked that Stantec amend the slides to do more than "consider" impacts on adjacent communities.

Don Mason noted that the Route 17 Hallock Road intersection has very poor site lines and would need to be upgraded if more trucks were directed to use Route 17. Don also questioned the validity of the statistical information on trucks in Vergennes and questioned the source of the data noting an average crash cost \$30,000. Finally, he noted truckers use 22A because they prefer that to Route 17.

Tom Yeager pointed out that another alternative could be Route 4 to Rutland and then Route 7 from Rutland;

Tom Scanlon noted the heavy agricultural truck use of Route 17, slowing travel speeds and creating additional safety hazards.

Dan Monger, a guest from New haven noted the TAC voted against the Route 17 alternative proposal last spring.

Will acknowledged Dan's comment but noted that this project will require an alternatives analysis if it moves forward and expressed his belief that this process helps the communities in that manner.

Peter Grant felt the slides should incorporate more of the previous studies.

Thad noted that Stantec was also creating an existing conditions study, but would amend the slides to note a lot of data came from earlier studies.

Doug Tolles, a resident on Hallock Road, noted Route 17 constituted a poor alternative because of its numerous safety deficiencies.

Andrew Manning noted that in 1995 Vergennes expressed its preference for a western bypass corridor.

Route 22A in Vergennes is due to be repaved by 2020.

Steve Huffaker recommended deleting some of the acronyms in slide 25.

Tom Scanlon asked how committed VTrans is to building a bypass in Vergennes if the community chooses that alternative?

Cindy Cook noted that in return, VTrans will want to know the Region is committed to the alternative chosen.

Adam Lougee noted the online alternative should be designed to study and include a number of short-term fixes including traffic calming, rail, intelligent transportation signals.

Brian Kemp cautioned the group about relying on rail, especially concerning its capacity to fulfill on-time delivery schedules.

TAC Grants: Adam handed out a brief summary of the 6 grant applications for the \$25,000 of TAC grant money remaining for this year. they are summarized as follows:

1. Bridport: \$20,000 - A study of traffic calming and safety improvements at intersections on Rt. 22A in Bridport.
2. Ferrisburgh: \$15,000 - A study of the Traffic and plans for improvement at the intersection of Hollow Road, Route 7 and Stage Road in Ferrisburgh.
3. Monkton: \$15,000 – A planning study of the intersection of States Prison Hollow Road and Ridge Road making recommendations to improve the intersection;
4. Ripton: \$12,000 - A planning study to suggest alternatives to replace the bridge serving the Old Center Turnpike over the South branch of the Middlebury River.

Copies of each application were attached to the summary. Steve Huffaker noted that Ferrisburgh had secured other funding commitments from VTrans and withdrew from the round. A representative of each proposed planning study represented their municipalities' request to the TAC. After discussion concerning each of the projects, the TAC voted, ranking each project in order. **The TAC ranked the Ripton proposal first, Monkton second and Bridport 3rd. Since there is not enough funding to fund all three projects, the TAC decided to fund the first two projects to the optimum amount.**

Will Sipsev requested that staff notify the applicants of the TAC's decision.

TA and Back Road grants: Adam noted that the deadlines are approaching and that ACRPC can help with the applications at a town's request.

Members Concerns:

Will noted that the east side of the Lincoln Gap Road had been repaved.

Peter Grant asked about the paving status of Route 116. Would they make it back before winter? Adam replied he believed they would.

Brian Kemp brought up a recent fatal accident on Route 125 in Cornwall. He noted several other fatalities caused by the blind spot on this ridge on Route 125. He requested that the TAC instruct staff to write a letter on its behalf, jointly with Middlebury, Cornwall and Bridport, requesting that VTrans act to remediate the problem immediately. **Jeff Nelson moved that the TAC request improvements from VTrans. Thea Gaudette seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Adjourn: On a motion by Peter Grant, seconded by Thea Gaudette and unanimously approved, the TAC adjourned the meeting at 8:15.