

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 15th, 2019

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

Members Present:

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton: Howard Hall
Bristol: Peter Grant	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham: Karen Shacket
Goshen:	Starksboro: Jan Mcleery
Leicester: Diane Benware	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski Shannon Haggett
Lincoln: Will Sipse, Chair	Waltham:
Middlebury: Liv Herdman	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	

Staff: Mike Winslow

Guest: Rick Bryant (Stantec)

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of April 17, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes
 - Moved by Jeff Nelson, Second by Peter Grant. Passed unanimously.
- 22A Truck Study Final Report.
 - Jeff Nelson made two comments on the draft final report
 - Pg. 9 Section 3, last sentence, first paragraph – he suggested that the TAC be added to the phrase “was not well received by adjoining towns”.
 - Pg. 119 first line of last paragraph should identify Vermont Route 22A
 - Jeff and Will then read the proposed resolution (pg. 4) on behalf of the TAC. Jeff moved and Peter seconded to accept the resolution. Motion passed on a voice vote.
 - Jeff thanked Rick and his team and expressed hope that the project would move forward

Cancellations due to weather will be made for winter storm warnings and will be posted on the homepage of ACRPC’s website at: <http://www.acrpc.org>

- Rick thanked the TAC for their involvement and input to the study
- VTrans Construction Projects Planned for 2019
 - Mike reviewed the list of planned and under construction for 2019
 - Planned
 - Leicester through Ferrisburgh – Rt. 7 – install new signs
 - Cornwall Rt74 and Middlebury Rt7– evaluate and replace X-Lite guardrail end treatments
 - Bristol-Starksboro – Paving on VT17
 - Middlebury – Continuing work on Rail bridge
 - Vergennes Train Station – build platform to accommodate Amtrak service (email from Project Manager – “This is one project. Vergennes PLAT(1) is a platform project for the future Amtrak service. The platform is paid for with FRA funds. The Vergennes VRRD(1) project is the fit up of the old train station. The train station will have a welcome area and a few office spaces. The two projects will be one contract. It is currently out to bid, with the bid opening on Friday (May) 10th.)
 - New Haven - VT Railway Crossing Upgrades, Signals at Rt. 7
 - Bristol - Rehabilitate Bridge #12 on VT116 over Baldwin Creek
 - Starksboro – crack sealing on VT116
 - Under Construction
 - Weybridge/New Haven - VT 17 Bridge Replacement (The contractor has to finish the fishing access and do landscape work)
 - Leicester – Resurfacing RR crossing on TH12
 - Salisbury – Improve Hubbard Rd. RR crossing
 - Salisbury – Resurface Creek Rd. RR crossing
 - Middlebury – Pulp Mill Bridge Sidewalk
 - Middlebury – Resurface TH31 RR Crossing
 - Goshen – Rehabilitation/Improvements along Rt.73 due to damage caused by Irene
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - **Bike/Ped Grants** – applications are due June 28. There are four categories of grants: 1) scoping, 2) construction, 3) additional funds, 4) small-scale construction. The first three require a 20% match, while the fourth requires a 50% match. The RPC is available to help with grant writing and grant administration for any communities that are interested.
 - **May 14 Public Mtg New Haven** – East St/Sawyer Rd/Rt17 intersection – Vtrans intends to change the intersection from a Y to a T and even out some of the elevation changes to improve site distances. Community members at the meeting

supported the project, but wanted to ensure that the redesigned intersection would be safe for farm equipment and school buses. The engineers agreed to review their proposal with those users in mind.

- **Federal Lands Access Program Projects FY20-FY22.** There are \$900,000 in federal funds available for Vermont projects that improve access to federal lands. Projects must be associated with a public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands. Eligible projects include capital improvements, enhancements, surface preservation, transit, planning, research, or safety projects.
- **Grant-in-Aid Funding Project Status** – most towns in Addison County are working toward completing their FY19 projects, but the projects must be finished before the end of June. Additional funding for FY20 is anticipated.
- **Traffic Counts** – Mike reminded the TAC that he is available to conduct traffic counts for municipalities.
- **State Airport Plan** – The state is progressing on their airport planning project with the plan being released as a series of technical memos. The plan calls for navigational upgrades at the Middlebury airport.
- TAC meeting schedule – Mike noted that a few potential presenters would not be available until July, but we do not have a July meeting scheduled. Karen suggested moving one to August and the other to September. TAC grants will likely be announced at the beginning of July and the TAC should be prepared to review them at the September meeting. Jeff requested that Mike find out if there is a representative for the North Country Trail that might be able to come to the TAC and talk about how that project would impact roads and transportation in Addison County.
- Other Business/Roundtable - none
- Adjourn 7:10

Note: adopted meeting minutes are also available online at the ACRPC website under agendas and minutes. For your convenience, the latest version of the TAC Bylaws are linked here also: <http://www.acrpc.org/tac/>

UPCOMING GRANTS, DEADLINES, ETC.

June 28 - Deadline for Bike and Pedestrian Grants

August 30 – Deadline for Federal Lands Access Program Projects

2019 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

	September 18
June 19	October 16
July No Meeting	November 20
August 21	December No Meeting

RESOLUTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 15, 2019

The Addison County TAC hereby acts, as follows:

1. The TAC recognizes the critical importance of regional consensus in moving any alternative(s) forward to address the longstanding issue with high volumes of large truck traffic passing through the City of Vergennes on VT Route 22A.
2. The TAC has been instrumental in initiating and fostering completion of the recently performed study to evaluate the feasibility and preference for alternative truck routes to VT Route 22A through the City of Vergennes, Vermont
3. The TAC acknowledges that several Addison County communities have expressed opposition to Alternative C, consisting of upgrading VT Route 17 between VT Route 22A and US Route 7, and routing all heavy trucks around Vergennes on that roadway.
4. The TAC fully endorses and strongly supports the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the *VT 22A Truck Route Study Addison County, Vermont Final Report* dated June 1, 2019, specifically that Alternative A, the implementation of VT Route 22A improvements in Vergennes in the short term, followed by the development and implementation of Alternative B, a new alignment roadway, located generally to the west of the Vergennes city center
5. The TAC finds that the implementation of these alternatives (A and B) will best serve the Addison County Region as far as enhancement of safety, protection/improvement of quality of life, promotion of responsible economic development, ensuring environmental protection, and preserving transportation network functionality.
6. The TAC recommends that the full Commission support this resolution and requests that the Vermont Agency of Transportation and our state legislative delegation provide all feasible support to assist the Region in moving Alternative B forward as expeditiously as possible.

Moved by Jeff Nelson

Second by Peter Grant

Approved on a voice vote