

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport:	Panton: David Raphael
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Ferrisburgh:	Shoreham: Karen Shacket
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski – vice-chair
Lincoln: Will Sipsey - chair	Waltham:
Middlebury: Jilly dos Santos	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	

Staff: Mike Winslow **Guests:** David Pelletier (VTrans), Zoe Neaderland (VTrans)

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of September 16, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Jeff; Seconded by Tom. All in favor
- [VTrans Freight and Rail Plan](#) – Zoe Neaderland and Dave Pelletier (VTrans) shared with the TAC the process of developing the Vermont Rail and Freight Plans. These are two separate plans required by separate federal agencies, but they are being worked on at the same time. Their presentation is posted with the minutes and contains numerous links to additional resources. Vtrans has created an on-line web map (<https://bit.ly/VTFreightRailMap>) where the public can enter either general comments or comments tied to a particular location. The map will be available until the end of October. In particular, VTrans is interested in partnering with RPCs to identify locations, including rail spurs, with access to rail and truck traffic that can be developed. This would be an update to information collected more than a decade ago. VTrans offered to return to the TAC after their next town-hall when they will have developed recommendations for the plan.
- Award TAC grants for FY21. Tom moved to award Orwell \$15,000 to develop a cost estimate for a new salt shed, Bristol \$20,000 to investigate alternatives for the intersection of Lincoln Rd./Briggs Hill Rd./ and VT116, and ACRPC \$5,000 to develop a database of anticipated local road projects. Motion seconded by Karen. All in favor.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - Open Grant Opportunities
 - [Public Transit MTI Grants](#) – Due October 30

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>

- [Ash Tree Management](#) – Due October 30
 - [Transportation Alternatives Grants](#) – Due November 27
 - [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) – Due January 29, 2021
 - [FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) – Due January 29, 2021
 - Mike noted that applications for Local Roads grants and TAP grants are late this year and any towns expecting to apply should get photos of the project area before snow falls. Photos can be very helpful for VTrans in evaluating applications.
- Grants in Aid update – FY20 19 of 21 towns completed projects. Mike is still awaiting invoices from five towns. FY21 15 of 21 towns have submitted letters of intent to participate. Invoices and letters of intent are due by October 30.
- Additional Town Highway Aid funding - The additional \$7,000,000 in **Town Highway Aid** for SFY21 (in lieu of FY21 Town Highway Structures and Class 2 Paving Program) will be distributed to municipalities proportionately per the formula used for the general highway aid in state statute (Title 19, Chapter 3, Section 306). Payment is expected around the end of October. Please note the supplemental Highway Aid payment will be made independent of the municipalities’ regular quarterly payment (which were sent out on 10/15)
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - Will – Lincoln’s saw a 95% payment rate for property taxes which is similar to the 93% from last year. There was no observed short-fall due to Covid.
 - Karen – Work on the Richville Bridge has been completed
 - Jeff asked about the weather cancellation policy and if it would be in effect, since we’re now meeting remotely. Mike replied that this has not been discussed at the staff level, but there’s no reason to think we would cancel meetings due to weather.
 - Brent –following a run-off election, Vergennes now has a full City Council. Mel Hawley, former City Manager, won the fourth seat. Jeff asked if we should be briefing the new City Council on the background around the Vergennes Economic Corridor. Mike said he would raise the question with VTrans about the best way to pursue that.
 - David noted he is hopeful for a robust discussion about the Vergennes Economic Corridor and that the PEL Study generates the best information possible. The project will have regional implications and impacts. Panton recently amended its town plan with regard to the corridor. The revised plan, “recognizes the traffic issues and concerns with regard to truck traffic in downtown Vergennes, but does not take a position at this time supporting or opposing the study and its recommendations.”
 - Tom - the intersection study that had been a topic at the September TAC meeting had been completed. He complemented Dubois and King on their thoroughness. A decision about actions resulting from the study now rests with the Select Board.

- Adjourn – 8:02

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/>

2020 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

November 18	December No Meeting
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