

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753

[www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org)  
802.388.0038

Phone: 802.388.3141

Fax:

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton:
Bristol: Peter Grant	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham: Karen Shacket
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Shannon Haggett
Lincoln: Will Sipsey, Chair	Waltham:
Middlebury: Jilly dos Santos	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven:	
Staff: Mike Winslow	Guests: Dave Pelletier (VTrans), Hugh McLaughlin (Middlebury), Zoe Neaderland (VTrans)

### AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval April 21, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Norm; Second by Karen. All in favor.
- Vermont Freight Plan - Dave Pelletier, VTrans. Dave presented to the TAC on the current development of a freight plan for the state. The full presentation is available on the [ACRPC website](#) under minutes and agendas.
  - Will asked if VTrans was considering how opening of the Northwest Passage might lead to more freight coming through Vermont. Zoe responded that regardless of the reason Vermont is anticipating more freight.
  - Norm asked what steps could be taken to encourage more freight to be shipped by rail. Dave replied that improvements to the rails system are on-going. Zoe responded that Vermont is working on better connecting modes of freight transit, particularly for delivery to the last mile.
  - Jeff noted that there was no mention of 22A in Technical Memo #1. How will the plan interact with the needs of communities along 22A in managing truck traffic? Dave agreed that the 22A corridor should be called out in the final plan. The Technical Memo looked at a “higher altitude” of considerations. In response to a follow-up, Dave noted that there is a chance for a small amount of the overall freight to be transferred to rail.

- Shannon emphasized the need to reconcile the cross purposes of maintaining vibrant downtowns and village centers and the need to move trucks efficiently through the transportation network
- Peter wondered if route improvements on AR35 in Quebec might lead to more north south movement of freight on more local roads in Vermont. Dave noted that the consultants working on the freight plan update were also involved in the AR35 project and would be familiar with the implications of that.
- Hugh asked about the possibility of improved east west freight transportation. Dave said no new capacity is envisioned, but work is currently on-going to improve the capacity of Routes 4 and 9.
- Tom asked if additional multi-modal centers were foreseen. Dave speculated that the plan would call for support for existing centers, but the consultants felt there was sufficient capacity for container inter modal centers within the region, if not the state.
- Following the presentation, the TAC asked Mike to work with Jeff to craft a statement for the full commission's consideration which would ask that the freight plan recognize the importance of the 22A corridor, look to address issues that result from such usage, and seek opportunities to remediate such issues. Moved by Karen; seconded by Peter. All in favor.
- I-89 Long Range Planning - Mike prepared a memo for the TAC's consideration on I-89 planning which was included in the materials distributed for the meeting.
  - Will did not support the addition of a new Exit 12B as he felt it would create sprawl and increase traffic on Silver St. in Monkton
  - Jeff suggested that a new exit 12B would move traffic off of Route 7 and therefore might be beneficial. Further, it is up to each town to use their zoning and subdivision regulations to control growth within the town.
  - A number of TAC members expressed support for improvements at Exit 13
  - The TAC asked Mike to craft a memo to the full commission expressing support for improvements at Exit 13 and capturing the differences in opinion about the value of a new exit 12B.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
  - New Haven train station - VTrans is assisting New Haven with an application for a Northern Borders Commission grant which would help to move the station from its current location on Route 7 to just North of the town offices on North St.
  - Project prioritization - VTrans will be providing project scores for all potential projects and the TAC should expect to review them at the June meeting.
  - Grants in Aid - status report. All towns have completed their pre-construction site visits. Addison was the first town in the state to submit invoices for post construction. Thirteen towns have received grants for equipment purchases, and invoices are beginning to come in for these. There has been an extension to the end of August for submitting these invoices as towns around the state are finding it difficult to find equipment.

- [Bike and Ped. Grants](#) - Applications Due June 4, 2021
- Vergennes PELS update - meetings scheduled - June 2 - Technical Committee; June 15 Policy Committee.
- AARP Monthly Placemaking Meet-up: Active Streets May 27<sup>th</sup> 12 PM – 1PM  
[Register here](#)
- Other Business/Roundtable
  - Middlebury - Hugh asked about the status of bike/ped. funding along Exchange St. Mike notes that Middlebury currently has a grant to extend sidewalks from Greg’s Market to Catamount Park, but they are working through right-of-way negotiations. Middlebury has previously applied for funding for additional sidewalk extension but has not received those grants. Additionally, Mike noted that Middlebury did secure grant funding to extend the sidewalk along Middle Seymour St. and Maple St. to improve pedestrian access to the new train station.
  - Jeff asked about when we might return to in-person meetings. Mike noted that the plan is for the full commission to return to in-person in September and the TAC could do the same if they choose.
  - Ferrisburgh - Steve reported that construction to add a traffic signal on Route 7 at the intersection with Old Hollow Road and Stage Road has begun.
  - Shoreham - Karen reported that the Selectboard is concerned about the condition of 22A following two truck accidents there recently. They will be writing letters to their representatives on the topic
- Adjourn 7:44

**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/>

**Grant Opportunities:**

- [Bike and Ped. Grants](#) - Due June 4

**2021 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE**

May 19	September 15
June 16	October 20
July No Meeting	November 17
August 18	December No Meeting