

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • www.acrpc.org • Phone: 802.388.3141

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Addison:	Orwell:
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton: David Raphael
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Ferrisburgh:	Shoreham: Karen Shacket
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski
Lincoln: Will Sipse, Chair	Waltham:
Middlebury: Jilly dos Santos	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	
Staff: Mike Winslow	Guests: Rep. Diane Lanpher, Shannon Haggett (Vergennes), Hugh McLaughlin (Middlebury)

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval May 19, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Karen; Second by Tom. Carried without dissent. David abstained
- Legislative report - Rep. Diane Lanpher provided an overview of funding and policies that passed during the recently closed legislative session. Her summary is attached below.
- VPSP2 - Review final Transportation Values - no action needed. Transportation Values are essentially the same as when the TAC last reviewed them in April.
 - Status of 125 project - The safety study on Rt. 125 in Cornwall/Middlebury has been assigned a project manager and the internal VTrans kick off has been completed. ACRPC anticipates that a local kick off meeting will be held soon.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - New Haven train station - We are awaiting a funding decision on the grant application to the Northern Borders Commission. Some preparation at the selected North St. site can be done in the meantime. ACRPC is likely to manage that work, and details are still being arranged.

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- o Middlebury has set up an E-Bike lending program for anyone interested in trying out an E-Bike. The project is supported by Local Motion and is being run out of Frog Hollow Bikes.
- o Vergennes PELS update. Both the Policy and Technical Committees have had their kick off meetings. The consultants are developing a Public Participation Plan, and the overall project is progressing.
- o Grants in Aid FY22 - Notice of Intent due 6/25. VTrans is running the program this year.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o Bridport has received a VTrans grant for a scoping study of culvert replacement on Middle Road. ACRPC will be acting as Municipal Project Manager for the study
 - o Vergennes - the preliminary design for a new sidewalk connecting MacDonough Drive and the staircase down the falls has been completed. A public hearing will take place on July 15th at 6:30 PM to present the preliminary design.
 - o Middlebury - Hugh reported that he will be in contact with ACRPC about the status of the Exchange Street Sidewalk project.
 - o Panton is looking at options for managing Arnold Bay Road. The road leads to the town beach and boat launch and they are trying to improve options for parking vehicles and boat trailers. The project will likely go out to bid before the end of the summer.
 - o Lincoln is near completion of a new alignment for South Lincoln Road along the New Haven River. The design for the new alignment was made possible by a TAC funded grant.
- Adjourn 7:50

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/>

2021 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

July No Meeting	October 20
August 18	November 17
September 15	December No Meeting

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Rep. Diane Lanpher, Chair House Transportation
T-bill H.433 highlights – 2021 session
June 14, 2021

The Transportation bill (T-bill) authorizes the operating and capital funding to the VT Agency of Transportation (Vtrans) that provide a wide variety of transportation functions and services. House Transportation authorizes/approves the T-bill funding which is then reflected in the Big Bill or full budget. Budgets and policy are combined in the T-bill and this year is no different with H.433 containing the FY'22 budget for Vtrans, along with session law language and some statutory changes.

Some of the highlights of H.433 include:

- Federal COVID aid and its flexibility helped to ease the continuous structural revenue issues the t-fund has been experiencing for years. Federal funds made several one-time investments possible.
- H.433 invests one-time tfunds in the following ways:
 - **\$3m** – Increase to Town Highway Aid for FY22 above the statutory requirement for one year. This aid is based on the number of miles of Class 1,2, and 3 roads in a community.
 - **\$3.25m** – Electric Vehicle Incentive program for New PEV, <https://www.driveelectricvt.com/why-go-electric/purchase-incentives>
 - **\$750k** – Mileage Smart program, <https://www.mileagesmartvt.org>
 - **\$375k** – reestablish the Emission Repair program for one year in DEC
 - **\$1.5m**- Replace Your Ride, new program aids switching to cleaner transportation
 - **\$50k** – Electric Bicycle incentive -first 250 with a \$200 incentive
 - **\$1m** – Level 2 charging stations, pilot program for Multi-unit dwellings
 - **Zero Fare** – Public transit has funding to provide zero fares through all of FY22
 - **\$4m** –Complete Streets in Downtown Fund within the Big Bill
 - **\$400k**- support to New Haven to move rail station

- Strong support of Paving in FY22 (**\$120m**) which will pave 258 miles on VT roads
- Maintenance budget is healthy with (**\$103m**) significant amount for FY22
- Requires further budgeting for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail maintenance costs for the 93 miles of trail, scheduled to be completed in 2022.
- Requires preparation of a long-range plan for the conversion of VT's Public transportation fleet to an all-electric fleet.
- Requires a study and report back on the use of Automated traffic law enforcement in work zones.
- Requires electric distribution utilities to introduce EV-specific rates
- Improves the coordination between local and state authorities of site plan approvals.

- Transportation Equity Framework – analysis of the state’s existing transportation program and develop a recommendation that the Vtrans can use to, advance mobility equity, increase access to mobility options – reduce air pollution – enhance economic opportunity to Vermonters in communities that have been underserved by the state’s transportation system.
- Permanent increase to the Town Highway Structures grant program and to the Class 2 Town Highway grants along with a permanent increase to the max grant allowance from \$175K to \$200K.
- Federal aid awarded in Dec 2020, can be carried forward. There is about \$15m left to be used in FY’23.

Transportation related investments with federal ARPA dollars in (Big Bill) FY’22Budget:

- DMV IT system project - \$24.5m
- Clean water/phosphorus planning - \$3m
- Municipal Mitigation Assistance Program - \$500k
- Mileage Smart - \$500k

With Transportation accounting for 44 percent of the carbon emissions, and in order to meet our aggressive goals, we must provide Vermonters with the tools to transition to cost effective electrified transportation options. The main barriers to adoption of electric vehicles are typically higher purchase prices and distance between charging stations. H.433 continues to build on the work of previous years to address these barriers.

It will be important to watch the activities in DC, specifically the direction of the infrastructure proposal and what it could bring to VT. Also, the federal tbill expires in Sept 2021 and a new five-year bill is in the development and this I hope will bring additional federal dollars to VT. The VT Climate Council continues to work on their recommendations with their report due out before the Legislature’s return in Jan 2022. I look forward to bringing those recommendation forward in House Transportation in the next session.