

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell: Andrea Ochs
Bridport:	Panton:
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham: Karen Shacket
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski, Vice-chair
Lincoln: Will Sipsey, Chair	Waltham: Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury: Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven:	
Staff: Mike Winslow Guests: Valerie Capels (Bristol), Alison Joseph Dickinson (Ripton), Jen Murray (Middlebury), Katharine Otto (VTrans)	

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval September 15, 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Andrea; Second by Karen. All in favor. Hugh and Brent abstained.
- [FY22 TAC Grants](#) - Review and Selection
 - Bristol - Airport Rd. sidewalk planning - Valerie presented the concept. The project would provide scoping for a sidewalk along Airport Drive from its current terminus to the intersection of a walkway from Liberty St. In response to a question about funding construction, Valerie noted the town was open to either funding it through the town or seeking grant support. In response to questions about the requested amount, Valerie noted it was similar to a similar TAC funded walkway study. The town is supporting other sidewalk expansion studies and has maxed out its capacity to complete the assessment on their own, but they are committed to improving the walkability of Bristol. The town does plow all sidewalks during the winter.
 - Middlebury - Boardman St. intersection - Jen Murray presented the project. Turning south out of Boardman St. presents significant challenges as is, and additional development is currently planned on Boardman including a housing development and relocation of the DPW garage. In addition, Middlebury seeks to

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 Lincoln Middlebury Monkton New Haven Orwell Panton Ripton
 Salisbury Shoreham Starksboro Vergennes Waltham Weybridge Whiting



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improve sidewalk access between Boardman St. and Hannafords. The sidewalk currently ends at the Marriott. The project could be expanded to include adding sidewalks along Boardman itself. In response to a question about whether the town had asked for enough money, Jen replied that they had received guidance that \$15,000 was an appropriate amount, but more money would allow an expanded scope.

- o Ripton - Old Town Rd. upgrades. Alison presented the project. The TAC has previously supported studies to clarify the ownership of Old Town Rd. and to provide an estimate for the cost of replacing the bridge at the north end of the road. The town now seeks funds to identify steps that need to be taken to make the road passable. The south end in Middlebury is currently passable, but the north end is overgrown and needs culverts and drainage work. The goal is to create an emergency alternative to Rt.125 in the event of flooding. Most of the road runs through US Forest Service land, except at the north end. GMP has utility lines along the corridor. Historically they have been able to get trucks in for repairs, but not in recent years. One culvert in particular creates an issue. Will suggested that VTrans may be able to do a hydrologic study to determine the appropriate culvert size, though there were questions if Class 4 roads were eligible for such work. Norm noted that in all about one mile of road needed to be improved and that GMP and Consolidated Communications both had an interest in improving access to their lines. The Ripton Selectboard has budgeted for gravel for the road each year, but progress is slow.
- o Hugh moved and Steve seconded allocation of \$18K for Middlebury, \$20K for Ripton, and \$12K for Bristol. After discussion, and concerns that \$12K would be too low to attract a contractor, Hugh and Steve agreed to modify the motion to \$15K for each of the three projects. The modified motion passed without dissent.
- [VPSP2 update](#) - Mike distributed a memo about the status of VPSP2 projects in Addison County (linked). Andrea and Karen expressed frustration that treatment of 22A was still off in the future. The road may need reconstruction at this point rather than just paving.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Triangle Bike Loop - Mike informed the TAC that ACRPC would like to pursue grant funding for signs for the route. He has put together a draft budget and letters to select boards seeking a commitment to install the signs. He will share with the TAC for feedback.
 - o New Haven train station - Matt Young was hired as project manager. He has set up a project management dashboard using SmartSheets for folks to follow along on his progress. He (and the town) selected a mover (Messier) and have put out bids for structural engineering, and site design work at the new location. They have been in contact with VTRANS and all the utility companies about their lead

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times and moving-day needs. At this point, it seems like the actual move has shifted back about a month into January. The cost associated with transporting the building down Rt17 is staggering, with respect to utility line management. So the new tentative plan is to wait until the ground freezes and move the building across two agricultural fields onto the new site at North Street. In the meantime, Matt is looking at hiring a demo crew to work with Vermont Historical Preservation to ensure historic elements are properly removed and saved/stored, and anything that isn't historic can be demolished. There will be a post-move renovation (separate from the moving endeavor).

- Vergennes PELS update - The project team has met with select boards in Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Weybridge, and Addison. Panton and Vergennes meetings will be on Tuesday October 26. The first public meeting is November 4 at 6:30 PM in the Vergennes Opera House. There will also be four focus groups in the next few weeks for Economic Development, Mobility, Equity, and Environmental interests. The [website is live](#).
- Road Foremen met earlier in the day at ACRPC and went through steps to update their road erosion inventories. There was good attendance including from towns that don't usually show up at such meetings. The process is still confusing to many.
- [Transportation Alternatives Program Grants](#) are due November 24
- Better Roads Grants should be open in the next week or so. ACRPC is available to assist in preparing grant applications.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - Norm warned that the work on 125 has left patches of gravel that can present a hazard to travelers.
 - Steve mentioned that they were still awaiting the arrival of poles in order to complete the signal installation on Rt. 7 at Hollow and Stage Rds.
- Adjourn 7:38

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

November 17	December No Meeting
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