

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell: Andrea Ochs
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton: Howard Hall
Bristol: Peter Grant (7:40PM)	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham:
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski - Chair
Lincoln: Alan Schmidt	Waltham: Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury: Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	
Staff: Mike Winslow, Matthew Durst (intern) Public: Rep. Diane Lanpher	

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of May 18, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes - Moved by Norm; Second by Hugh. All in favor. Andrea abstained.
- Legislative Report - Representative Diane Lanpher presented on transportation activities in the legislature during the last session
 - o Budget Adjustment Act - The federal transportation budget that passed in December 2021 provided a great deal of flexibility and allocated \$50.4 million to be spread over two years. Funds were allowed to be used to pay down debt. The Vermont Legislature chose to pay off the three rounds of the Transportation Infrastructure Bond (TIB). Doing so will save \$2.5 million annually and \$23 million over the life of the bonds in debt service and \$3.9 million in interest. It will also increase Vermont's capacity for bonding.
 - o Federal Infrastructure Bill - the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA) will provide \$2.2 billion over five years for transportation, water, and broadband. Of that \$1.5 billion will be for transportation. This is \$.5 billion more than the last federal transportation bill which was in place from 2016-2020. The IIJA includes a number of new programs. Of the 48 potential funding streams for Vermont, 22

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are new programs. Guidance has not yet been written for many of these. Of the 22, 17 are competitive grant programs. Two programs that are formula funded are the Carbon Reduction Program, which will bring \$6.5 million annually, and the PROTECT Program to fund resilience projects, which will bring over \$7 million annually. The TAC meeting materials include a link to a spreadsheet which summarizes all the programs and dollar amounts.

- o Vermont's T-Bill - the FY23 Transportation Bill was the largest ever passed at \$868 million. The paving budget went from about \$100 million to \$158 million, but then when bids came in for paving they were as much as three times higher than years past. Howard noted that Pantton is paying \$85/ton for asphalt this year compared to about \$65/ton last year. Some highlights of the bill include:
 - Vehicle electrification - EV incentives have increased from \$2.7 million to \$12 million.
 - The final bill retained FY22 increases in maximum grant awards and available funds for Structures and Paving Grants after some compromising.
 - Formula funds for construction of Town Highway Bridge projects will have 100% funding through FY26. This only applies to construction costs and does not include bridge construction that had already been programmed.
 - \$400K was added for relocation of the New Haven train station bringing total state funding for that project to \$550K
- o Future State Funding Gap - Federal funds require a state match. The FY23 budget had enough carry forward to fully draw down available state funds. However, a multi-year budget analysis suggests the state match will be off by \$35 million in FY24 and the gap will grow to greater than \$50 million by FY28. Increasing gas prices will compound the problem. If people drive less then less revenue will be collected via the gas tax which is assessed per gallon, not as a percentage of the gas price. Jeff N. asked if the legislature was considering other revenue sources. Rep. Lanpher noted that there's an on-going study of a Road Use Charge (a version of a Vehicle Miles Traveled Fee) but there are substantial concerns about privacy issues. Utah and Oregon currently have such a system, and the IJA includes funding for pilot studies. The legislature will need to be creative in identifying ways to raise the matching funding to take advantage of the available federal funds.
- Transportation Updates from Mike

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- o [Statewide Transportation Improvement Program](#) (STIP) - a statewide meeting was held on Monday. Mike has reviewed the STIP and all expected Addison County projects are listed.
- o VT125-Cornwall/Middlebury - Local Concerns Meeting, Cornwall - June 16 - This meeting is the kickoff for a safety assessment that was in part spurred by the TAC. Mike is planning to attend and asked the TAC if there was any message they would like delivered. Jeff N. urged that the study keep moving forward and hoped it would result in a project.
- o Project Status VT 125 Addison - The project is near complete and the road is open for traffic.
- o Project Status VT 125 Ripton - Lane closures regulated by temporary traffic signals are in place at two locations. Delays will result. Lanes are restricted to 10-feet wide within the closure areas.
- o Vergennes PELS - Since the last TAC meeting there have been three public workshops to review the long list of alternatives. In total approximately 80 people attended the workshops. No additional alternatives were added. The consultants will next be working to weed the long list of alternatives to a short list to move forward for analysis. They are in the process of scheduling a Technical Committee meeting.
- o [Amtrak Informational Meeting](#) - June 17. ACRPC along with ACED, the Addison County Chamber, the Better Middlebury Partnership, the Vergennes Partnership, and VTrans are hosting a virtual information session. So far, over 400 people have registered to participate, most from Middlebury College. The session will cover fares and pricing, scheduling, how to purchase tickets, and rail safety. Amtrak service is anticipated to begin in late July
- o Grants in Aid - Letters of intent due June 24, 2022
- o [Creating a Local Road Safety Plan for Rural Areas](#) webinar June 29 from 9-10:30. A completed local roads safety plan would be necessary before receiving any project funding through the new Safe Streets and Safe Roads for All program.
- o TAC Grants - Mike anticipates soliciting TAC grants in early July to prepare for review at the August TAC meeting
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o New Haven has a new road foreman, Eric Boise. He had previously been a member of the road team. The town is finalizing the foundation for the new home of the railroad depot.

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- o Orwell - milling on 22A is on-going. A tractor trailer tipped yesterday in the vicinity of the project. The town is considering a School Safety Zone and Andrea will reach out to Mike to see what information is available.
- o Ferrisburgh - the new traffic light at the intersection of Hollow Rd. and U.S. 7 is now operational.
- o Starksboro has a new road foreman, Josh Martell. He was formerly the assistant director of public works in Bristol.
- Adjourn 7:50PM

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/transportation/>

Grant Opportunities:

[Federal Lands Access Program](#) - Due September 1

[Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) - Due September 15

2022 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

	October 19
July No Meeting	November 16
August 17	December No Meeting
September 21	

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