

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport:	Panton:
Bristol: Peter Grant	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham: Karen Shackett
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski - Chair
Lincoln: Alan Schmidt	Waltham: Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury:	Weybridge:
Monkton:	Whiting:
New Haven:	
<b>Staff:</b> Mike Winslow <b>Public:</b> Shannon Haggett (Vergennes), Bonnie Barnes (Ferrisburgh)	

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of June 15, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved Jeff N.; Second Norm. All in favor. Karen abstained.
- Review Applications for TAC funding
  - Salisbury 1 - proposal to make roads one way around Lake Dunmore. Proposal came from the Planning Commission without consultation with Selectboard. The project has been considered in the past and rejected. The Chair of Selectboard offered to withdraw the application
    - Jeff N. asked if the project could be restructured to consider a broader look at improving safety on these roads. Tom will check with the Select Board to see if they want to restructure the grant to that end.
  - Salisbury 2 - proposal to address farm trucks and overweight vehicles. Tom suggested that is an issue for the legislature and should also be withdrawn. Jeff N. agreed with the assessment.
  - Starksboro - The town is seeking assistance in identifying alternatives for replacing two short structures (listed as bridges in VT Culverts) over Baldwin Creek on Jerusalem Rd. As part of the investigation, the town would like to conduct a hydraulic assessment. Mike would work with the Town to refine the scope if funding were awarded. Mike currently has a traffic count set up on the road to update traffic numbers.

Addison    Bridport    Bristol    Cornwall    Ferrisburgh    Goshen    Leicester  
 Lincoln    Middlebury    Monkton    New Haven    Orwell    Panton    Ripton  
 Salisbury    Shoreham    Starksboro    Vergennes    Waltham    Weybridge    Whiting



Addison County  
Regional Planning Commission

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

- Jeff N. asked if the request came too close to implementation to be eligible for planning funds. Mike felt the proposal is equivalent to the bridge replacement study for Old Town Rd. in Ripton, but he will check with VTrans about eligibility.
  - o Ferrisburgh - A Safe Routes to Schools assessment was completed in 2012 for the town center which is bisected by Route 7. Since then, a traffic light has been installed at the intersection and public use of many buildings around the intersection has increased. The Elementary School, Post Office, Town Meeting Hall, a deli, and the Union Meeting Hall are all in close proximity, yet the area is not very pedestrian friendly. Ferrisburgh would like to develop and refine some of the suggestions from the 2012 study.
    - Jeff N. identified this as a worthwhile effort with a comprehensive package. He noted that the 2012 study preceded the traffic signal and that buildings have undergone use changes in use.
    - Jeff Glassberg echoed support for the proposal.
    - Ferrisburgh has a newly constituted trails committee. This work would tie into their efforts.
    - Tom thinks sidewalks would be necessary before crosswalks. Mike noted that Jon Kaplan's email seemed to indicate that as well. Steve noted that the recently installed traffic signal to the north has a crosswalk but no sidewalks.
    - Shannon asked if Ferrisburgh has a Village Center designation. Bonnie indicated they do not. There is some local sentiment against such a designation, particularly as applied to the North Ferrisburgh village center. Karen noted it's not a quick process to receive a designation.
  - o Lincoln - a section of River Rd. following the New Haven River east of Forge Hill Rd. shows evidence of ground and asphalt movement. Lincoln is looking for engineering recommendations for addressing the problem.
    - Jeff N. noted that the TAC needs to be careful of the line between planning and engineering.
    - In advance of the next meeting, Mike will report back whether VTrans has okayed the Starksboro and Lincoln studies.
  - o Mike will ask TAC members to rank the three remaining projects before the September meeting. He will compile the rankings to determine the top two for the TAC to advance by motion for funding.
- Discussion on managing TAC grants - RFP, RFQ, single, multiple? Mike observed that we have been receiving fewer responses to RFPs. The drop off was most noticeable in

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

FY22 when we funded three projects: two had only one applicant and the third had to be reissued with more money attached before attracting three applicants. The decrease is not necessarily tied to the dollar amount of the proposals. He asked if the TAC should consider bundling projects to potentially attract more applicants, issuing a preliminary Request for Qualifications, or stay with our Request for Proposals approach.

- o Mike observed that not all consultants are willing to tailor their proposals to the dollars available. In every RFP he notes that adjustments to the Scope of Work to meet the budget are welcome, but for some consultants, if they can't complete the full scope of work, they won't apply.
- o Jeff - doesn't like bundling - different projects require different skill sets. Bundling only works if we have similar studies in different towns. There are pluses and minuses of RFQ vs. RFP. With an RFP we risk consultants low balling the cost, while with an RFQ someone approved on qualifications can submit a cost proposal so high we can't afford the project. There is so much work going on with public monies which makes it tough. A \$25K project range reflects a more meaningful effort and should attract some competition. Anything much smaller doesn't make sense for firms to apply.
- o Steve - As far as he remembers TAC grants have always been in \$40-\$50K range. Should that increase? Mike noted that we have increased the budget from \$40K to \$50K this year and even last year we contracted for \$55K in services though we only budgeted for \$40K
- o Karen - We have tried to spread funds out in the past. We should concentrate on fewer quality projects instead of funding everyone.
- o Jeff N. observed that neither Ferrisburgh or Starksboro have gotten funding in the last ten years or so. Lincoln has gotten funding. Karen liked that Ferrisburgh is building on what's been done before.
- o Final consensus is that we should stay with the RFP process and make sure we have at least \$25K in funding per project.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
  - o Vergennes PELS update - the Technical Committee met to review the long list of alternatives after the public hearings. The Committee agreed that the list was sufficiently comprehensive. The consultants will now begin a preliminary screening of the long list of alternatives with the intent of narrowing the number of options moving forward. The results of that are expected to be shared with the public in late October/early November. Jeff N. added that Joe Segale, who has been a champion of the project within VTrans, has retired.
  - o Grants in Aid status report - 18 of 21 towns signed up and have been awarded funding (exceptions are Addison, Middlebury, and Vergennes). For FY23 VTrans

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

is running the program completely. If towns need administrative support for project identification or administrative support, ACRPC can provide that for a flat fee per town to be covered by the grant.

- o Middlebury Airport Act 250 hearing - Friday August 19. Mike will be attending the hearing. The airport is planning an expansion to add hangars. The Regional Plan explicitly calls for construction of more parking and hangars at the airport, so the application would seem consistent with the regional plan.
- o Amtrak trains are now running daily through the county
- o Ashley Atkins will be moving on as VTrans District 5 Tech. as of Friday.
- Other Business/Roundtable
  - o Ripton - 125 work moving well with schedule. Down from three to two one-lane segments.
  - o Shoreham - 22A is much smoother and quieter
  - o Vergennes - the inspection of the Main St. bridge has indicated that it needs some attention in the near future. There is deterioration of abutments and the superstructure. The City is aware and has been in communication with VTrans.
- Adjourn 7:17

**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:

[Park and Ride Grants](#) - Due September 2

[Federal Lands Access Program](#) - Due October 3

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

## 2022 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

September 21	November 16
October 19	December No Meeting

Addison    Bridport    Bristol    Cornwall    Ferrisburgh    Goshen    Leicester  
 Lincoln    Middlebury    Monkton    New Haven    Orwell    Panton    Ripton  
 Salisbury    Shoreham    Starksboro    Vergennes    Waltham    Weybridge    Whiting

