

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

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| Addison: Jeff Nelson | Orwell: Andrea Ochs, Vice-Chair |
| Bridport: Andrew Manning | Panton: |
| Bristol: | Ripton: Norm Tjossem |
| Cornwall: | Salisbury: |
| Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker | Shoreham: Karen Shackett |
| Goshen: | Starksboro: |
| Leicester: | Vergennes: Brent Rakowski, Chair |
| Lincoln: Alan Schmidt | Waltham: Jeff Glassberg |
| Middlebury: Hugh McLaughlin | Weybridge: |
| Monkton: Debra Sprague | Whiting: |
| New Haven: Mike Audy | |
| Staff: Mike Winslow Public: Jenny Austin (D&K), Jacqui Dement (VTrans), Shannon Haggett (Vergennes) | |

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Additions and adjustments to agenda - Introductions
- Approval of August 17, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Karen; Second Norm. All approve, Norm and Andrea abstained
- Review of FY22 TAC funded projects - Presentations are posted on [the ACRPC website](#)
 - Old Town Rd., Ripton - Robert Clark, Otter Creek Engineering. Worked with Ripton and followed VTrans scoping process. The road is a little over 2.75 miles parallel to VT125 from Middlebury to the east side of Ripton village. The goal of the study was to identify projects to improve the road for emergency access. Divided the road into four segments for the purpose of the study. The northernmost, Segment 1, needs no work. All other segments will require leveling the edges of the road to promote drainage. Segment 2 needs the most work including clearing of vegetation and installation of cross culverts. Segments 3 and 4 show more use, but there are significant erosion issues. There's only one large culvert (48") crossing, and it's in Segment 3. Work within the existing right of way should not cause permitting issues. Wetland plants are now found in the roadway in Segment 2, but a site visit with the DEC wetland specialist suggested this won't be a permitting issue. Estimated cost of a passable Class 4 gated road

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would be about \$400,000 with \$240,000 of that in Ripton. Estimated cost of upgrading to a Class 3 road would be \$650,000 for just the Ripton portion; some road widening would be required. Minimal grading required to get a design speed of 30 mph. Up-grading to Class 3 would also require replacement or rehabilitation of the bridge at the northern end at a cost of about \$725,000 (updated estimate from previous D&K report); and that should be a priority. The other large cost is a culvert in Segment 3 that is undersized; an upgrade would cost about \$225,000. Upgrades could be approached as a phased project with upgrade to Class 4 preceding and leading to Class 3. The Class 4 work could be done by the town, but Class 3 would likely require contractors.

- o Airport Dr. sidewalk, Bristol - Jenny Austin, D&K - Three alternatives were developed for providing a sidewalk on the east side of Airport Rd. from West St. to an existing walkway at the north end of the road: 1) a 5' sidewalk with a curb, 2) a 5' sidewalk with a grass buffer, and 3) a 5' sidewalk with grass strip and a road shift to the west. Options 1 and 2 were broken into two parts each at about where the road is believed to transition from town to school ownership. Option 2 was the cheapest of the three and seemed to be preferred by the town.
- o Boardman St. to downtown sidewalk, Middlebury - Jenny Austin, D&K - Six alternatives were developed to provide improved pedestrian movement between Boardman St. and the Hannaford Shopping Plaza. Three alternatives were predominantly on the north side of the road and three on the south side. All options also included improvements to an existing walkway between the Shopping Plaza and an apartment complex on the south side of the road. Two of the options also considered pedestrian crossing at the western end of the project. Estimated costs ranged from \$630,000 for a 5' curbed sidewalk on the north side to \$1.89 million for the alternative that included a pedestrian tunnel. The final Alternatives Review with the town will take place on Monday September 26th.
- Vote on FY23 Applications for TAC funding - *Lincoln, Starksboro, Ferrisburgh*
 - o We received votes from seven TAC members. Ferrisburgh was the clear top choice with five first place votes and one second place vote. Lincoln was the second choice with six second place votes. Jeff N. moved to fund Ferrisburgh and Lincoln at \$25,000 each. Second by Karen. All in favor. Mike and Debra abstained.
- VPSP2 Updates - Potential Bridge Projects selected and update on roadway project scoping. VTrans ended up with a list of 156 bridges proposed for funding including 8 from ACRPC. VTrans selected about 20 to include in the FY24 budget they will submit to the Governor. The list has not yet been finalized, but bridges in Ferrisburgh and Vergennes were on it. For roadway projects, VTrans has selected a consultant to begin

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scope refinement for the two intersection projects in Middlebury: Boardman St./Rt. 7 and Charles Ave./Monroe St./Rt. 7.

- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - Vergennes PELS update - There will be a public meeting at the Vergennes Opera House on November 3 in the evening to review and receive public feedback on the draft screening matrix. In the meantime, the PELS team has offered to meet with Selectboards in affected communities. So far we have meetings scheduled with Vergennes, Waltham, and Addison. The public meeting will be preceded by a Technical Committee meeting and followed by a Policy Committee meeting. The goal is to reduce to 3-6 the number of alternatives that will move into the next stage of analysis.
 - [Municipal Roads General Permit](#) - DEC has issued a draft 5-year permit for review. Comments are due October 24. Changes in the new draft include:
 - Adjustments to road segment scoring criteria which incorporate the presence or absence of erosion
 - New **annual** targets for improving segments - 7.5% of non-compliant segments and 20% of very high priority segments based on most recent inventory
 - New road erosion inventories required by October 31, 2027, but no dedicated funding source yet identified
 - All inventory data must be collected using Survey 123.
 - Changes to intermittent stream culvert standards
 - Fractured stone will be required in all ditches with greater than 8% slope and turnouts with slopes greater than 5%
 - Triangle Bike Loop - Vergennes has received a grant for purchasing way-finding signs for the route. The grant will cover the cost of signs for all seven towns on the loop.
 - [Stormwater Mitigation Grants](#) - program open now. Weybridge and Shoreham have indicated they are applying and have asked for letters of support from the RPC. Orwell is also preparing to apply. Mike suggested to the Starksboro Road Foreman that this program could be a source of funding for what was proposed for the TAC grant, but don't think they will apply. If there are other towns planning to apply, please contact Mike so he can prepare a letter of support.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - Orwell - 1) The Selectboard voted to pursue a stormwater mitigation grant for a new salt and sand shed at last night's meeting. 2) two tractor trailers went off 22A in the last two days bringing the total to 14 such accidents since July all near the same area. Despite the high number of accidents, Andrea reported that the

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- condition of the road has improved greatly. 3) VTrans has been good to work with on a number of projects that Orwell has been putting forward.
- o Ferrisburgh - the town requested lowering the speed limit on Rt.7 in the vicinity of the Middlebrook Rd./Little Chicago Rd. intersection from 40 mph to 35 mph. However, a VTrans study indicated typical speeds at 55 mph and they are tentatively declining the town's request. Therefore, the town is considering using radar cards for warnings and would like to know what would be required to allow those. Mike W. offered to share the link to an [1111 permit application](#) which would be required before the carts could be placed in the right of way. Andrea shared that Orwell has been working with the county sheriff to provide warnings to motorists in a similar situation and the sheriff has been a great resource.
- o Jacqui Dement introduced herself on behalf of VTrans
- o Middlebury is paving Seminary St.
- o New Haven is breaking ground this week on the train station's final home on North St.
- o Guardrail work on VT125 in Ripton is completed.
- Adjourn 8:06

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 October 3

[Stormwater Mitigation Grants](#) - Due October 7

[Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) (BRIC) - Due December 9

2022 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

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| | November 16 |
| October 19 | December No Meeting |

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