

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton:
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh:	Shoreham: Karen Shackett
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski (Chair)
Lincoln:	Waltham: Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury: Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:
Monkton: Debra Sprague	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	
Staff: Mike Winslow, Maddison Shropshire Public: Jonathan Slason (RSG), Dave Pelletier (VTrans), Nick Fischer (RSG)	

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of September 21, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Jeff N. Second by Norm. All in favor.
- VTrans Transportation Equity Framework 2023 - Jonathan Slason (RSG) and Dave Pelletier (VTrans). In 2021 the Legislature authorized development of an equity framework in the Transportation Bill. The work was to be done in consultation with the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs). Equity will reduce transportation related disparities between different socio-demographic groups. RPCs have direct engagement with the stakeholder and public engagement portion of the project. The consultants have been meeting with RPCs around the state. The consultants will be developing strategies for implementing the framework. The framework will be an organizing template for planning that addresses key needs and identifies paths forward. In addition to RPCs, the consultants are meeting with identified stakeholders (agencies and nonprofits) and direct engagement with the community. A January 2021 Executive Order articulated a more expansive list of communities that need to be engaged in transportation planning and implementation. Subsequent legislation and plans have reinforced the concept. In-depth conversations have taken place with four groups around the state: Winooski/Burlington young adult community of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, Northeast Kingdom elderly mobile home community, Bennington low-income housing community, and

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Rutland area low-income individuals. Goal is to establish a method for perpetual engagement. Consultants have developed a wireframe: distributive justice (accurate population representation), procedural justice (access to decision-making), contextual justice (are needed services being provided), and corrective equity (on-going performance management adapting to new needs and tracking progress over time).

- o How can we obtain an accurate representation of the population and identify communities of concern?
 - Norm - Migrant farm workers in the Champlain Valley 400-600 in the Valley have acute transportation needs. There are at least two volunteer organizations in Addison County trying to serve this community. They could use more focus. Jonathan noted that Migrant Justice was one of the groups interviewed in this process.
 - Hugh - Youth (16-24) who are not academically inclined are looking for careers that provide health insurance and enough for housing. This is potentially a larger group than those identified by the consultants, and they need to be kept in Vermont.
- o How can all voices be heard, participate, and engaged in the planning process and create space for their involvement? Are those most burdened or affected by the plan part of the dialogue?
 - Jeff G. - The work of the Vergennes PEL Study has had a notable level of outreach with meetings at different times of day, and direct meetings with potentially impacted populations.
 - Karen - The Middlebury Rail Bridge project had a strong liaison who knew the community and that promoted community involvement. Jim Gish, project local liaison, had weekly radio pieces, produced newsletters, and met with numerous different groups. Jeff N. echoed the sentiment; Jim's work avoided surprises and gave foreknowledge of what would be going on.
- o Are projects being identified to address current inequities? What methods are used to identify these needs?
 - Karen - not clear if the populations discussed know how to ask for this assistance.
 - Norm - tension and stress with migrant populations has dissipated. Many farm workers are more inclined to take advantage of services if they're aware of them.
 - Jeff N. - The transportation network for migrant workers often includes bicycle transportation on high volume high speed roads, but these needs aren't often included in project planning.

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- Hugh - VT125 collapse into Lake Champlain was repaired in a timely manner, but did not include shoulders for bicycles. Preserving primary vehicular roads is a key to economic development serving both the wealthy and the indigent. We work to fix breakdowns and restore to current service levels but don't look forward very well.
- Karen - The Fort Ti Ferry could use assistance. They were closed for two years and are now expensive. That's an important source of revenue for NY and VT.
- Norm - have School Boards been involved? They provide their own transportation. Conversations around consolidation will make transportation to and from school even more important and difficult.
- o Are there any efforts to include equity based measures in project scoring and investment priorities?
 - Mike W. noted VTrans has included some measures in the VPSP2 process and the TAC could consider opportunities for measures in evaluating TAC grant applications.
- o Jonathan left the TAC with a list of questions for consideration. The consultants would be interested in feedback and prioritization about the questions and the project. Dave noted the legislature passed additional environmental justice legislation in the last session. There will be more intentional discussion of such issues throughout state government.
- o Brent mentioned that the project development process, particularly the Local Concerns Meeting and Alternatives Analysis, don't include specific measures about equity when ranking projects.
- TAC Feedback on VPSP2 Bridge Selection Outcomes - the VTrans list for the FY24 budget has been finalized. Bridges in Vergennes and Ferrisburgh made the list. If TAC members have any comments on the process or outcomes please let Mike know as soon as possible. VTrans would like the feedback by early November.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Vergennes PELS update - The public information meeting will discuss the process for narrowing the long list of alternatives to a short list. Meeting is November 3 at 6PM at the Vergennes Opera House with [a remote option](#). The study team has met with municipal boards in Addison and Vergennes and has meetings scheduled with Ferrisburgh, Panton, and Waltham.
 - o [TAP Grants](#) - proposal period is open with applications due 12/14. TAP grants are mostly used for pedestrian and bicycle projects with some opportunities for stormwater mitigation. Bridport has approached the RPC about a potential project. If there are projects in other towns, please let Mike know.

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- o [Municipal Roads General Permit](#) Comment Period closes 10/24
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o New Haven - the concrete is being poured for the foundation for a new location for the train station by the municipal offices.
 - o Waltham has hired a new road contractor, Chris LaPete, at least through the winter.
- Adjourn (7:36 PM)

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:

[Transportation Alternatives Program](#) - Due December 14

2022 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

November 16
December No Meeting

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