

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell: Andrea Treadway
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton: Howard Hall
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh:	Shoreham:
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski (Chair)
Lincoln:	Waltham:
Middlebury: Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:
Monkton: Debra Sprague	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	
Staff: Mike Winslow	Public: Steve Pilcher (Monkton)

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of October 18, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Jeff Nelson. Second by Mike Audy. All in favor. Andrea abstained.
- Overview/Reminder of TAC role - Mike
 - Mike provided an overview of the TAC, its history, its charge, and an overview of the TAC.
 - The [by-laws](#) were distributed prior to the meeting and discussed at the meeting.
 - Jeff noted that we have had some issues with quorum from time to time, so that provision should be reviewed. He also said it's good practice to review by-laws periodically. Should they sunset and require readoption? Andrea agreed.
 - Andrea observed that it's very hard to get people that will attend meetings. The remote option helps. Found it interesting that our TAC members do not have to be members of the full commission based on the bylaws. That encourages participation
 - Hugh stated in the last five years we saw completion of the Middlebury rail project. Significant improvements to 22A have been programmed and, and the PELS is moving forward. Should the TAC now expand and look for the next big project or do better on other major projects that may be out there? Will the next five years be more small projects or making sure the big ones get done right?

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



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- o Jeff suggested inviting Jim Gish from Middlebury to recount how the rail project worked, and how to communicate on big projects. Brent asked how Jim's position was created. Jeff wasn't sure, but thought it was suggested by the town of Middlebury. Hugh mentioned Jim had shared some of those insights at the Walk Bike Summit.
- o Brent asked how members interact with their municipalities.
 - Brent touches base with the City Manager and Road Foreman after meetings and gets ideas from them about capital improvement projects in the works.
 - Mike A. reviews notes after a meeting with the Selectboard. That may involve phone calls or emails. He makes sure the road foreman is aware of deadlines coming up
 - Norm noted that things in Ripton are informal and his principal contact is the town clerk. Ripton feels heard and that their concerns are taken seriously locally and regionally.
 - Steve said Monkton is a work in progress. They have been without a delegate for a few years now and he's happy Debra has stepped in. They've hired a new administrator that should increase capacity. He'll ask Debra to make periodic reports to the Selectboard.
 - Andrea echoed Steve's notes that being on the Selectboard helps with the exchange of information. It's been good for Orwell to have consistent representation on the TAC. We need to have more representation from other towns.
- o Jeff moved to have Mike W. recommend some changes based on discussion for the next TAC meeting. Second by Hugh. All approved. Items to be considered:
 - Remote participation
 - Sunsetting of bylaws
 - Quorum clarification
 - Others as needed
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Vergennes PELS update
 - Jeff felt in-person participation was challenging without having a cell phone at the event. He suggested that devices be handed out at the meeting. (He did not know that paper feedback forms were also available in person)
 - Mike A. reiterated that New Haven opposes any additional traffic on VT17. Jeff added that Addison does as well.

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- Howard added that Panton isn't happy about any new bridges or roads in their town
- Mike A. asked if it was possible that no changes would come about as a result of the study. Mike W. shared that the PELS process is a means of determining that without triggering pay-back provisions that would result if we jumped immediately to a NEPA process. Within the NEPA process, a "no build" alternative is required to be considered.
- o FY23 TAC grant RFPs posted - due December 7
- o [TAP Grants](#) - due December 14. Mike has worked with Monkton and Salisbury so far to prepare scoping requests.
- o [Better Roads Grants](#) - Due December 16. All towns should consider applying for Better Roads Grants. There are three categories of grant open this year: Cat. B for addressing road erosion issues (\$20K), Cat. C for slope failures (\$40K), and Cat. D for structures (\$60K). Mike W. has worked with Monkton and Salisbury so far on applications.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o New Haven - progress continues on re-homing the train station and concrete has been poured Hugh asked if there will be a celebration. Mike A. clarified that the project is still in infancy. There's a great deal more work to be done after the building is set.
 - o Orwell is using ARPA funds for a new salt shed and to add extra storage in the town garage. Currently many items are kept off site at a private facility.
 - o Bridport - Middle Rd. was paved about a week ago. The project didn't go all the way to the twin culverts. Two sections were completed in the middle and one by 22A
 - o Panton met with Katharine Otto and Mike Winslow to discuss the PEL project. They also put up 40 solar panels on the town garage which will provide electricity to the town offices as well as the garage
 - o Monkton anticipates receiving their village center designation this month. They are working on a TAP grant and Better Roads grant applications. They just received a notice of resignation, so their roads team will drop from four to three. Overall its a young group that's doing well and they hope to build a team that will last.
 - o Addison voted to approve a bond for rehabilitation of the Town Hall. They will be seeking grant opportunities to complete the work.
 - o Jeff suggested inviting representatives to discuss legislative priorities at the beginning of the session.
 - o New Haven paved a section of Plank Rd. recently

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- Adjourn 7:17 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
[Better Roads Grants](#) - Due December 16

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