

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Addison:	Orwell: Andrea Treadway
Bridport: Andrew Manning	Panton: Howard Hall
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham: Karen Shackett
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski
Lincoln: Alan Schmidt	Waltham: Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury: Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:
Monkton: Debra Sprague	Whiting:
New Haven: Mike Audy	
Staff: Mike Winslow	Public: Toni Clithero (VTrans)

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of November 16, 2022 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Andrea Second by Norm. Karen and Alan recused themselves because they weren't at the meeting. All in favor
- Amtrak Ridership Update - Toni Clithero, VTrans
 - Strong performance for both lines. July 29 was the start of the Addison County stops on the Ethan Allen. Ridership was up 51% in August, 92% in September October 93% November (7992 riders) and December 96% compared to FY19 (prior to pandemic). The rail line extension is adding many more riders than had been anticipated.
 - Vermonter line has also experienced growth. Starting in October, the line exceeded FY19 and increased to 28% in November.
 - These lines are becoming top-performing routes nationwide
 - The Ethan Allen Line has traditionally had half as many riders as Vermonter but is now about the same.
 - Discussions about adding another car have not begun because Amtrak is struggling with its car stock. However, new trains are expected in a few years.
 - Have there been any instances of difficulty on crossings? Not at this time. VTrans put out [a safety video](#) last year and encourages people to watch and share.

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- Does VTrans have separate ridership numbers for just to Rutland and for Rutland and beyond? Reported numbers are for the entire line, but the VTrans Fact Book reports VT specific ridership. Burlington has far and away the highest daily ridership - about 50 riders per day. M'bury and Vergennes are fractions of that.
- Review of edits to [by-laws](#) - Mike
 - Removed letter writing role
 - Added provisions for interest group members. Hugh moved and Andrea seconded to make interest group members non-voting and adjust quorum definitions so they don't include interest group members. The motion carried with no dissent.
 - Language already includes open meeting law provisions, so no changes made there.
 - Clarified the quorum definition
 - Made a note to review by-laws regularly, but included a time range rather than a time certain
 - Mike will make the revisions above and share with the full TAC. A vote on the revised by-laws can occur at the next meeting. After that the full commission will need to approve the changes.
- Updated on TAC Grants - Mike
 - Lincoln project contract is out; Ferrisburgh project did not receive any proposals. Mike is working with Ferrisburgh to revise the scope and reissue the RFP.
 - Hugh asked if the scope could be expanded and money added. Mike noted there are no additional funds in the ACRPC Transportation budget for that.
 - Steve noted that cars aren't traveling at the speed limit there through this section of Ferrisburgh. The town is exploring purchase and deployment of radar signs in an effort to reduce the issue.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - Vergennes PELS update - Policy Committee met at the end of December. Six options are currently undergoing secondary screening.
 - [Downtown Transportation Funds](#) - Applications Due January 31
 - [Better Connections](#) - Site visit required by January 31, Applications Due February 17. A town that has successfully completed a Better Connections grant becomes eligible for Downtown Transportation Funds
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - February meeting - chair and vice-chair are not available on February 15. Brent proposed moving the meeting to Tuesday February 21 at 6:30. Andrea moved; Steve seconded. All in favor.
 - Panton is finalizing solar panels installation to serve the town garage and town hall

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- Adjourn 7:08 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:

[Downtown Transportation Funds](#) - Applications Due January 31

[Better Connections](#) - Site visit required by January 31, Applications Due February 17

2023 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

February 15	March 15
April 19	May 17
June 21	July - no meeting
August 16	September 20
October 18	November 15
December - no meeting	

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