

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Addison: Jeff Nelson	Orwell:
Bridport:	Panton: Howard Hall
Bristol:	Ripton: Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Salisbury:
Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker	Shoreham:
Goshen:	Starksboro:
Leicester:	Vergennes: Brent Rakowski - Chair
Lincoln:	Waltham: Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury: Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:
Monkton: Debra Sprague	Whiting:
New Haven:	
<b>Staff:</b> Mike Winslow	<b>Public:</b> Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur (VEIC)

### AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Additions to Agenda - none
- Public Comment - none
- Approval of January 18, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Norm. Second by Jeff G. Jeff N. abstained. All others in favor.
- Future of Rural Transit - Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur, VEIC.
  - Project funded by an Energy Action Network and VTrans
  - Vision is to have an efficient, equitable transportation system in Vermont
  - Looking to provide combined bus services to school and community to improve transportation service to rural areas
  - Initial assumptions: combined services for public and students is advantageous
  - Asked if school buses should serve the public or if transit should serve schools. Ended up focusing on the ability of transit to serve schools. Transit receives federal funding; school transportation is locally funded.
  - Worked with Mt. Mansfield SU and Orange East SU to research project feasibility
  - Transportation can limit student extracurricular activities, but transit can't completely replace school transportation which is essentially door-to-door
  - Students are an important market segment for transit providers. Getting students comfortable with transit can increase the likelihood of them using it as they move into adulthood

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- Tri Valley Transit was an active partner in the project and provides service on a number of routes that serve schools in their service area including Addison Co.
- Staffing capacity for considering and implementing change is a challenge both within schools and at transit agencies
- New routes need ridership demand prior to being implemented
- Implementation requires champions within the community
- Norm asked for a projection of when electric buses might go on line. Jennifer noted that some are operating in the state now, and more are coming on line including at Tri Valley Transit.
- Hugh noted that getting people onto public transit can be a challenge. He suggested introductory bus trips to Burlington with a train ride back to familiarize students. Jennifer noted that orientation for adults is also necessary. The Vermont Energy Education Program is developing travel training for students.
- Hugh suggested technical centers should reach out to graduates suggesting they get CDLs because five-years of driving experience are required before drivers can get a CDL.
- Vote on Revised By-laws.
  - Jeff N. asked about why we would have non-voting interest group members since we have public meetings already. Mike said the initial proposal was for voting members but that was changed to non-voting at the previous meeting
  - Jeff N. observed that section 4.2.3 regarding termination of membership refers to the Commission and should refer to the TAC - this is a technical change
  - Jeff N. moved to approve the bylaws with the technical correction that “Commission” be changed to “Transportation Advisory Committee” in 4.2.3. Hugh seconded. All in favor.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
  - Vergennes PELS update - A technical memo is being prepared for review by the Technical Committee at a March meeting. The Policy Committee is expected to meet in April. The project is about three months behind schedule because VTrans has allowed more time to respond to public comments.
  - TAC Grant update. A contract for work on the Lincoln project was signed today. The reissued RFP for the Ferrisburgh project closed last week. One proposal was submitted and is currently being reviewed by Ferrisburgh. Mike anticipates moving forward with the consultant.
- Other Business/Roundtable
  - Ripton - a disabled resident found it difficult to access Amtrak trains. Hugh noted that a lift exists, but needs to be requested.
- Adjourn - moved Jeff G. 7:15 PM

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**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:

### 2023 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

	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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