

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Addison:		Orwell:	Andrea Treadway, vchair
Bridport:		Panton:	
Bristol:		Ripton:	Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:		Salisbury:	
Ferrisburgh:		Shoreham:	Karen Shackett
Goshen:		Starksboro:	
Leicester:		Vergennes:	Shannon Haggett
Lincoln:	Bill Finger	Waltham:	Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury:	Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:	
Monkton:	Debra Sprague	Whiting:	
New Haven:	Mike Audy		
Staff: Mike Winslow		Public: Mary Claire Crogan (TVT)	

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Additions and Amendments to Agenda. The TAC did a round of introductions.
- Public Comment - none
- Approval of March 15, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Jeff. Second by Norm. All in favor.
- Election of TAC officers. Brent Rakowski agreed to serve as chair. Andrea agreed to serve as vice-chair. Moved by Hugh Second by Mike A. All in favor.
- Microtransit in Middlebury - Mary Claire Crogan, TVT
 - Microtransit is similar to a ride-hailing service and will replace most of TVTs fixed bus routes within Middlebury on weekdays (weekends will retain existing fixed route service)
 - The first pilot in the state was conducted by GMT in Montpelier and started just as Covid hit. They have seen growth as Covid has relaxed. There's also a program that just started in Windsor County. GMT found they had more riders who received better service. They learned that vans worked better than buses. They also learned that drivers need to trust the software. That means not picking up hailed rides. The software learns and becomes more efficient over time.
 - TVT conducted a feasibility study that found microtransit: 1) increases the service area, 2) decreases cost per ride, and 3) increases riders independence.

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- o The Hannaford Route will remain as a fixed route with a few changes to the route. TVT will also keep their X-Bus, an afternoon bus that serves the teen center
- o To reserve a ride with microtransit, riders can: use a free phone app, reserve on their computer, or call TVT. Rides can be planned for up to a month at a time for regular riders.
- o Routes will run from 7AM to 6PM on weekdays
- o TVT anticipates wait times to decrease from the current hourly service to 5-10 minutes. Trips will take about 7 minutes depending on traffic. Service will be door to door.
- o Riders should set their expectations based on arrival at their destination, rather than on when they are picked up
- o Next steps: 1) meeting with the software vendor on Friday. 2) need to purchase two new nine passenger vans with wheelchair lifts - anticipated availability in early September. Until then, larger vans can be used. 3) Conduct internal trainings. 4) Provide community trainings and outreach. 5) Launch in late August or early September, but they're more interested in getting it right than meeting an arbitrary start date.
- o Mary Claire asked that anyone connected to potential user groups reach out to her to schedule targeted training.
- o Andrea is on the board of CVOEO and looks forward to hearing a training for that audience. Mary Claire noted that Turning Point and Hope are also on her list to reach out to for trainings.
- o Bill asked about service in East Middlebury. Mary Claire said the Rutland Connector stops at the gas station on Route 7 three times per day and that the Sno-Bowl serves the area from December until mid-June. Previous market assessments have suggested there aren't enough potential users for more frequent service.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Vergennes PELS update - a technical committee meeting is scheduled for late June. The project is entering two new phases: conceptual design of a roadway or road improvements, and land use visioning for areas along a selected route. Jeff asked how long these phases will last - approximately another year. Mike A. reiterated New Haven's opposition to moving traffic to Route 17 and 7.
 - o MRGP - towns have five years starting this summer to reinventory their roads using new procedures. The new procedures should lead to fewer road segments not in compliance with standards because the procedures emphasize erosion rather than presence or absence of practices. Once a new inventory is complete, the number of segments a town needs to upgrade each year is reset. There have not

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yet been funding sources identified for the reassessment. DEC has also set up a new log in for updating segments. Log in information was shared with road foremen, but if there's someone else in town that should receive that information, please let Mike know.

- o [Highway Safety Improvement Project grants](#) - This is a new grant program for signs, breakaway devices, road striping, or obstruction removal in clear zones. Awards will range from \$5,000 to \$35,000 with no local match required.
 - Andrea asked if radar signs could be purchased. No, they are not eligible for now. Bill advised that Lincoln has three fixed position radar feedback signs. Over time, people become accustomed to them and treat them as a challenge. He advised purchasing mobile signs.
 - Due date: June 16
- o [Bike and Pedestrian grants](#). The program funds three types of projects: small scale projects with a 50% local match, scoping studies, and large scale projects with a 20% local match. Mike is aware of one pending application in the county. If there are others, please let him know.
- o Federal grants - Safe Streets for All; Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program. These programs might be more applicable for a multi-community effort, but Mike wanted the TAC to be aware of their existence.
- o ACRPC TPI workplan for FY24 is being developed. If TAC members identify transportation planning needs for the region that should be included in the workplan, please let Mike know.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o Vergennes - 1) The City anticipates applying for additional funding through the bike/ped. grants for a sidewalk extension project. The new sidewalk will go from the Library to the Otter Creek bridge with construction planned late June through early July. 2) The City is up for a Neighborhood Designation Act determination next Monday.
 - o Ripton - 1) The Town has a high level of concern with the condition of a Class 2 bridge at the junction of Ripton/Lincoln Rd. North Branch Rd. & Pearl Lee Rd. The route is the main travel way between Ripton and Lincoln, and it connects two schools. bridge A previous scoping study exists. The concern is rapid deterioration. Brian Sanderson of VTrans District 3 reviewed the bridge with a Structures Specialist this morning. The bridge needs work and eventual replacement, but is not in danger of imminent collapse. 2) The salt shed relocation is under way and should be done on time
 - o New Haven - 1) Messier Moving, the company responsible for transporting the old train station from Route 7 to its current resting spot, was recognized and

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awarded by an international body for their work. Interior construction of the station is slowly moving along. 2) The East St./Sawyer Rd./Rt17 intersection is under construction now. The East St. leg will be closed for one week. Sawyer Rd. will follow at some point in the future. Construction is expected to continue into September.

- Andere asked if Mike had an update on state funding. He did not. Jeff suggested a recap of transportation issues from the legislative session for the next meeting.
- Adjourn 7:13

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:

- Open Grant Programs - state
 - [Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program](#)
 - [Highway Safety Improvement Projects](#)
- Open Grant Programs - federal
 - [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) - can fund a comprehensive safety action plan.
 - [Wildlife Crossing Program](#) - can fund construction and non-construction projects that reduce Wildlife Vehicle Collisions.

2023 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

	June 21
July - no meeting	August 16
September 20	October 18
November 15	December - no meeting

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