

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Addison:	Jeff Nelson	Orwell:	Andrea Treadway
Bridport:	Andrew Manning	Panton:	
Bristol:		Ripton:	Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:		Salisbury:	
Ferrisburgh:	Steve Huffaker	Shoreham:	Karen Shackett
Goshen:		Starksboro:	
Leicester:		Vergennes:	Brent Rakowski
Lincoln:		Waltham:	Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury:	Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:	
Monkton:	Debra Sprague	Whiting:	
New Haven:	Mike Audy		
Staff: Mike Winslow		Public: Jim Gish (VHB), Shannon Haggett (Vergennes), Katharine Otto (VTrans)	

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Additions and Amendments to Agenda - Mike added notice of the Rural Assistance Pilot Program
- Public Comment - none
- Approval of May 17, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes - **Moved by Andrea Treadway; seconded by Mike Audy. Motion carried without dissent**
- Update on the Vergennes Truck Traffic Study (PELS) - Katharine Otto, VTrans. Katharine gave an overview of the PEL status, the questions being investigated, and the process to actual project implementation. Slides from the presentation are available at the [ACRPC website](#).
 - Jeff G. asked if the study team was planning to visit every Planning Commission. Katharine confirmed that they are, and there will be attempts in the next few weeks to schedule those meetings. Jeff was supportive of the approach.
 - Hugh asked if there was a maximum project cost that would limit the study. Katharine said not at this time in the conceptual design phase. They are able to design for all options that would meet the Purpose and Need. However, extremely expensive options might be more difficult to find funding for.

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- o Norm asked if attempts by the local communities to provide intermediate mitigation might impact the overall project. Katharine thought not and pointed out that intermediate steps were taken during the 2020 Vergennes Class 1 paving project. She requested that if anyone have ideas for useful mitigation measures that they pass them along.
- Discussion of FY24 TAC grants
 - o Jeff Nelson has been thinking about transport of hazardous materials in light of two gas truck crashes on US7 in the last few weeks. Reached out to Mike but there's no good information on these materials. Jeff requested that ACRPC staff develop an application as part of the FY24 TAC grants to assess the type and number of trucks carrying hazardous materials in Addison County. **Jeff N. moved Andrea seconded.** During the discussion, Karen suggested the study could be done in phases. Andrea recalled a study from the early 2000's done by Tim Bouton. Katharine recalled studies from the early 2010s funded through Emergency Management rather than transportation. Question called: **all in favor; no dissent.**
 - o Mike will release the call for proposals tomorrow.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Sign inventory tool - Hannah at ACRPC has developed a sign inventory tool at the request of the Town of Shoreham. The tool is being field tested now and would be available for any town that wanted to use it.
 - o Traffic counts - Mike requested that towns that wish to have traffic counts make those requests as soon as possible. He has counts scheduled related to the PELS study and related to the VT125 safety study.
 - o [Rural Assistance Pilot Program](#) - Mike recently learned about this program which can provide funds up to \$320k for financial, technical and legal assistance with no local match. Applications are due in August and will be funded on a first come first served basis.
 - Mike A. asked if the funds were restricted to certain types of projects. Mike W. said not to his knowledge
 - Mike W. noted there are a number of potentially eligible projects in Ripton from possible bridge replacements to planning for Old Town Road. The funds can not be used for actual construction, just planning and permitting.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o Monkton - working on a culvert replacement on Mountain Rd. that will lead to road closure
 - o New Haven - 1. VT17 work continues; Sawyer Rd. was closed about two weeks ago. VTrans is now working on moving utilities. 2. The Selectboard has had

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discussion about Depot Train Station. They are still moving along, but there's a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done. There was a movie presentation about the station move in Middlebury over the last weekend.

- o Orwell will be having a 502 hearing on widening of 22A next Wednesday at 6pm at the town hall. The Selectboard will be there to listen.
- Adjourn 7:20

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:

- TAC Grants - deadline TBD
- [Rural Assistance Pilot Program](#) - applications begin August 14. First come, first served.

2023 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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