

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 16, 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 (chair)
Lincoln:	Bill Finger	Waltham:	Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury:	Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:	
Monkton:	Debra Sprague	Whiting:	
New Haven:			
Staff: Mike Winslow		Public: none	

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of June 14, 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Andrea. Second by Norm. Jeff N. noted that the minutes had not been included in the emailed TAC packet (they were posted on the ACRPC website). Andrea and Norm withdrew their motions. Andrea motioned to table discussion of the minutes until the September meeting. Jeff N. seconded. All in favor. Mike will send the June minutes around prior to the September meeting.
- Review of applications for TAC grant funding
 - Mike reported that he had shared all four applications with VTrans. All are fundable, but the Middlebury and TAC applications will need to be careful to stay in the transportation planning realm.
 - Lincoln - Bill gave an overview of the request. Lincoln seeks the assistance of transportation planners in identifying low cost initiatives that can calm traffic in their downtown area. Jeff N. asked if the town intended to put any matching funds toward the study; he's concerned about the ability to attract consultants for a project in the requested price range. Bill said there hasn't been money designated to this. Jeff G. asked about how effective paint lines would be in winter and if the town is maintaining the paint. Bill said timing matters. Some of the projects have lasted longer than others. More permanent markings would exceed the budget possibilities of the town.

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



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- o Middlebury - Hugh gave an overview of the project. The town is currently involved in a bike ped. planning study, but that study is focused on downtown due to limited funds. Some residents would like the scope expanded. There is a meeting 8/29 which will summarize the results of outreach to date. The request before the TAC is to expand the planning study beyond downtown and go into more detail on some elements. Jeff N. was confused about what the proposal actually is. There's language to advance three or four projects, but it's not clear what those projects are. Hugh agreed that the deliverables were not as clear as they could be.
- o TAC - Mike recounted the proposal that had been requested by the TAC to assess flow of hazardous materials through Addison County. Similar work was completed about five years ago, prior to the pandemic, as part of a statewide initiative. Andrea suggested that the project could be used to inform planning for breakdowns on state roads. Jeff N. agreed and suggested the study could inform stopping distances and safe site distances for intersections along state roads. Karen asked if the study could be conducted with remote sensing. There may be some tools to help with that, but it's not clear at this time. Jeff G. expressed support for the study and asked about the budget - where did \$25k come from. To develop the budget, Mike assumed the TAC would fund two projects and the available TAC funds would be split approximately evenly. TAC members suggested routes to be studied: 22A, 7, 116, 125W, 17, and suggested focusing on intersections of state routes. Jeff N. asked Mike to follow up on the possibility of coupling with EMPG work.
- o Vergennes - Brent provided background information. The City recently passed a budget with a large increase driven by lack of funding for maintenance in past budgets. This has driven the City's desire for better planning for capital projects, as requested in this TAC grant submission. The \$20K fund is an estimate and the city would accept what the TAC could give. Jeff N. ensured that the project would not include water wastewater etc. as these elements are not eligible for TAC funding. He expressed support for the proposal - an admirable project that could be helpful for other communities as a template. Norm asked if this was an attempt to find a management scheme for the City - Brent suggested this would mean identifying city owned transportation resources, setting a depreciation schedule and creating a timeline for budgeting for repair and replacement. Karen noted Shoreham has a capital plan for equipment. Jeff N. said it could involve a sign inventory as well; limited only by available funds. Karen agreed on the importance of inventorying signs.

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- o Next steps. Mike will send an email requesting TAC members to rank projects. Members representing communities requesting funds should abstain from ranking their communities projects. At the September meeting we can discuss the rankings and allocations of funding between selected projects. Andrea requested to see funding splits from previous awards; Mike will include that in his email.
 - Steve reminded TAC that the Ferrisburgh project from FY23 was not big enough to attract bidders. The scope needed to be reduced and even then only one bidder responded. The TAC needs to be careful of spreading dollars too thinly.
 - Bill noted a huge difference between towns in terms of capability of doing the work on their own. Lincoln has no state roads but maintains a connection between 116 and 100. Brent recalled that earlier ranking had included a matrix approach. He asked that individual voters take Bill's concerns into consideration when ranking.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Vergennes PELS update - The study team is setting up meetings with planning commissions in the seven potentially affected communities. The study team will be posting a survey to gather opinions from members throughout the community. When the survey is live, ideally the week of August 21, it will be at www.vergennespel.com/survey.
 - o FEMA assistance status - Addison County has received public assistance for the early July storms, but has not reached the thresholds for private assistance. Towns that were affected by those storms should be applying to FEMA for assistance now. The state is asking FEMA to combine the early July storms with the early August storms so that the county also qualifies for individual assistance. If those efforts are unsuccessful, Mike suspects Addison County will still qualify for a separate public assistance declaration. Towns should keep good separate records of repair work associated with each of the events.
 - o FY23 Grants in Aid projects should be completed by the end of September. VTrans just sent out a notice to towns that have not yet indicated what project they'll be working on. In the past, ACRPC has had more of a hand in tracking and reporting these projects, but this year we have not been directly funded to do that work. We have been working with towns as requested. The result is we do not have a good handle on if these projects are being completed in a timely manner.
 - o Karen asked about work happening on Exchange St. in Middlebury. Mike believes there has been progress on the Right of Way work associated with the sidewalk project at the south end. She had also heard rumors of movement on the Exchange Street roundabout. The [project page for the roundabout](#) suggests

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preliminary planning would take place in the fall of 2024, with a target for construction in 2027.

- Other Business/Roundtable
 - Middlebury - The town is working on a bike ped. plan. A general meeting for the plan is scheduled for August 29. In the meantime, interested parties can identify potential problem areas using [a survey on the town website](#).
 - Lincoln is hoping to pave Gap Rd. this year
 - Orwell - 1. The July storms led to damaged roads on the east side of town. The Highway Department worked through the weekend to restore connectivity. One road still needs repairs. 2. VTrans held a meeting in June at the Orwell town hall about 22A. Maps of the proposed project are available at the Town Clerk's office. They are looking at 2026-27 for construction, but the town has concerns about how flooding might impact scheduling.
 - Ripton - VT125 is fully open to Texas Falls only with one lane occasionally open to VT100, though signs say the route is closed. There are two stop regulated sections through the gorge. The Poploski family lost their home completely. Chris P. works on Ripton roads. There are local fundraising efforts to help them.
 - Monkton - Mountain Rd. has been closed but the project is ahead of schedule, and the road may be reopened next week.
 - Vergennes - Construction is on-going for a new sidewalk along Main St. to connect downtown to the Otter Creek Basin. The project was initially funded by a Bike/Ped. Grant and recently received additional funding through a second Bike/Ped. Grant.
- Andrea moved to adjourn. Debra seconded. Meeting adjourned 7:37PM

Note: 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:

[Park and Ride Grants](#) - Due September 2

[Federal Lands Access Program](#) - Due October 3

[Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) - Due September 15

2022 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

September 20	November 15
October 18	December No Meeting

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