

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Addison:		Orwell:	
Bridport:		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:	Mike Audy		
Staff: Mike Winslow		Public: Emily Parkany (VTrans), Ashlie Mercado (VTrans)	

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Approval of [September 20, 2023](#) TAC Meeting Minutes. Moved by Bill Second by Norm. All in favor. Mike Audy abstained.
- Research advances at VTrans - Emily Parkany and Ashlie Mercado
 - VTrans Annual research and innovations symposium was converted to a substitute report this year due to the flooding.
 - [Links to past symposia](#) are available on the VTrans website.
 - VTrans has a new research communications contract to disseminate information
 - The Research Section was part of the materials lab, but there are only two staff now and they emphasize managing research including external partners.
 - Nine potential projects were presented to decision makers on a wide range of topics. Four were funded.
 - All projects have an internal champion and a technical advisory committee. The committee can include people from outside the agency.
 - The [2023 Symposium Lite](#) included information on 16 projects - not all from within the research division. The Substitute report will come out in the next few weeks with fact sheets on the projects.
 - Ashlie shared a [speed counter measures tool box](#) that was one of the feature projects. The tool box contains 15 potential speed counter measures and four case

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- studies. Tool box items were evaluated based on efficacy, acceptability and history of use on Vermont roads.
- Each countermeasure has a page with details and additional resources
 - One of the case studies was on VT125 in Middlebury (near the college) and included lane narrowing, improved lighting, bulbouts, and addition of on-street parking to make the road seem more congested.
 - Data were collected at four different locations. Countermeasures effectively reduced speed.
 - Karen asked if the lighting was found to be useful, because in some ways the poles make pedestrians harder to see. Ashlie suggested the appearance of congestion was a big part of why the measures worked to reduce speeds; there was less analysis of the effectiveness of the different components of the system.
- o A Smart Growth project started last year with expected completion later this year. The project uses future VT population forecasts by county, and evaluates travel impacts of various growth scenarios: town center vs. dispersed models.
 - The research objective is to quantify co-benefits of compact development including health, safety, reduced road maintenance, and increased economic activity.
 - Data sources include the existing built environment and passive collection of location data (cell phones and apps using locations).
 - Found that per capita VMT were lower in dense Rutland than more dispersed Springfield or Morrisville.
 - o Recycled Asphalt Shingles as a Full Depth Reclamation mechanical stabilizer.
 - Use of RAS as a surface treatment on roads raised concerns with ANR. This project looks at an alternative use and asks can the RAS help hold together the road base?
 - Study will look at performance as a binder and environmental impacts. The project is just getting started
 - o HIVE I and HIVE II (Hydraulic Inspection Vehicle Explorer) - remotely operated vehicles for inspecting culverts.
 - Minnesota has had success with similar tools
 - Tank like construction allows navigation around obstructions
 - o RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon) evaluation
 - Project won a national award for high value research
 - Paired comparison of intersections with and without beacons. Saw an increase in vehicles stopping with beacons.
 - Found RRFBs worked in rural and town center settings.

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- o Work Zone Travel Time Delay - project just starting
 - The VTrans standard is not to delay traffic for more than 10 minutes per operation and 15 minutes total per project. This Project asks how well VTrans is doing to meet the standard.
 - Four different types/sizes of projects
 - Utilizing field data and “Big Data” recently purchased by VTrans
- o Mike W. asked for an explanation of big data. Information collected remotely from vehicles in Vermont. Allows collection of data from any roadway in Vermont, but more reliable for more heavily traveled routes.
- o Jeff suggested the Speed Counter Measures Tool box would be of interest across the county, and should be the topic of a future TAC meeting.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Vergennes PELS update - land use visioning team is meeting with affected communities planning commissions. Scheduling more sophisticated workshops for early December. The survey that closed last month yielded over 900 responses with a good proportional distribution among affected towns. Jeff asked when results would be available. Mike W. suggested preliminary results such as demographic information should be available for the December workshops, but a full analysis would not be completed until the new year.
 - o [TAP grants](#) and [Stormwater Mitigation](#) grants (combined application) due December 8th. If any communities would like assistance in an application, contact Mike. He has already had some discussion with Shoreham, Ferrisburgh, and Bridport.
 - o [Park and Ride Grants](#) due November 3rd.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o Ripton - three one way stops between East Middlebury and Ripton. One operated by a traffic light during off hours. Other two close down when work is done for the day.
- Adjourn 7:21

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:

- [Park and Ride Grants](#) - Due November 3, 2023
- [TAP grants](#) and [Stormwater Mitigation](#) grants (combined application) due December 8th.

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- [SFY25 Better Roads](#) - TBD but usually early December

2023 REMAINING TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

November 15	December No Meeting
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2024 TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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