

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Addison:		Orwell:	Andrea Treadway -v.chair
Bridport:	Andrew Manning	Panton:	
Bristol:		Ripton:	Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:	Brian Kemp	Salisbury:	
Ferrisburgh:	Steve Huffaker	Shoreham:	Karn Shackett
Goshen:		Starksboro:	
Leicester:		Vergennes:	Shannon Haggett
Lincoln:	Bill Finger	Waltham:	Jeff Glassberg
Middlebury:	Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:	
Monkton:	Debra Sprague	Whiting:	
New Haven:			
Staff: Mike Winslow		Public: Fred Dunnington (Middlebury), Steve Rheume (Cornwall), Taylor Sisson (VTrans), Matthew Arancio (VTrans), Faith Dall (VTrans), Abe Kauffman (VTrans), Ian Griffith (VTrans), Amanda Allen (Lincoln), Kathleen Ramsay (Middlebury), Matt Curren (Middlebury College)	

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Amendments to the Agenda. Andrea suggested saving the Regional Plan updates for the next meeting. Suggestion was accepted by unanimous consent.
- Approval of [February 20, 2024 TAC Meeting Minutes](#). Moved by Shannon. Second by Norm. All in favor.
- Local Project Updates - Taylor Sisson, VTrans. Taylor shared a [presentation on local projects](#).
 - Scope Refinement: US7/Boardman St.
 - The project involves intersection improvements, improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure, improved transit access, and drainage improvements.
 - They are still in the process of identifying alternatives
 - Exchange St./US7 Intersection
 - The project involves intersection improvements, shoulder widening, drainage improvements, and guardrail replacement.
 - Still in scoping. Draft final report has been completed. Have received internal endorsement of options. Setting up a preferred alternative presentation that would lead to final scoping report, and then the project moves to design

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- o Cornwall-Middlebury VT125 Safety Study
 - Roadway profile in the project area is challenging.
 - The project involves improving the profile, intersection improvements at James Rd/Cider Mill Rd., shoulder widening, and ledge removal.
 - The project schedule is similar to Exchange St. A draft final scoping report is undergoing internal review, which would be followed by a public meeting with Cornwall and Middlebury to present a preferred alternative. This would be followed by design.
- o Middlebury 1) US7/Charles Ave./Monroe St scope refinement
 - The project involves realignment of Charles Ave., replacement of traffic signals, widening for turn lanes, and installation of bike lanes
 - The project is at the very beginning of the design phase. Need to secure funding for design and then hire a design consultant.
- o Castleton-Middlebury signal replacements - intersection of US7 and Middle Rd. and US7 at the Hannafords Shopping Center
 - The project involves replacement of signals on span wires with mast arms, replacement of signal heads, upgraded vehicle detection, and upgraded pedestrian crossing infrastructure.
 - The project is at the beginning of the design stage. Need to secure funding for design and then hire a design consultant.
- o Questions:
 - Brian Kemp - would the 125 project include removing the two blind knolls? Taylor - roadway profile work is about those two knolls.
 - Hugh - Bicyclists on Hamblin Rd. near the college have a very narrow shoulder that soon widens. Could that narrow portion be widened? Taylor - improving shoulders for biking was a big part of the Local Concerns meeting, but not so much on the western side. They can take a look at that.
 - Brian - Would shoulders be widened all the way back to Middlebury? Taylor - not sure they'd be going quite as wide as the widest section. Standard for this level of roadway is 5', which is a minimum for a bike lane width.
 - Fred Dunnington - what year might the projects be completed. Taylor - it depends. Charles St./Monroe - could find design funding in the next few months; that's a 3-5 year process before construction, depending on issues identified during design. Exchange St. - behind Boardman St. intersection in timing. Fighting with emergency projects for funding. Once design funding is found, then 3-5 years. Boardman further behind, beginning of scoping. Still an open book regarding needs and barriers. Therefore, it is harder to pin down a construction date.
 - Steve H. - Exchange St. slide did not mention a roundabout. Are other options on the table? Taylor - no, pretty nailed down on the roundabout and have buy-in within VTrans.
 - Hugh - Would traffic counts such information speed up the Monroe St.

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- intersection project? Taylor - haven't gotten that deep into details yet. There should already be sufficient historical data. Could collect data if there isn't enough available.
 - Bill F. - when he worked for Middlebury, the town did some preliminary cost estimating as they looked for ways to move the project and that was 15 years ago. It's troubling that such work was not utilized. Taylor - there had been a scoping study done in the early 2000s. That study supported a roundabout, so that option stayed as a priority. Having that base work helped move the project forward.
 - Brian - would the 125 project also be 3-5 years from design? Taylor - hopefully the time to design will go faster, but that will be a big project so there might be a longer time from design to construction.
 - Karen - could the 125 project be phased? Taylor - that's the approach they're considering for the scoping report. It's a two-mile potential project area; typically such projects are just intersections. Breaking the project into segments does make sense, with prioritization of the knolls. Karen recognized the regional support for the project
 - Matt Curren - offered any assistance the College can provide in facilitating moving the project forward. Taylor noted that Luther Tenny from the College had also offered support.
 - Andrea thanked Taylor for his time.
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - Bridge candidates - Mike asked that TAC members send him candidate bridge projects for the Regional Plan update in advance of the April meeting so he can have them teed up for discussion.
 - Vergennes PELS update - The land use visioning team is doing a second round of meetings with the planning commissions. They've already met with Panton, Addison, and Waltham. After that, the team will be finalizing and filling in an evaluation matrix.
 - Matthew A. noted that Kathrine Otto, the PM had moved on and, moving forward, he and Faith Dall will be working on that project from VTrans end .
 - [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) - due April 4, 2024
 - Reminder that TAC elections occur at the April meeting. If anyone is interested in serving as Chair or Vice-Chair, please let Mike know.
 - Other Business/Roundtable
 - Middlebury - Hugh confirmed that the OMYA rail link was deleted from Middlebury town plan, and can therefore be deleted from the regional plan.
 - Lincoln - Bill introduced Amanda Allen. Amanda is a new select board member in Lincoln and will be the new TAC delegate. Bill will become the alternate.
 - Waltham - Jeff reported that the town had lowered the speed limit on all town roads to 35 mph.
 - Adjourn M. Karen; S. Bill Adjourn 7:23

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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:

- [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) - due April 4, 2024

2024 TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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