

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|------------------------------|
| Addison: | | Orwell: | Andrea Treadway (vice-chair) |
| Bridport: | Andrew Manning | Panton: | |
| Bristol: | | Ripton: | Norm Tjossem |
| Cornwall: | | Salisbury: | |
| Ferrisburgh: | | Shoreham: | |
| Goshen: | | Starksboro: | |
| Leicester: | | Vergennes: | Shannon Haggett |
| Lincoln: | Amanda Allen | Waltham: | |
| Middlebury: | Hugh McLaughlin | Weybridge: | |
| Monkton: | Debra Sprague | Whiting: | |
| New Haven: | Mike Audy | | |
| Staff: Mike Winslow | | Public: Jeff Cathcart (Goshen), Bill Finger (Lincoln), Faith Dall (VTrans), Valerie Capels (Bristol) | |

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Amendments to the Agenda
- Discussion about Open Meeting Law
 - Advisory Body - does not have supervision, control, or jurisdiction over legislative, quasi-judicial, tax, or budgetary matters.
 - May have remote only meetings
 - May Record
 - Non Advisory Body - has supervision, control, or jurisdiction over legislative, quasi-judicial, tax, or budgetary matters.
 - Must have a staffed physical location
 - Must Record
 - ACRPC believes the TAC is non advisory. TAC members that spoke all agreed.
- Approval of [June 19, 2024 Minutes](#). Moved by Norm. Second by Mike A. All in favor. Andrea abstained.
- Final Review of [Regional Plan Updates](#). - last opportunity for any input on substantive changes to the plan. ACRPC ED, Adam Lougee, had some requested revisions. Some were just language clean up, but there were some substantive changes:
 - Added an Air Transportation goal (pg. 6) to “*Thoughtfully implement improvements recommended in the 2021 VT Airport System Plan*”

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- o Local Corridors of Concern (pg. 27) - removed Old Hollow Rd.; added Leicester Whiting Rd. due to concerns about flooding (was already in Recommended Actions)
- o Added information and a photo about the public art installation at the bus stop in Vergennes (pg. 33)
- o Added two Recommended Actions to the Public Transit section (pg. 34)
 - Support TVT's efforts to expand facilities to accommodate transition to electric vehicles.
 - Assist TVT in recruiting volunteer drivers
- o Added narrative section on E-Bikes (pg. 37)
 - Added a Recommended Action (pg. 42) to "Identify and promote designated parking facilities for E-bikes"
- o Asked the TAC to take another look at the Recommended Actions under Sufficient Funding (pg. 50) to make sure we're capturing everything we want to in this section.
 - The TAC suggested adding a General Action to advocate for more non-municipal dollars (e.g. state, federal) to support our transportation network.
- o Mike A. moved to approve the plan including the additions and recommended adoption by the full commission. Shannon seconded the motion. All in favor. No abstentions
- TAC Grant applications - initial review
 - o Bristol - requested a speed study and traffic assessment on North St.
 - Mike noted that a speed study can be conducted with existing funds
 - Valerie reported that the application had two parts: updated speed study, and assessment of truck traffic and alternatives to truck traffic. Some residents in the village are deeply concerned about the volume of trucks in the village. They are looking for an assessment of the number and types of trucks and an identification of an alternative that would keep them out of the village.
 - Mike will reach out to VTrans to see what's involved in an origin/destination study that might address where truck trips are going.
 - Andrea noted that the ability to limit traffic on a state highway is almost impossible. Bristol does have a Class 1 town highway. North St., where the resident concerns are originating, is a Class 2 town highway. The Town is seeing more and more residential development along this road.
 - o Middlebury - requested a feasibility study for an intersection realignment on US7 at Elm St. and Stewart Lane

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- Faith mentioned that the study described nears the line of a scoping study while TPI funds can only cover planning. She will seek clarity from others in VTrans.
- Mike A. has gone through the intersection and not noticed problems.
- Mike W. pointed out that the intersection is part of the Triangle Bike Loop, and increased bike traffic was called out as an issue in the application.
- o No other TAC members had applications to bring forward
- Transportation Updates from Mike
 - o Vergennes PELS update
 - Policy Committee has accepted the Land Use Visioning portion of the report
 - Consultants are refining evaluation criteria and scoring the options still on the table
 - The Policy Committee will meet later this fall, probably in November. They will review and discuss the findings from the evaluation matrix and related tech memos prior to making any recommendations which could occur at a subsequent meeting.
 - Final public presentation currently anticipated in January, with final report within a month or two after that.
 - o STP 0172(11) Cornwall Alternatives presentation summary
 - The VT125 safety study is recommending road widening and some grade leveling for VT125. They are working to get this project into the VTrans work plan, but no promises can be made.
 - As a side project, they've recommended a parallel multi-use path. Mike W. had hoped that Cornwall would apply for TAC funding for a feasibility analysis, but the timeframe between the Alternatives presentation and the TAC grant application deadline was too tight to allow coordination with Middlebury College on an application.
 - o Municipal Project Manager projects
 - ACRPC will be assisting Bridport with a twin culvert replacement on Middle Rd., and Ferrisburgh with new sidewalk construction on US7 and Little Chicago Rd. The latter project is based on a TAC funded feasibility study.
 - o Road Erosion and Culvert Inventories - Orwell, Middlebury, New Haven, and Leicester inventories were completed this summer.
 - ACRPC has now completed inventories for 12 towns as part of the new permit cycle; nine towns still need to be done.

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- ACRPC intends to continue inventories at no cost to towns as long as they are able to find summer interns to do the work.
- VTrans has funding available on a first come first serve basis that requires 20% local match if towns want to move more quickly than what ACRPC is able to do. Mike W. shared notice of the VTrans funding with towns that have not yet completed their inventories.
- o Grants in Aid - FY23 and FY24 projects need to be completed by the end of September. Towns should start planning where they want to use FY25 dollars.
- Other Business/Roundtable
 - o Andrew is currently staying in Middlebury.
 - o New Haven is trying to catch up on some ditching. Prepping River Rd. and Pearson Rd. for paving. They missed out on a grant to get all of River Rd. done, but are hoping to get some spot treatments done. Projects should commence in the next few weeks
 - o Vergennes has started working with Ferrisburgh on a transit oriented design planning project around the train station.
 - o Goshen has a new road foreman (Jeff). They are working on Town Hill to install six new culverts and repaving the road. They've applied for additional funding for Goshen-Ripton Rd. to replace a culvert near Stewart's Pond. District 3 will assist with the pre-engineering assessment.
 - o Jeff asked about the status of Goshen's culvert inventory and where they are in ACRPC's queue. Mike hopes to get to them next summer.
 - o Lincoln is on-boarding their new highway foreman. They've also hired a new town administrator which they hope will increase capacity for applying for grants.
 - o Lincoln is in the midst of a traffic calming study (TAC funded).
 - o Lincoln has been informed about a River Rd. construction project in Bristol which may impact residents ability to get into town. The project may also include closing Briggs Hill Rd. or reducing it to one lane. Mike offered assistance with communication issues.
 - o Monkton has been ditching Mountain Rd. and they're trying to catch up from storm damage.
 - o Middlebury's town manager is leaving. A search for a new manager is on-going.
 - o Orwell is doing assessments and ditching. They've done some preparation for repaving of Mt. Independence Rd. They've also done some work on Rt. 73
- Andrea asked if the TAC could look at the regional impact of flood prone areas. Mike will touch base with Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC's emergency manager. This might be a good topic for an October TAC meeting.

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- Debra raised the issue of the second gas truck fire on US7, and wondered what role the TAC might play. Mike mentioned [the recent VT Digger article](#). Andrea observed that the trucks run 24-7.
 - Faith pointed out that the VTrans freight plan update should be kicking off soon. There will be at least 2 public meetings, possibly as early as this autumn.
- Mike W. reminded TAC members that the September meeting might be long. We will be receiving reports on our two TAC funded projects for FY24: traffic calming in Lincoln, and an asset management plan for Vergennes.
- Adjournment moved Mike A. second Norm Adjourn 7:22

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/>. Video of meetings will be available for two months on [ACRPC's YouTube Channel](#).

Grant Opportunities:

2024 TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| September 18 | October 16 |
| November 20 | December - no meeting |

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