

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org) • Phone: 802.388.3141

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Addison:	Martin Haitz	Orwell:	Andrea Treadway (v.chair)
Bridport:		Panton:	Kyle Rowe
Bristol:		Ripton:	Norm Tjossem
Cornwall:		Salisbury:	
Ferrisburgh:		Shoreham:	
Goshen:		Starksboro:	
Leicester:	Diane Benware	Vergennes:	Brent Rakowski (Chair)
Lincoln:	Ken Stockman	Waltham:	
Middlebury:	Hugh McLaughlin	Weybridge:	
Monkton:		Whiting:	
New Haven:			
<b>Staff:</b> Mike Winslow		<b>Public:</b> Carolyn Cota (VTrans)	

## AGENDA

- Call to Order: 6:30PM
- Amendments to the Agenda. Introductions were conducted.
- Approval of [Minutes](#) from May meeting. Moved by Norm moved. Second by Kyle. All approved.
- Town Highway Bridge Program Information - Carolyn Cota, VTrans
  - o Carolyn gave an overview of the number of bridges in the state and the bridge inspection program
  - o When inspecting bridges, the condition of the bridge is determined by the lowest scoring feature
  - o Carolyn gave an overview of [VTransparency](#), and information available there, and she showed an example bridge inspection report.
  - o Ken asked what is required to get a bridge into Transparency. All bridges greater than 6' in length will be in this system.
  - o Inspections will show structural issues, but not functional ones. For example, Bridge 15 on VT125 in Ripton is quite narrow, but that alone does not affect its structural integrity.
  - o VTrans has a performance goal for Town Highway Bridges of no more than 12% in poor condition. Currently, only 3% are in poor condition. However, that number is anticipated to increase in future years.

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- o Once a bridge project is programmed with the state, it takes five to six years to get it to construction
- o There was a burst of bridge replacement in 2010 due to availability of federal funds. Inflation has greatly affected the ability to build bridges in recent years, constricting labor and supply availability.
- o In Addison County, there are currently three town-highway and four state-highway bridges programmed (includes one railroad bridge in Ferrisburgh, and storm damage projects in New Haven and Ripton).
- o Bridges and other projects are evaluated via the VPSP2 process. New project review through VPSP2 has been on hold for a few years due to budget constraints.
- o Carolyn stressed maintenance of bridges: annual bridge washing and regular cleaning of joints and bearings. Application of water repellent every five to ten years is very helpful. Maintenance will make a bridge last longer. If a town gets a warning letter following a bridge inspection, that does not mean grant funding will be available to fix the problem. Road closures can result, as temporary bridge inventory is very low.
- o Ken asked how Vermont stayed on top of innovative bridge maintenance. There's regular exchange of information between states, and the condition of Vermont bridges actually ranks fairly high.
- o Bridges are designed to last 75 years, longer on the federal highway system, but that lifespan requires regular maintenance.
- o Martin asked about the process for bridge inspections. Towns do not need to request inspections, they will be inspected every two years. There are multiple teams that travel around the state. Structures in poor condition (4 or lower) are inspected annually. Road foremen are not necessarily present when inspections occur.
- FY26 Transportation Bill Summary - Mike (see attachment)
- Transportation Updates from Mike
  - o FY26 TAC Grants - ACRPC offers planning funds to towns to undertake transportation planning projects. The annual solicitation will go out early in July. The solicitation will include a brief description of previously funded projects.
  - o FY25 [Bike/Ped. Grant Program](#) - due July 11. Mike is not aware of any Addison County communities seeking funding this round.
  - o VTrans Airport Policy Modernization.
    - VTrans is reviewing, revising and formalizing aviation policies, minimum standards for airport use and operational procedures.
    - A public [Survey](#) is available until August 15. Can still submit comments after that. The survey is targeted to airport users.

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- A public meeting will take place at the airport 7/15 at 5:30 PM
- Other Business/Roundtable
  - Panton Rd. in between Collins Aerospace and Basin Harbor Rd. will be closed July 8 and 9 due to the need to replace two culverts. Detours will be to Rt. 17 or West Rd. and Slang Rd. Panton has a structures grant to help with the work.
  - Lincoln will be paving the Lincoln Gap Rd. from South Lincoln Rd. to Geary Rd. in July. A detour will occur on S. Lincoln Rd.
  - Leicester will be paving on Lake Dunmore Rd.
  - Vergennes had a 2019 TAP grant for construction of a salt shed. Engineers estimated construction costs at \$600K, but there was only one bidder and the bid price was \$1.1 million. In 2021 Pittsford built a structure twice the size for \$400K. The City is rejecting the bid. Brent's assessment is that the Transportation Alternatives Program grants do not align well with buildings. Towns that have self-funded have found fabric enclosed structures are more economical than stick built and poured concrete foundations, but the funding source does not allow such structures. Kyle noted that Panton's structure cost \$270K about four years ago, but it's smaller and they self-funded the project.
- Adjourn
  - Adjourn 7:35

**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:

- FY25 [Bike/Ped. Grant Program](#) - due July 11

## 2025 TAC MEETING SCHEDULE

July - no meeting	August 20
September 17	October 15
November 19	December - no meeting

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# 2025 Transportation Bill Summary

Presented to ACRPC TAC 6/18/2025

## **Local Projects Explicitly Mentioned**

The Bill lists commitments to projects that reduce transportation related greenhouse gas emissions. Funding for Bike Ped. Projects in Bristol and Middlebury are called out. Transportation Alternatives Program funds for Bristol and Ferrisburgh are also called out.

## **Policy Changes & Studies**

- Requires a report on designing a mileage based user fee (Section 5)
- Tied formula grant appropriations to changes in the state Transportation Fund revenue or Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (Section 13)
- Initiates a study about cancelling locally managed projects (Section 14)
- Initiates a study about municipal budgeting for asset management (Section 15)
- Authorized hiring a consultant to analyze grant program administration and identify potential efficiencies (Section 16)
- Delays implementation of a mileage based user fee for EVs to January 2027 from July 2025 (Section 17)
- Establishes a reduction in vehicle-miles-travelled as a priority in planning and funding decisions (Sections 21-23)
- Provides \$600,000 in one-time funds for grants to transit providers to hire volunteer driver coordinators. Additional language about studies and reports to help the legislature better understand Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation and to remove impediments to volunteer drivers. (Section 24-28)
- Begins a process for providing VINs for home built and similar vehicles (Section 29)
- Allows Dig Safe contractors to provide markings within three working days of receiving a request (increased from two days) (Section 32 & 33)