



## **CIRC Task Force Meeting #6 Notes – APPROVED 2/23/12**

### **SERVING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF**

Bolton  
Buels Gore  
Burlington  
Charlotte  
Colchester  
Essex Junction  
Essex Town  
Hinesburg  
Huntington  
Jericho  
Milton  
Richmond  
St. George  
Shelburne  
South Burlington  
Underhill  
Westford  
Williston  
Winooski

DATE: Thursday, December 8, 2011  
TIME: 6:30 PM  
PLACE: Williston Town Hall  
PRESENT: Please see last page

### **1) Welcome & Introductions**

Cindy Cook of Adamant Accord welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

### **2) Review & Approval of Meeting Notes**

The Task Force approved the meeting notes, with minor revisions (see attachment), from November 9, 2011.

### **3) Update re: Implementation Projects**

Michele Boomhower of the CCRPC sent a letter summarizing the Task Force's implementation project recommendations to Transportation Secretary Brian Searles on November 30<sup>th</sup>. She and her staff have been meeting with VTrans project development staff to analyze the project list. Dennis Lutz of Essex attended one of these meetings and expects that Essex' project (VT2A/VT289 Interchange Improvements) will be phased to allow signal work next summer and possible lane widening the following year. Michele noted that Exit 16 improvements in Colchester will involve intensive planning, design, and construction with extensive public education and notification. The earliest date for construction would be 2014, but more likely 2015.

### **4) "Hot Spots" in the CIRC Study Area, Including Traffic Volumes and Safety Data**

Dave Roberts of the CCRPC presented a map, "CIRC Alternatives Priority Planning Projects," and discussed the traffic counts and high crash locations (HCL) throughout the CIRC corridor. Dave noted that the map will be updated as planning studies are completed. There was discussion about high crash locations (HCL) and recent on-the-ground improvements that might not be included in the State's HCL data. Michele suggested that Dave update the information for consideration of the Phase 2 implementation projects next year.

### **5) Overview of Budget for CIRC Alt. Planning Projects for FY12 and FY13**

Michele explained that the FY12 CIRC alternatives planning projects will be funded through CCRPC FHWA carryover funds not spent in FY11. The funds (\$373,000 in federal funds and \$93,000 in state match) will be programmed through a mid-year adjustment by the CCRPC board in January. The staff recommended package, along with facilitation/coordination consultant fees, will utilize all the funds available.

For FY13, the CCRPC budgeting process will commence in January 2012 with notification to communities and the public that planning funds are available. At that time, Task Force members can suggest the next phase of CIRC alternatives planning projects. For planning, there are \$2.2 million available with about \$1 million for “consultant-driven” projects. Some projects will require a 20 percent match, others will not. At this point, it’s not clear if the state will provide the 20 percent match as they will do in FY2012 for CIRC alternative projects.

Since the FY13 budgeting process will begin soon, the Task Force will need to consider the balance of the planning projects on the list (aka the “B list”). Due to limited information, there is no prioritization system available for the planning project list. CCRPC staff will need input from the municipalities and other stakeholders to prioritize this list. In addition, the likely result of the FY12 studies will be additional planning work for the following year(s).

#### **6) Overview of Staff Recommendations re: Planning Projects**

The CCRPC staff met with stakeholders and municipalities to discuss the planning studies. Staff has made a recommendation to advance five Phase 1 Planning Studies and Michele discussed each study in turn (see attachment).

Dennis, on behalf of the Town of Essex, suggested putting aside Essex’s recommended planning project (Kellogg Road/Susie Wilson Road intersection) and instead combining the Williston Northeast Quadrant study with a study of Route 15/Allen Martin Drive/Sand Hill Road/VT 117 network. The Williston-Essex corridor should work as a system and Essex wants to maintain the character of Route 15. He also recommended studying crossings of the Winooski River. There was extensive discussion about a new River crossing with concern about the cost of such a crossing and whether or not it was appropriate to study it further in light of previous CIRC studies.

Jason VanDriesche of Local Motion discussed a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) effort in the Upper Valley that reduced Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) commutes by 12 percent in one year. He would like to include more TDM planning in the package.

Kate McCarthy of VNRC asked if the planning studies would analyze induced demand, both in terms of traffic and adjacent land use. Dave Roberts responded that the CCRPC transportation model captures some induced demand, but not necessarily all induced demand. The model includes a land use component.

Al Voegele of Colchester asked about measuring the impact of future economic development in the planning studies. The region’s tax base depends on moving people successfully; the cost of a new bridge might be minimal compared to the positive economic impact. Michele agreed that if we had regional funding of transportation that analysis would be valuable. But, the region competes with the entire state for funding. Jeff Carr of Essex agreed that it is a difficult analysis because although significant, the impact isn’t precise enough to bring to the table.

Ken Belliveau of Williston asked that the name of the Williston study be changed, since it’s neither in the northeast nor is it a “quadrant.” Staff agreed to change the name.

Sandy Levine of the Conservation Law Foundation asked if the studies can separate which improvements have the greatest impact both alone and in combination. She’s concerned about the physical and financial constraints of transportation improvements. Michele explained that the CCRPC is mandated to adhere to fiscal constraint in its construction planning and programming

processes. Historically, based on previous allocations, about half of expected future funds will be used to maintain the existing transportation system and the remaining half will be available for new investments. However, this will be adjusted for the upcoming regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan update because Congressional earmarks (which have, on average, contributed to just under half of the region's available construction funding over the past 10 years) are unlikely to be available in the future.

Paul Bruhn of the Preservation Trust is concerned about delaying study of Vermont 2A and Severance Road area in Colchester. Bryan Osborne of Colchester explained that the Town has limited options for improvements in this area and instead chose to move the 127 intersections to the top of the list. There isn't sufficient funding or staff capacity to complete both planning projects at once.

Dennis described a series of "boxes" for projects: implementation projects, planning projects for FY12 and FY13, and projects that are in "limbo." The latter are defined as projects that have previously completed the Scoping process and are in some phase of the Project Development process at VTrans, such as the right-of-way system, VT 117/Sand Hill Road in Essex is an example of such a project. He asked if the Task Force could recommend that projects which have previously completed scoping be moved along by VTrans into the design process. Colchester has a similar project at Severance Corners.

Michele explained that VTrans, due to historical issues, is reluctant to move projects into design without a clearly identified funding source for construction. The Task Force has presented a package of implementation projects to VTrans that doesn't include the "awaiting final design" projects. Asking for projects which have previously completed scoping to move to design without a funding source for construction would be flying in the face of the VTrans system. Amy Bell of VTrans agreed and discouraged the Task Force to push further. VTrans has limited capacity for new projects and is concerned about fulfilling expectations.

Pat Scheidel of Essex attended the early CIRC alternatives meetings with the Governor, who was clear that he wanted results from this process. Pat asked if our work so far will produce results. Michele responded that we are fulfilling our responsibilities.

Chris Roy of Williston noted that the "B list" of construction projects wasn't on tonight's agenda. He hasn't had a chance to talk to his community about the "B list" and asked that we table this discussion (regarding construction projects which have previously completed Scoping) for a future meeting. The group generally agreed that a mid-to-late January meeting should be scheduled to discuss the "B list" of construction projects.

Jason asked if the Route 15 multi-use path scoping study area could be expanded from the National Guard to Lime Kiln Road. Christine Forde and Eleni Churchill of the CCRPC noted that this section of Route 15 was chosen because of the relatively quick implementation schedule. The section that Jason mentioned needs additional planning work. Jason asked that the door be open to include the entire segment.

Jeff Nick of the Business Community asked that "determine solutions" be added to the Williston planning study.

## **7) Action on Staff Recommendations**

**Jeff Carr of Essex made a motion that the Recommended Planning Studies for FY12 be accepted with the following changes:**

- Remove CIRC Alt IMP-05 Scoping Study of Kellogg Road/Susie Wilson in Essex;
- Add Route 15 Transportation Network Analysis in Essex to CIRC Alt PLN-20 Conduct a Transportation Network Analysis of the Northeast Quadrant in Williston (pending new name);
- Add “determine solutions” to CIRC Alt PLN-20 Project Purpose;
- Add “study all transportation opportunities” to CIRC Alt PLN-20 Project Purpose;
- If possible, extend the study area to Lime Kiln Road for CIRC Alt SCP-13, SCP-11 Regional Multi-Use Path; and
- Insure that all planning studies analyze the relative impacts of improvements, both alone and in combination.

**Chris Roy of Williston seconded the motion.**

**The question was called and a vote taken. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **8) Discussion of Draft Legislative Report**

Michele will add the planning study recommendations to this report. If anyone has specific comments, please email Michele.

## **9) December 14<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting & Next Steps**

Cindy reminded everyone about the public meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Albany School of Pharmacy in Colchester at 7PM. She encouraged everyone to participate.

Dennis asked that we schedule a January meeting to discuss “B list” projects and input from the public meeting. Diane Meyerhoff of Third Sector Associates will contact everyone soon to set a date.

Michele thanked the CCRPC staff, communities, and stakeholder for all their hard work. Amy Bell thanked everyone on behalf of VTrans. She was impressed by the level of collaboration; VTrans does not often entrust so much power to a group like this. It was an impressive regional effort and VTrans looks forward to the moving ahead. Jeff Carr recognized Michele and the CCRPC staff and consultants for a job well done.

## **10) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13PM.

## ATTENDEES

### Members Present

Last	First	Title	Organization
Baechle	Tim	Manager of Energy, Environmental	IBM Burlington
Birkett	Meredith	Manager	CCTA
Bruhn	Paul	Executive Director	Preservation Trust of VT
Carr	Jeff	RPC Representative	Town of Essex
Carter	Curt	Vice President	Lake Champlain Regional Chamber
Lajza	John	RPC Representative	Village of Essex Junction
Levine	Sandy	Senior Attorney	Conservation Law Foundation
Macaig	Terry	Selectboard Chair	Town of Williston
Myers	Linda	Selectboard Chair	Town of Essex
Nick	Jeff	Co-Owner	JL Davis Realty
Pierce	Robin	Development Director	Village of Essex Junction
Roy	Chris	RPC Representative	Town of Williston
Scheidel	Pat	Town Manager	Town of Essex
Kate	McCarthy	Sustainable Communities Program Director	VNRC
Voegele	Al	Town Manager	Town of Colchester
VanDriesche	Jason	Education & Safety Mgr.	Local Motion

### Staff Present

Bell	Amy	CCMPO Planning Coordinator	VTrans
Belliveau	Ken	Planning Director and Zoning Admin.	Town of Williston
Hoar	Bruce	DPW Director	Town of Williston
Lutz	Dennis	DPW Director	Town of Essex
Osborne	Bryan	Director of Public Works	Town of Colchester

### Others Present

Condit	Hillary		Adamant Accord
Cook	Cindy	Process Facilitator	Adamant Accord
FitzGerald	John		Member of the Public
Meyerhoff	Diane	Process Coordinator	Third Sector Associates

**CCRPC Staff Present:** Michele Boomhower, Eleni Churchill, Christine Forde, Dave Roberts

## **2) Review & Approval of Meeting Notes**

### **Summary of Revisions to the CIRC Task Force Meeting Notes of November 9, 2011**

For consideration at the December 8, 2011 Task Force Meeting

**1) Participants:** Terry Macaig was not present. Debbie Ingram attended in his place.

#### **2) Page 3, line 27+**

##### ***Revision:***

Tim Baechle of IBM would like to see improved transit routes as well as bus shelters. It is important that routes consider the location of employment centers and the total travel time for those commuters.

In addition, routes need to consider non-traditional work schedules that already support reduced total miles travelled (i.e. 12 hour days or 10 hour days). New routes and shelters should be looked at as part of a system designed to help reduce single-occupancy vehicle use. He also asked about the overall budget. Michele responded that there may be a budget of approximately \$10-15 million for short-term implementation projects, and staff decided to choose one project from each community. Meredith discussed the difficulty of using the funds available to the CIRC Task Force for transit. The funds cannot be used for operations, thereby limiting what CCTA can accomplish with these funds.

##### ***Original:***

Tim Baechle of IBM would like to see new transit routes rather than bus shelters. He also asked about the overall budget. Michele responded that there may be a budget of approximately \$10-15 million for short-term implementation projects, and staff decided to choose one project from each community. Meredith discussed the difficulty of using the funds available to the CIRC Task Force for transit. The funds cannot be used for operations, thereby limiting what CCTA can accomplish with these funds.

**6) Overview of Staff Recommendations re: Planning Projects**

**Alternatives to the Circ Planning and Scoping Project List - December 1, 2011**

**Recommended Planning Studies for FY12/FY13**

<b>Project ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Purpose</b>	<b>Estimated Planning Cost*</b>
CircAlt PLN-19a	Colchester	Conduct a Scoping Study of VT 127 Intersections including Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive and Laker Lane/Mallets Bay Avenue.	A scoping study was completed in 2001 evaluating VT127 in Colchester, which is the only east-west corridor in Colchester west of I-89. This project will update the scoping study for the intersections of Prim Road/West Lakeshore Drive and Laker Lane/Mallets Bay Avenue.	\$50,000
CircAlt IMP-05	Essex	Conduct a Scoping Study of Kellogg Road/Susie Wilson Road Intersection Improvements.	Evaluate capacity and safety at this high volume intersection. The location was evaluated in the Route 15 Corridor Study, 2008 and by VTrans under the Highway Safety Improvement Program.	\$40,000
CircAlt SCP-12	Essex Junction	Conduct a Scoping Study of Pearl Street/Post Office Square Intersection Improvements and Post Office Square to Five Corners Streetscape and bike improvements.	Evaluate congestion and safety issues at Post Office Square/Pearl Street intersection and evaluate streetscape and bike improvements from Post Office Square to Five Corners.	\$40,000
CircAlt PLN-20	Williston	Conduct a Transportation Network Analysis of the Northeast Quadrant.	Evaluate traffic, transit and bike and pedestrian conditions in the northeastern quadrant of Williston. Study area includes: VT2A from Hurricane Lane to 5 Corners, US2 from Taft Corners to Williston Village, North Williston Road from Williston Village to VT117, Mountain View Road from North Williston Road to VT2A and I-89 Mountain View Connector.	\$200,000
CircAlt SCP-13, SCP-11	Regional - Essex Junction/ Essex/ Colchester	Conduct a Scoping Study of the VT 15 Multi-Use Path: West Street to Vermont National Guard.	Numerous studies have considered a path connection along VT15. This study will develop an alignment and proposed implementation plan.	\$75,000