

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
3

4 DATE: Wednesday, January 3, 2018
5 TIME: 5:45 p.m.
6 PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 W. Canal Street, Suite 202; Winooski, VT 05404
7 PRESENT: Chris Roy, Chair Mike O'Brien, Vice-Chair
8 Brian Bigelow, Secretary-Treasurer Andy Montroll, Immediate Past Chair
9 Staff: Regina Mahony, Planning Program Mgr. Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Mgr.
10 Forest Cohen, Sr. Business Manager Bernadette Ferenc, Trans. Business Mgr.
11

12 The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by the Chair, Chris Roy. It was noted that Charlie was not
13 here because of illness. Barbara Elliott is also ill and unable to attend.
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- 15 1. Changes to the Agenda; Members' Items: Regina asked to add a project to the Act 250 item.
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17 2. Approval of December 6, 2017 Executive Committee Minutes. BRIAN BIGELOW MADE A MOTION,
18 SECONDED BY MIKE O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2017 WITH
19 CORRECTIONS IF ANY. Brian had sent three grammatical corrections to Bernie which will be
20 incorporated in the final minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
21
22 3. Act 250 & Section 248 Applications.
23 a. Acabay Sign, Colchester, #4C0757-23B. This is on the agenda again since we did not take action
24 to ratify the letter last month. We had a discussion, but no motion. MIKE O'BRIEN MADE A
25 MOTION TO RATIFY THE LETTER TO D.E.C. ANDY MONTROLL SECONDED AND THE MOTION
26 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
27 b. GMP MicroGrid-Milton LLC, Case #17-5003-PET. Regina noted that there is a site plan in the
28 packet. The one thing we hadn't confirmed prior to this packet, was whether Milton had any
29 issues, but they are fine with it. It is in the Rural Planning Area; and there are no transportation
30 concerns as this is a renewable energy project. MIKE O'BRIEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE
31 THE LETTER WITH THE HIGHLIGHTED PHRASE REMOVED. BRIAN BIGELOW SECONDED AND THE
32 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
33 c. East Allen Street. Regina noted that we just received notice of a project in Winooski on E. Allen
34 Street to remove 4 existing residential lots and construct a new building with 66 units. We
35 haven't had a chance to prepare a letter yet, but the hearing is two days prior to our next
36 Executive Committee meeting. Staff will prepare a letter and send it via email for review.
37
38 4. ECOS Plan Update. Regina noted that members received a link to the FTP site for the draft First
39 Public Hearing Draft. There will be much more work done on it. She explained the reorganization of
40 the plan. In the current plan, Chapter 3 is the ECOS Plan Priorities and Implementation. We moved
41 that up to be the main part of the plan and everything else are supplements. We added CCRPC's
42 Top Ten Actions for the Next Five Years at the beginning of the document. This was suggested by
43 Alex Weinhagen to have municipalities really talk about what they'll do in their communities and put
44 it in their plans. When asked where these ten actions came from, Regina indicated that she made
45 up the list, but they already exist within the full list of actions in the Plan. Andy said there are a
46 couple of things we've talked about over the years that he'd like to see included: 1) dealing with
47 aging population in the state and Chittenden County and therefore finding ways to attract young
48 families to the area. He thinks that's in the ECOS plan and he thinks calling it out would be good to

1 do. 2) We've talked about the region being a high-tech corridor and different groups are doing
2 things, but no one is coordinating that effort. We need to say that this is a good place to do this
3 because there is so much going on in technology – such as Champlain College's gaming program that
4 is highly regarded nationally. Chris said we should be prepared to deal with the top ten actions
5 because as soon as we do that, folks will have input. In Williston they kept their list at the bottom of
6 their agenda that kept the five top things on people's minds. Regina then reviewed the comments
7 we've received to date. There are 195 comments and the comment period is still open until Friday
8 for the MTP. They are divided into Energy/CEDS/MTP. She highlighted comments on Page 2
9 regarding Energy. Regina said these have been discussed by the LRPC and PAC. One deals with
10 carbon tax and our recommendation is to not take a stand on it at this time. Another question was
11 about taking specific steps to get us off our addiction to (cheap) natural gas. We do not think this
12 needs to be addressed beyond what is already in the plan. Sharon Murray feels we are still a little
13 weak on location of renewable energy generation. Our response notes that we encourage location
14 of renewable energy generation projects following the guidelines, but don't want the suitability
15 policies to limit potential locations if technology changes.

16
17 General comments on the CEDS was for better broadband throughout the county. This is already
18 addressed in other areas of the plan, but we have only sent out the three new sections so those
19 connections aren't clear. Another thing on CEDS is that in the 2013 plan it talks about the lack of
20 industrial land that is permitted and ready to go. This is an issue for startup businesses when
21 they're looking to move in. GBIC doesn't think it's as much of an issue as it was in 2013, but there
22 are still some businesses going to Franklin County. GBIC will do studies to see if we do need to deal
23 with that in the future. Next week the LRPC will be discussing the comments before it goes to the
24 board. Mike O'Brien feels that most of the industrial land and parks are built up. Canadian
25 companies wanting to locate in U.S. tend to go to either Plattsburg or Franklin County rather than
26 Chittenden County. Brief discussion.

27
28 Eleni reviewed MTP comments. We just added these today, and we'll be adding responses before
29 this goes to the board. A general consensus seems to be we need more transit and some are asking
30 for 15-minute headways. Mike O'Brien expressed confusion over GMT's presentation a couple
31 months ago. If the goal is to have 15-minute headways shouldn't we include that. Eleni said we
32 went with 20-minute headways because that was one of the alternatives in the Next Gen plan; and
33 we are recommending 20-minute headways for all routes, although GMT thinks it should be only on
34 some routes. This would increase the capital investment needed for transit. Mike said if the goal is
35 to increase public transportation, we should put a goal of 15-minute headways. Discussion ensued.
36 Eleni said there is a big difference between providing the faster service for all routes all day, or only
37 peak hours and only on some routes. She will look to see how much capital is needed for 15-minute
38 headways. Discussion continued. When Mike asked about Next Gen, Eleni noted that this is actually
39 GMT's short-term plan. The long-term plan will be done after this study. Andy feels we should put
40 in that goal even if we can't make it. Eleni said another comment was about the third lane on the
41 interstate. The TAC discussed this in great detail and they are comfortable leaving the third lane
42 because our model shows that the interstate fails from a capacity perspective between Exits 14 &
43 15, and we can't ignore that in the Plan. Even though we'd like to spend the \$74M on downtown
44 and local roads, it's important to look at the interstate as well. Chris said our job is to have a
45 broader perspective and we have to balance everything. The fact is that the small increase in
46 capacity will not keep up with traffic. He feels this will have the biggest bang for the buck. We have
47 to keep in mind that the interstate is part of an integrated network. He noted that one of the
48 benefits of coming to Vermont is less traffic and if we lose that, what do we have. Mike feels the

1 third lane is a safety issue. The third lane at Exit 15 was added because cars exiting had been
2 backing up onto the interstate itself. He questioned the proportion of the trips that are cars, transit,
3 etc. We have to accommodate cars, but we have to look at the broader picture and the goal of
4 reducing cars on the road. Discussion continued. Mike then said we will not move 50% of the
5 people from their cars. Eleni said we'll make a note that technology will change our driving, but we
6 don't know how. We got a lot of comments about roundabouts. Regina said there is one more
7 thing for Energy – we have done a little work to see whether we can meet the goal for reducing
8 energy consumption. Every community can meet its goal except Essex Junction where Global
9 Foundries (GF) is a huge energy user. What we decided to do is be clear that there is a heavy use in
10 Essex Junction, but collectively we could meet the county goal. Andy suggested we point out that
11 this is a unique situation. He suggested taking GF out of there. We can't really see why Essex
12 Junction is skewed so we should show them without GF. Chris said there has to be some other
13 language there because we don't want to discourage new industry like GF. There is a difference
14 between wasting energy and using more of it responsibly. Lengthy discussion ensued.
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16 5. FY18 UPWP Mid-Year Adjustment. Regina noted that the blue highlighted lines/cells are changes or
17 new projects:

- 18 a. Line 13 – byways grant that has not yet been completed.
- 19 b. Line 20 – So. Burlington DRB assistance is new.
- 20 c. Line 26 – Charlotte zoning assistance while they look for new zoning administrator.
- 21 d. Line 27 – Shelburne Rural Build-out analysis.
- 22 e. Line 28 – Essex Zoning regulations audit for housing.
- 23 f. Line 30 – This is a specific deliverable in our ACCD contract.
- 24 g. Line 36 – SB STAR assistance.
- 25 h. Line 48 – adds FY17 carryover funds for CCTA task.
- 26 i. Line 75 – We reduced the consultant estimate since VTrans will be scoping some of the signals
27 on Route 7. We will be doing Shelburne Street from I-189 to Prospect Parkway.
- 28 j. Line 92 – Winooski Main Street Revitalization Scoping is new project to add \$50,000. This study
29 will focus on developing and evaluating multi-modal transportation alternatives.
- 30 k. Line 94 – Separates the MTP Model Scenario work from the Model Update.
- 31 l. Line 108 – adds consultant dollars for water quality transportation work.
- 32 m. Line 115 – Vermont Municipal Clean Streets Phosphorus credit. Is new grant that is essentially
33 pass-through.
- 34 n. Line 116 -Water quality block grant.
- 35 o. Line 117 – Grants in aid Pilot Program
- 36 p. Line 134 – GIS Programming – added \$10,000 for Urban 3 Smart Growth and infrastructure
37 valuation. To develop real cost of improvements over its lifespan. Chris suggested we get
38 creative ways the towns can provide affordable housing by subsidizing infrastructure.
39

40 Forest then reviewed the Budget P&L. We continue to show a pretty significant loss, which we
41 expect due to the lower indirect rate this year. We are removing CCOA funding because they will be
42 moved over to the United Way of Northwestern Vermont. This will reduce \$150,000 on the revenue
43 side, but will also reduce the expense side by \$156,000. Members agree we understand the
44 situation this year. FY19 will be another tough year.
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46 6. Legislative Breakfast debrief. Since Charlie isn't here, we will discuss this in February. Regina will
47 send members the survey results from the event.
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- 1 7. Chair/Executive Director Report.
2 a. Legislative Preview. A major effort will be water quality funding.
3 b. CC Opioid Alliance update. Effort moving to United Way.
4 c. Regional Dispatch Update. We will be providing public outreach assistance for towns who will
5 be voting on this at town meeting.
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7 8. Agenda Review – January 17, 2018. Members reviewed the agenda and made suggestions.
8 Members suggested reviewing major comments only on the ECOS draft presentation and spend
9 more time on the Top Ten Actions for the Next Five Years. Mike also suggested that in presenting
10 the mid-year adjustment budget, we explain up front the \$93,000 expected deficit, which we
11 predicted when we developed the UPWP.
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13 9. Other business. There was none.
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15 10. Executive Session. None needed.
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17 11. Adjournment. MIKE O'BRIEN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY ANDY MONTROLL TO ADJOURN THE
18 MEETING AT 7:07 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
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20 Respectfully submitted,
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22 Bernadette Ferenc