CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, June 6, 2017
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St. Winooski, VT

Members Present
Matt Langham, VTrans
Dean Bloch, Charlotte
Dennis Lutz, Essex
Bob Henneberger, Seniors
Chris Jolly, FHWA
Sandy Thibault, CATMA
Bruce Hoar, Williston
Nicole Losch, Burlington
Dean Pierce, Shelburne
Luke Valentine, St. George
Jake Hemmerick, Milton
Dean Bloch, Charlotte
Peter Wernsdorfer, Winooski
Dick Hosking, V Trans District 5
Amy Bell, VTrans
Robin Pierce, Essex Junction
Justin Rabidoux, South Burlington

Bryan Osborne, Colchester, TAC Chair
Dave Armstrong, GMT

Staff Present
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner
Charlie Baker, Executive Director
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Marshall Distel, Transportation Planner
Peter Keating, Senior Transportation Planner
Chris Dubin, Transportation Planner
Sai Sarepalli, Transportation Planning Engineer
Regina Mahoney, Planning Program Manager
Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Marshall Distel, Transportation Planner

Others
Dave Pelletier, VTrans
Gina Clithero, Milton
Caitlyn Bain, Williston

Bryan Osborne called the meeting to order at 9:00AM and asked for a round of introductions.

1. Consent Agenda
A minor TIP amendment change adding funding to a I-189 culvert project was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes
The May 2nd minutes were approved without changes.

3. Public Comments
There were none.

4. FY2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Christine Forde began by putting the TIP into larger context flowing from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, through corridor or scoping studies before ending up on the TIP list. She went on, explaining how from the TIP (where funding is identified and obligated) a project leads to design and construction. She then defined the TIP, described how projects get on it, and compared and contrasted the TIP to the State’s Transportation Capital Program. She noted that the TIP is a planning and not a budget document. It represents the intent to construct or implement a specific project and the anticipated flow of federal funds. Using a sample page from the draft TIP Christine described how the document should be read and identified the content of its various sections. Of particular note is the anticipated level of funding expected over the coming 4 years:

- FY2018 -- $78.6 million
- FY2019 -- $58.4 million
Christine explained the ups and downs of year-to-year funding by looking at funding history back to 2007 in a bar chart. She also noted that FY17 was particularly high due to possible major grants awarded to Burlington International Airport and GMT. She then broke down the TIP content in finer detail describing transportation project categories, the amounts of funding in each, and also identified the projects that stem from the three phases of the CIRC Alternatives process. Sources of funding and anticipated construction over the next two years, as well as projects moving out of construction from the coming year’s schedule were described next. Christine concluded by describing the annual report of projects receiving federal funds, recently constructed projects and historic funding levels by various categories. Following short discussion, ROBIN PIERCE MADE A MOTION THE TAC APPROVE THE FY2018-2021 TIP AND FORWARD IT TO THE BOARD FOR ADOPTION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY KATELIN BREWER-COLIE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Dave Pelletier of VTrans began by going over what he hoped would come out of his presentation today:

1. Review project schedule, roles and responsibilities
2. Present an overview of Existing Conditions & Future Trends report
3. Listen and document regional perspectives and priorities, and
4. Provide information on how to stay involved

He described the LRTP as a statewide framework to guide transportation decision-making and investments for the next 20 years. He then went into some detail on the Existing Conditions & Future Trends report highlighting information on each of the following:

1. System Overview – data on roads, bridges, transit, park and rides, etc.
2. VTrans System Plans and Policies
3. 2016 Statewide Transportation Public Opinion Survey – Information is available for smaller geographies including northwest VT (Franklin, Chittenden and Addison Counties)
5. Energy & Climate Change
6. Population & Demographics
7. Funding & Finance
8. Land Use & Transportation
9. Technological Change – alternatives fuels and autonomous vehicles

Dave was seeking TAC member comment, and discussion occurred both during and after his presentation, providing input on document content as well as how the presentation might be revised for future audiences. All project documents will be posted on the project website at:

http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/long-range-plan

6. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

Peter provided the latest information on MTP development but started with a refresher on what the MTP is. His main topics included: Background information, the MTP elements as proscribed by federal regulations, current conditions highlights and project schedule. He noted that MTPs are integrated and multimodal, addressing both people and goods; are on a 5 year schedule with a 20 year minimum time horizon; are based on current and forecast conditions; and have specified outreach/process requirements. The CCRPC’s MTP elements include:

- Current Transportation Conditions
- Future Demand
- Performance Measures and Targets
- Environmental Mitigation Discussion
- Financial Plan
- Corridor Discussion and Project Recommendations
Peter then briefly went over content from the draft Current Transportation Conditions report and asked the TAC to review it and send us any comments/revisions. He concluded with the project schedule, noting draft completion date, public hearings and final adoption.

7. Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Project
Sai updated the TAC on this project’s progress. It is an Advanced Traffic Monitoring System using Bluetooth technology to detect and record real travel times through 5 different road corridors around the region:

- Corridor 1: I-89 Exit 14, US 2 in South Burlington
- Corridor 2: VT 289, Susie Wilson Rd. & VT 15 in Essex
- Corridor 3: I-89 Exit 12, US 2/VT 2A in Williston
- Corridor 4: I-89 Exit 17 in Colchester
- Corridor 5: I-89 Exit 16, US 2 in Colchester

Sai explained that the project will use BlueTOAD Spectra equipment to collect the data and that data will have applications in several areas, including:

- Arterial Travel-Times (operations, Origin/Destination (OD), message boards, before/after studies, Adaptive analysis)
- Freeway Travel-Times (operations, OD, message boards)
- Work Zones
- 511/Traveler Information Systems
- Planning/Modeling, and
- Incident Management

The remaining tasks and schedule include:

- Pilot Corridor Implementation (Williston Road corridor) – June 2017
- Final Installation, Deployment and Validation - Summer 2017

Dennis Lutz remarked on the importance of following up this phase with the equipment necessary to convey its information to the traveling public e.g. variable message signs. Dick Hosking noted that the VT RT 2A project would be impacted by a construction project in that corridor.

8. TAC Volunteer to Review Consultant Qualifications
Eleni asked for a TAC volunteer to review sets of consultant qualifications coming to the CCRPC and due on June 12th. Justin Rabidoux agreed to assist in this review.

9. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports
Bryan referred members to the project list on the back of the agenda.

10. CCRPC May Board Meeting Report
Peter mentioned the Board approved the UPWP.

10. Chairman’s/Members’ Items
Charlie referred the members to the MRGP communication included in the meeting packet.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Keating