DATE: Thursday, December 14, 2017
TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, VT

Members Present
Ken Belliveau, Williston – PAC Rep
Heather Danis – ECOS Steering Committee Rep
Justin Rabidoux, South Burlington – TAC Rep
Andrea Morgante, Hinesburg – Board Rep
Edmund Booth – ECOS Steering Committee Rep

Staff
Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager
Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Emily Nosse-Leirer, Planner
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner
Peter Keating, Senior Transportation Planner
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Engineer
Charlie Baker, Executive Director

1. Welcome and Introductions
Regina Mahony called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

2. Approve Minutes
Heather Danis made a motion, seconded by Edmund Booth to approve the minutes of November 9, 2017. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED.

3. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Draft
Peter Keating provided a presentation on the full draft of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Peter Keating explained the purpose of the MTP and the required components. There was some discussion regarding the requirements and what Staff would do if any requirements change, such as a removal of the environmental mitigation review. These are minimum requirements and we can do more.

Peter Keating explained the new safety performance measure for the fatalities/100 mile roads. There will be more performance measures added over the next few years. We can use the performance measures the State will use, or as the MPO, we can use something different if needed.

The project list is still being worked on but a draft of it will be posted to the website by the end of this week.

Peter Keating provided the components of the MTP Scenario that have been presented before.

Heather Danis and Ed DeMott have drafted some language to make a better connection to public health and will provide that to Staff.

Andrea Morgante asked about evaluating the work that we do, and how projects move from this Plan to scoping (what we put in the UPWP) to actual implementation. Also, what is our success rate, or lack of, in getting projects through the whole MTP, to UPWP (scoping), to TIP, to construction. Christine Forde mentioned that she tracks this and Andrea thought that presenting this to the Board would be interesting/valuable. For the ECOS Plan, Staff will add a section that describes the general progression of project development from the MTP to implementation.

4. Energy Plan Public Comments
Melanie Needle informed the LRPC that we are not having any trouble meeting the County wide renewable energy generation target; however there are some issues at the municipal level. Global Foundries uses about 3 to 4x the amount of energy of all of Burlington; it is a big outlier. There was some discussion regarding the location of this
actual demand; it is more than likely from the manufacturing component which is on the Junction side rather than
the Williston side. Andrea Morgante explained that this could be a good example of how we deal with issues at a
County level. The Energy sub-committee will discuss this further next week.

Melanie Needle provided an overview of the comments received on the Energy Plan. and specifically discussed:

- Line 10 – the commenter is asking for CCRPC to take a position on a carbon tax in the Plan. Staff finds that
  this is premature because there is a Governor’s Committee working on this, and CCRPC may want to wait
  on those results before taking a position. There was some discussion about how our role is more to
  implement the State’s energy goal rather than setting the State’s priorities. However, there was some
discussion that we could take a more pro-active approach and suggest that the State take this step. However,
  we won’t be able to have a policy discussion about a carbon tax within the timeframe of when we need to
  get this Plan adopted. Therefore, the prepared Staff response is the right approach.
- Line 11 – this is a comment about getting off of natural gas. The LRPC discussed that this is outside of the
  authority of the region and is in the hands of a State entity. It currently exists and while the fuel itself is
  relatively cheap, there is a significant value in the existing infrastructure that we won’t abandon easily.
- Line 16 – this is a comment about grid resilience and the need for back-up generators. VT is vulnerable to
  outages and resiliency is an important thing. However, fossil fuel generators are not the best answer.
Storage is more likely the future solution. In fact Tesla power walls from Green Mountain Power are now
available for $15/month. This technology is already here, and this is a great solution. There was some
discussion about explaining the terms used in the comment so readers can understand what we are talking
about. We can also include a link to GMP’s website regarding the power wall program.
- Line 32 – same carbon tax issue as discussed above.
- Line 38 – this is a comment about the suitability language and lack of clear direction for the Public Utility
  Commission. Jim Donovan’s sent comments in before the meeting to indicate that he is still on board with
  “encourage” despite its flaws. There was some discussion regarding how much of a regulatory role we want
to take. Other RPC’s do take more of a regulatory role, however we have not done that traditionally and
conversations thus far with the Board don’t appear to be leaning in that direction. The LRPC thought that
the current language is generally okay as is; though perhaps the energy sub-committee and Staff can come
up with an alternative to “encourage” as it isn’t a particularly useful word.

5. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Comments

Emily Nosse-Leirer provided an overview of the CEDS comments that we’ve received. Some large themes we
heard about:

- Wage gap issues;
- Need for better broadband throughout the County;
- Investing in downtown and Villages doesn’t seem obvious in the CEDS component on its own however
  this is in the ECOS Plan. We need to make the connection stronger.

Specific lines:

- Line 44 – this is a comment about whether we really have an under supply of industrial space? Emily
  Nosse-Leirer explained the additional conversations she has had with GBIC about this: there is a relatively
  good amount of square footage available; however a good number of businesses are not necessarily
  interested in re-configuring space. It’s GBIC’s experience that this is the case. Blodgett’s building, for
  example, is only set up well for a business that needs 150,000 sq.ft., rather than for 3 separate businesses
  that need 50,000 sq.ft. The LRPC discussed that adding more land isn’t necessarily going to help solve the
  problem of vacant space. We should not set up the market as a disincentive to re-use the vacant spaces.
Williston already has plenty of industrial zoned land at Global Foundries that they haven’t done anything
with; so why would we continue to re-zone more land for industrial? The LRPC discussed that the language
should discuss use of existing vacant industrial land, and not call for additional industrial zoning.

Next steps for Staff on the CEDS piece is to reconfigure it to match the new format; and re-organize for better
readability.
Heather Danis suggests that we make it clear that income and education are critical indicators for public health. Emily Nosse-Leirer indicated that the Plan already includes this language. Heather Danis will look at that section to see if this can be strengthened.

6. **Other Business**

   a. CEDS & MTP Project Lists – We are still collecting information from the municipalities and updating these lists.

   b. Planning Area Map Changes. Melanie Needle provided an overview of a few minor future land use map changes including some color changes:
      - Hinesburg - Modified the Village Planning Area to match the Village Growth Area
      - Westford - Modified the Village Planning Area to align with the Village Zoning District
      - Colchester - Modified the Village Planning Area along Mallets Bay Ave. to align with recent rezoning to the R2 District.
      - Update the colors to make it easier to discern the Metro Planning Area from the Suburban Planning Area
      - There may be an Underhill Village Planning Area change IF they pass some zoning changes on Town Meeting day. The village planning area will decrease.

   c. Act 171, Forest Integrity – Regina Mahony indicated to the LRPC that the ECOS Plan already meets a lot of the new requirement; and the data is included in the work that we did for the energy planning land use constraints. Staff will continue to look into this and make edits accordingly for the January LRPC meeting.

7. **Next Meeting**

   The next meeting will be on January 11, 2017 from 8:30am to 10:00am.

8. **Adjourn**

   The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony