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2 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
3 TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES
4

5 DATE: Tuesday, January 9, 2018
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
7 PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St. Winooski, VT
8

9 **Members Present**

10 Dean Pierce, Shelburne
11 Joss Besse, Bolton
12 Dave Armstrong, GMT
13 Bruce Hoar, Williston
14 Chris Jolly, FHWA
15 Robin Pierce, Essex Junction
16 Ashley Bishop, VTrans
17 Brian Bigelow, Underhill
18 Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
19 Ryan Lambert, Winooski
20 Barbara Elliot, Huntington
21 Amy Bell, VTrans
22 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
23 Sandy Thibault, CATMA
24 Luke Valentine, St. George
25 Nicole Losch, Burlington
26 Justin Rabidoux, South Burlington
27

Staff Present

Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Project Manager
Sai Sarepalli, Transportation Planning Engineer
Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner
Peter Keating, Senior Transportation Planner
Charlie Baker, Executive Director
Marshall Distel, Transportation Planner
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

Others

Rick Brown, Burlington International Airport

28 Peter Keating called the meeting to order at 9:00AM and asked for a round of introductions.
29

30 **1. Consent Agenda**

31 No items this month.
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33 **2. Approval of Minutes**

34 The December 5th minutes were approved without changes.
35

36 **3. Public Comments**

37 There were none.
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39 **4. MTP Update**

40 Peter Keating noted that an initial 2018 MTP draft was considered and discussed at the December 2017
41 TAC meeting. Various sections of the MTP had, as well, previously been presented and discussed at the
42 September, October and November TAC meetings. Peter reported that this January draft MTP includes
43 the following sections with changes from December noted:

- 44 1. Introduction and Background – Federal regulations and guidelines; the MTP in context with other
45 responsibilities; no changes from December draft.
- 46 2. Transportation Goal, Issues, and Performance Measures – updated since December to include
47 more ECOS transportation related indicators, and a revised performance management section.
- 48 3. Existing Metropolitan Transportation System – Current conditions; since December, new content
49 included volume/capacity text and map, new detail on bridge sufficiency ratings, a new section on
50 transportation and health, and more content on regional travel patterns.
- 51 4. Financial Plan – No changes from December draft.
- 52 5. Scenario Planning Review and Future Conditions – Since December, new section on scenario
53 results (presented at October TAC meeting) and MTP scenario results (presented at November TAC
54 meeting), also new text on MTP scenario greenhouse gas emissions.

1 6. MTP Corridors - No change from December, however, the project tables will need updating to
2 reflect the latest input from municipal outreach efforts.

3 7. MTP Investments and Project List – From December draft, change GMT future headways from
4 20 to 15 minutes, and new language on rail facility investments and rail car storage. The MTP projects
5 list reflected numerous updates from December draft.

6 8. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Report – Minor changes to the text, but no substantial
7 changes from December draft.

8 Peter noted the main themes of the draft MTP recommendations were:

- 9 – Maintain/preserve the existing system
- 10 – Complete all TIP Projects
- 11 – Move away from SOV projects and support transportation alternatives
- 12 – Use technology: Implement more ITS solutions
- 13 – Shift away from fossil fuels to alternatives, especially renewably generated electricity
- 14 – Land-use concentration to enhance more walking, biking and transit

15 The major projects envisioned include three lanes on I-89 between Exits 14 and 15 and a possible new I-
16 89 interchange between Exits 12 and 16, subject to further study. Peter also reported that since the link to
17 the draft was posted on our website, and notice distributed via Front Porch Forum, we had received 70
18 written comments from 20 individuals. The general themes from the commenters included:

- 19 – More transit, including rail
- 20 – Consider autonomous vehicles
- 21 – Adopt climate action goals that correspond with UN Paris agreement
- 22 – No new roads; reconsider Champlain Parkway and Interstate expansion
- 23 – More roundabouts, fewer signalized intersections
- 24 – More and better bike facilities
- 25 – More ambitious safety targets; adopt Vision Zero

26 During discussion that followed, transit in general, and the recommended switch from 20 minute to 15
27 minute transit headways in particular, garnered comment. Determining the cost of the change was one
28 concern as well as changing the description in the MTP text. Mentioning that Colchester become a full
29 GMT member was suggested and Dean Pierce mentioned how transit plans usually involve tradeoffs in
30 order to implement and all such tradeoffs should be identified. Amy Bell reported that VTrans staff will
31 be looking over the MTP draft in the coming weeks.

32
33 Following discussion, JUSTIN RABIDOUX MADE A MOTION THE TAC RECOMMEND THE
34 CCRPC BOARD WARN A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MTP FOR ITS FEBRUARY 21, 2018
35 MEETING AND EVALUATE THE FISCAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED 15 MINUTE HEADWAY
36 ON ALL GMT ROUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ROBIN PIERCE AND PASSED
37 UNANIMOUSLY.

38 39 **5. 2018 Transportation Survey**

40 Peter reported that the CCRPC's every 6-year survey of Chittenden County residents on their attitudes on
41 transportation related issues, is due to occur this coming spring. An RFP for this work was issued in mid-
42 December and proposals are due this coming Friday, 1/12. CCRPC staff would like TAC volunteers in
43 reviewing those proposals. Sandy Thibault and Dave Armstrong agreed to help. Amy Bell will work on
44 getting a VTrans volunteer to help as well.

45 46 **6. FY 2019 UPWP**

47 Marshall Distell reported that it was time to start the development of next year's work program. He
48 estimated that there was \$800,000 available for planning work to address local and regional partner
49 issues. Planning work could include transportation as well as land use and water quality issues. The
50 deadline to receive applications from towns and regional partners is 1/19. The UPWP committee will

1 meet over the coming months and make funding recommendations to the Board. Marshall noted that
2 TAC members Justin Rabidoux and Barbara Elliot serve on the UPWP committee.

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4 **7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

5 Peter referred members to the project list on the back of the agenda and encouraged members to inquire
6 on project status if interested.

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8 **8. CCRPC December Board Meeting Report.**

9 Peter reported that the Board did not meet in December

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11 **9. Chairman's/Members' Items**

12 Bryan Davis reminded members that he is compiling Complete Streets forms for submission to VTrans.
13 He also noted the recent FHWA decision to no longer allow funding for Rectangular Rapid Flashing
14 Beacons (RRFB) as there are issues with the device's patents. Since VTrans has adopted MUTCD
15 regulations, VTrans will no longer allow the installation of new RRFB devices. Those in service can
16 remain. The issue is still evolving, and more information will hopefully be available soon. Chris Jolly
17 noted that Roger Thompson of the VT FHWA office was following this closely and could answer
18 questions.

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21 The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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23 Respectfully submitted, Peter Keating