CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES  

DATE: Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St. Winooski, VT  

TAC Chair Bryan Osborne made a change to the agenda moving the consent item to the deliberative agenda under a new item #3a.

1. Consent Agenda  
N/A this month. See item #3a below.

2. Approval of Minutes  
BRIAN BIGELOW MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF October 4, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JUSTIN RABIDOUX AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY following a correction from Amy Bell on the spelling of Bruce Hoar’s first name under item #6.

3. Public Comments  
There were none.

3a. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments  
This was removed from the consent agenda to note corrections to the memo. The new projects are funded under the VTrans Bike/Ped Program, not Transportation Alternatives. The correct amount for the Milton award is $196K and not the $850K in the memo. With these corrections noted, DENNIS LUTZ MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TIP AMENDMENTS FOR THESE BIKE/PED AWARDS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DEAN PIERCE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Malletts Bay Stormwater Project Update  
Peter reminded the TAC that at their last meeting they agreed to allow the proposal evaluation committee make the call on who to hire for this work. Bryan Osborne reported that the committee recommended the hiring of VHB. This project will look at stormwater issues as well as scoping transportation projects for
bik/pedestrian improvements on West Lakeshore Drive and capacity improvements at the Lakeshore Drive/Blakely Road intersection.

5. Regional Model Overview and Update Process

Jason provided a tutorial on the CCRPC’s transportation model, first describing its essential elements:

- The 4-step process of trip generation, trip distribution, mode choice and assignment
- The transportation analysis zone (TAZ) geography, and
- the Land Use Allocation (LUAM) component

He next identified what the model is used for:

- Macroscopic analysis (system wide)
- Roadway closures
- Capacity improvements
- Land-use activity or policy impacts
- Transit
- Travelsheds, and
- Transportation Demand Management Strategies

He cited a couple of recent model applications 1) for the Hinesburg VT RT 116 Corridor study and 2) the geographic origins for trips between I-89 Exits 16 and 17 during the PM peak hour. He also noted that the model is currently being updated through a household travel survey, a more refined TAZ geography (illustrated using a map of Richmond) and roadway network, and new demographic forecasts. The tasks remaining to complete the model update include:

- Building the 2015 Base Model year
- LUAM enhancements
- Pedestrian/Bicyclist Environment Factor
- MOVES (MOtor Vehicle Emission Simulator)
- Model software updates
- Peer Review
- Analysis Tools, User Guide and Training

Justine Rabidoux reported difficulty using rMoves, the travel survey app, among South Burlington staff. Jason’s final two slides displayed population forecasts which segued the meeting into the next agenda item.

6. Future Population Forecasts

Melanie Needle first displayed a graph showing historic and future growth starting in 1970 then another that started in 2000 showing the different forecasts in more detail. See graph below.
Melanie explained each of the graph’s forecast lines. The most ambitious, showing 1.13% annual growth comes from our ECOS plan, based on national data from Woods & Poole, and based on work from several years ago. The blue line forecast at .42% annual growth comes from VEIC projecting out forecasts done by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. (NOTE: The VEIC forecasts were prepared for the Regional Energy Plans RPC’s will be undertaking over the coming months.) The lowest line is from RSG’s subcontractor EPR, forecasts recently completed specifically for the population data in our transportation model. This line projects .2% annual growth. Charlie mentioned that there will be further discussions with EPR on their projections before they’re finalized.

Some model related questions then came up, including how the price of gasoline is factored into the model. Jason responded that we are looking for a model “lever” that would allow us to include gas prices. Jason also reported that the model is not ideal for analyzing a large-scale development project, but that microsimulation would be a good tool for something like that. Dennis Lutz will share Essex count data with the RPC for model calibration.

7. Regional Energy Plan

Emily Nosse-Leirer described this recent task that all RPCs around the state will be doing. The purpose of this work is to develop a detailed energy plan to advance the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan goals and at the same time ensure that local and regional land use policies are being applied in the Public Service Board’s (PSB) section 248 proceedings. The Chittenden County Regional Energy Plan is intended to be a roadmap for how Chittenden County will do its part to meet Vermont’s energy goals by:

1. Outlining specific regional strategies for energy generation and conservation
2. Establishing quantitative targets for energy use tied to the Vermont Energy Goal
3. Establishing quantitative targets for energy generation tied to the Vermont Energy Goals

Regarding the last task, Emily went into some detail, noting that the maps will:

- Provide guidance regarding appropriate and inappropriate places for renewable energy development based on a simple GIS exercise
- Act as a good resource to start a conversation about energy siting in your town and our region

She also noted that these maps will **not**:

- Take all local regulations into account—for example, your regulation of conserved land may be stricter, or you may have identified scenic views that should be protected
- Automatically prohibit or allow renewable energy generation
- Replace the detailed process a developer must go through to propose a site for a renewable energy

The steps to produce these maps:

- Identifying all possible solar and wind generation areas based on GIS analysis.
- Removal of State + Local/Regional Constraints
- Identification of Base and Prime Energy Resources

The draft maps are due at the Department of Public Service in December and the final energy plan is expected to be complete in February 2018.

8. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports

Peter directed TAC members to the project list on the back of the agenda page and asked if members had any questions. Charlie reported on an emergency management task looking at regional dispatch and that more on this will be coming up at future meetings. Lee Krohn is the staff person involved. Bryan Osborne noted the importance of having local knowledge at dispatch and this could be a concern going to a regional model.
9. CCRPC October Board Meeting Report
Peter mentioned the Board heard an update on VTrans activities from Michele Boomhower.

10. Chairman’s/Members’ Items
Bryan Davis reported that the process to prepare the FY18 UPWP would begin soon with solicitation of ideas letters going out to all towns. He is also seeking TAC volunteers to sit on the UPWP Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Keating