

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
3

4 DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

5 TIME: 6:00 p.m.

6 PLACE: CCRPC Offices; 110 W. Canal Street, Suite 202; Winooski, VT 05404

7 PRESENT: Bolton: Absent Buel's Gore: Absent
8 Burlington: Andy Montroll Charlotte: Absent
9 Colchester: Jacki Murphy, Alt. Essex: Jeff Carr
10 Essex Jct: Dan Kerin Hinesburg: Andrea Morgante
11 Huntington: Barbara Elliott Jericho: Catherine McMains
12 Milton: Tony Micklus Richmond: Bard Hill (6:08)
13 St. George: Absent Shelburne: John Zicconi
14 So. Burlington: Chris Shaw Underhill: Kurt Johnson, Alt.
15 Westford: Vacant Williston: Chris Roy, Chair
16 Winooski: Mike O'Brien, Vice Chair VTrans: Amy Bell
17 Socio/Econ/Housing: Absent Cons./Env.: Don Meals
18 Bus/Industry: Tim Baechle (6:28)
19 Others: Matthew Langham, VTrans Scott Moody, CCTV
20 Michael Bissonette, Hinesburg Alt.
21 Staff: Regina Mahony, Planning Prog. Mgr. Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Mgr.
22 Dan Albrecht, Senior Planner Bryan Davis, Sr. Transportation Planner
23 Marshall Distel, Transportation Planner Christine Forde, Sr. Transportation Planner
24 Bernie Ferenc, Trans. Business Mgr. Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
25

- 26 1. Call to order; changes to the agenda. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Chair,
27 Chris Roy. There were no changes to the agenda.
28
- 29 2. Public Comment Period for items NOT on the agenda. There were no members of the public
30 present.
31
- 32 3. Action on Consent Agenda: There was one minor amendment to the FY18 TIP to add federal funds
33 awarded to Essex for road erosion inventory. Also listed in the memo were FY19 Vermont Better
34 Roads grants with state funding only. JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT
35 AGENDA, SECONDED BY JOHN ZICCONI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
36
- 37 4. Approve Minutes of February 21, 2018 Board Meeting. JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY
38 CHRIS SHAW, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018. MOTION CARRIED
39 UNANIMOUSLY.
40
- 41 5. Public Hearing on 2018 Milton Town Plan Approval and Certification of the Planning Process. The
42 public hearing was opened at 6:02 p.m. Regina noted that Milton is asking for approval of their 2018
43 Town Plan. The PAC has reviewed it and is recommending that the board approve it. The Milton
44 selectboard adopted it on February 5, 2018. This is a fairly comprehensive update. When asked if
45 towns make changes we recommend, Regina said CCRPC is notified a couple of years ahead of plan
46 expiration and we make suggestions of things to include, which most municipalities do. When the
47 PAC reviewed this plan, they made suggestions for things not required to be in this update, but to
48 consider for the next update. Jeff Carr suggested that we perhaps approve a plan provisionally if

1 municipalities do not include our suggestions. Regina noted that the PAC will be looking at changes
2 to our review process once the ECOS Plan is adopted, since municipal plans are now on an 8-year
3 update schedule. JOHN ZICCONI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY JEFF CARR, TO APPROVE THE
4 2018 MILTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND CONFIRM THE TOWN OF MILTON'S PLANNING PROCESS
5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (Tony
6 Micklus wanted to abstain since he helped write the plan, but members felt he should vote for it.)
7

8 6. CHARLOTTE TOWN PLAN APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS. Regina noted
9 that the PAC is recommending approval. The plan was approved on Town Meeting Day – March 6,
10 2018. JOHN ZICCONI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY ANDY MONTROLL, TO APPROVE THE 2018
11 CHARLOTTE TOWN PLAN AND APPROVE THE TOWN OF CHARLOTTE'S PLANNING PROCESS IN
12 ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
13

14 7. Review changes to Draft ECOS plan and warn public hearing #2 for May. Regina noted that last
15 month we held the first public hearing and received comments which we responded to. We are
16 hopeful that we can take action to warn the 2nd public hearing for our May 16th meeting and adopt
17 the plan at the Annual Meeting in June. If substantial changes are made to this draft at the second
18 public hearing, we would need to hold a 3rd public hearing. We received about 100 comments from
19 approximately 30 individuals/agencies/organizations/municipalities including VTrans, Vermont
20 Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Vermont ANR, VT Gas, Colchester and Winooski.
21 The Energy Sub-committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, Long Range Planning Committee
22 and Executive Committee have reviewed these comments. Regina then reviewed a summary of
23 comments addressed:

24 **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Supplement 5):**

- 25 • Adjustment of the implementation schedule of some short-term transportation projects to be
26 more realistic given potential project development challenges
- 27 • Incorporate by reference the Active Transportation Plan, Intelligent Transportation Systems
28 Plan, and the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan
- 29 • Editorial and clarification edits suggested by VTrans

30 **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (Supplement 4):**

- 31 • Various editorial/clarification edits
- 32 • Identified increased regionalization as an economic strength
- 33 • Clarification on how water quality is described in the CEDS

34 **Energy (Supplement 6 & throughout):**

- 35 • Various correction/clarification edits to text and data analysis
- 36 • ONLY added renewable natural gas in this statement to the key issues section "The economic
37 viability of renewable natural gas, its impacts on climate change, and its classification as a
38 "renewable" resource should be analyzed in future updates to this plan."

39 **Other Sections:**

- 40 • Add references to the introduction to the health strategy
- 41 • Clarification edits to the Top Ten Actions
- 42 • Additions/Clarifications to the Forest Integrity sections
- 43 • Incorporate by reference the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan
- 44 • Update from Chittenden Solid Waste District on their programs
- 45 • Additions to the ECOS online map

1 Additional edits include:

- 2 • Replaced the TMDL with phosphorus pollution as the threat in the CEDS
- 3 • Cell tower data on the utility map
- 4 • Adding links to the online Scorecard to Supplement 2
- 5 • Correcting 3-phase power on the energy maps
- 6 • Minor formatting corrections

7 There was a brief discussion of what these changes entailed. Regina then gave a summary of
8 comments NOT addressed:

- 9 • Request to shift off of fossil fuels completely within this Plan, particularly in relation to the
10 transportation section

11 The TAC and LRPC looked at these and think we are as far as we want to go right now and since we
12 review the plan every five years, it'll be addressed in future versions.

13

- 14 • Request from Vermont Gas to accommodate natural gas as a bridge fuel, and a shift to
15 renewable natural gas as a method for meeting the state's energy goals

16 Some folks are just not comfortable with this.

17

18 Board members complimented staff on the ECOS Annual Report and recommend that we widely
19 distribute it to all of our municipalities/partners. CHRIS SHAW MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY
20 JOHN ZICCONI, TO ACCEPT THIS DRAFT WITH THE EDITS DISCUSSED TONIGHT AS THE SECOND
21 PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT, AND WARN THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 16, 2018. MOTION
22 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23

24 8. SFY2020 Transportation Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidate

25 Prioritization. Christine explained why we do this. Each year the Vermont Legislature requires that
26 projects in the Transportation Capital Program be prioritized. Specifically, they directed VTrans to
27 develop a numerical grading system to assign a priority ranking to all paving, roadway, safety and
28 traffic operations, state bridge, interstate bridge, and town highway bridge projects. A committee
29 has been working to revamp VTrans' Project Selection & Prioritization Processes (VSP2) for several
30 reasons: The existing process is about ten years old; feedback from RPCs that they don't feel their
31 input is meaningful; evaluation criteria needed to be reviewed/revise, and VTrans is moving towards
32 holistic corridor management. So next year when we're asked to prioritize our projects, there should
33 be a new process. This year we will use the process we have been using. The methodology is a
34 collaborative effort between VTrans and RPCs. Asset management-based factors are scored by
35 VTrans and functional importance of the facility economically and socially are scored by RPCs.
36 Each RPC has developed its own methodology which is directed by the legislature to consider:

37

- 38 a. Impact of the project on **congestion** and **mobility**
- 39 b. Availability, accessibility and usability of **alternative routes**.
- 40 c. Importance of the facility in the **local, regional** or **state economy**.
- 41 d. Importance of the facility in the **social** and **cultural life**.
- 42 e. **Conformance to local** and **regional plans**.
- 43 f. **Local support** for the project.

43

44 Christine then reviewed the list of projects from the Capital Program that were reviewed. The
45 Capital Program is the state budget for projects. Our TIP is the planning budget for the next four
46 years. She then described the sections of the Capital Program, which include Front of the Book
(preliminary plan development completed, expected to have construction spending during the

1 budget year and/or the following three years); Development and Evaluation (Preliminary plans
2 within 12-24 months, preliminary engineering and/or right-of-way spending expected in the budget
3 year); and Candidate List (scoping likely not initiated, no significant spending expected during the
4 budget year, construction year unknown.) Christine then described VTrans Program Categories; an
5 overview of the methodology; CCRPC scoring categories, and the scoring, as well as types of projects
6 that score highly using this methodology. Christine reviews each project and sends the list to the
7 TAC members to review the projects in their municipalities to see if they agree. Then the list is
8 presented at a TAC meeting for action. We are asking the board to approve the prioritization. Kurt
9 Johnson noted that he doesn't believe Underhill's bridge on Green Street should be #5 on the Town
10 Highway Bridge Pre-Candidate List. It serves only one home and he'd recommend it be put lower on
11 the list, especially if we can only put ten bridges on it. JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE
12 THE 2020 PROJECT RANKINGS, WITH THE CHANGE FROM UNDERHILL, AND SUBMIT THEM TO
13 VTRANS. MIKE O'BRIEN SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
14

15 9. Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition. Regina noted that Chris Shaw brought this to our attention to
16 include in the ECOS plan update. The LRPC discussed CCRPC's participation in this and felt that it
17 didn't belong in the plan, and that the Board should discuss whether or not to join. There was a
18 brief discussion about whether this should go to the Energy Sub-Committee recommended by the
19 Executive Committee, since they had not planned to meet again. Chris Shaw said this pledge came
20 from his town's energy committee which is trying to work on energy efficiency town by town in
21 response to the U.S. pulling out of the Paris Agreement. If members read the memo we're just
22 asking CCRPC to sign onto the pledge. This would support what we already have in our energy plan.
23 The other piece is that it would look for 26-28% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2025. Lengthy
24 discussion continued. Chris Roy noted that the question the Executive Committee had was if it was
25 the role of the CCRPC, because as a group we don't have the means to reach those goals. How do
26 you see the RPC's role? Chris Shaw suggested we should take the lead for our smaller communities
27 and get them moving in that direction and give them a sense of urgency. We heard David
28 Blittersdorf comments about the future if we don't take action. Perhaps the other communities
29 haven't had a chance to join yet. South Burlington's committee is trying to make housing much
30 more energy efficient, but they haven't got a handle on transportation yet. Lengthy discussion
31 continued. Andrea Morgante said transportation is our biggest job and we can support our
32 municipalities in trying to look at solutions to support public transit, carpooling, etc. That's the
33 purpose of the new project in Hinesburg to determine how to increase ridership on the transit route
34 they already have. CCRPC has a responsibility to help fund these projects by including them in the
35 UPWP and perhaps not widening I-89 which will just keep people in their cars. Chris Roy said we
36 don't have to have a decision tonight, so we will ask the Energy Sub-committee to review this and
37 make a recommendation to the board.
38

39 10. CCRPC Comment Letter on MS4 Draft Permit. Dan Albrecht reviewed his memo regarding the MS4
40 comment letter. He briefly described the purpose of the permit (described in the memo) and the
41 talking points developed by the MS4 sub-committee. If the board approves, he will send the letter
42 to the DEC Stormwater Program tomorrow. JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD
43 APPROVE THE COMMENT LETTER AND SUBMIT IT TO THE DEC. ANDY MONTROLL SECONDED AND
44 THE MOTION CARRIED.
45

46 11. Chair/Executive Director's Update. Charlie was stuck in D.C., so Regina made his report:

- 1 a. Clean Water. We've been following S.260 which is trying to figure out long-term funding for
2 clean water. We've provided some comments on this. VNRC has asked Charlie to write a letter
3 of support.
- 4 b. ECOS Annual Report. Staff distributed the Annual Report. Our ECOS partners are listed on the
5 front.
- 6 c. Regional Dispatch. Six of seven communities have voted to join the Union Municipal District.
7 They will begin to move forward and we're not sure how much involvement CCRPC will have in
8 the process.
- 9 d. Legislative Update. The money for RPC's to do municipal level energy plans is in the House
10 budget, so we're hopeful we'll receive funding.
- 11 e. Burlington's Let's Talk Program. Regina noted that last night she participated with Champlain
12 Housing to talk about housing issues. It was well attended.
- 13 f. greenride bikeshare kickoff. Bryan Davis is excited to announce that he has been working with a
14 local team (CATMA, UVM, Champlain College) to plan and launch a public, regional bikeshare
15 system. Phase 1, to officially launch April 18, will feature 105 7-speed bikes and 17 stations
16 located in Burlington, South Burlington and Winooski. CATMA has contracted with Gotcha Bikes
17 as the vendor. Initial funding is being provided by UVM, Champlain College, Ben & Jerry's,
18 Seventh Generation, the three municipalities and others. They are finalizing a pricing schedule
19 to discourage using these bikes for long-term rides and will encourage visitors to rent bikes from
20 local bike shops. A local bike shop will be responsible for moving the bikes around and
21 maintenance.

22
23 12. Committee/Liaison Activities/Reports. Draft minutes for various committees are in the packet.
24

25 13. Members' Items:

- 26 a. Chris Shaw wants to be sure our plan includes completing regional bike routes so there are no
27 dead ends that currently exist. He wants to be sure we incentivize and make sure we have
28 connections prioritized to be sure they're done. Eleni will make sure this is addressed in the
29 plan. John Zicconi believes if the goal is to reduce carbon emissions, regional connections
30 should not automatically take priority over local connections (such as access to town centers)
31 because local connections in many cases could engage more users.
- 32 b. Chris Shaw understood that the Town of Hinesburg is looking at the cost of open land vs.
33 developed land and he feels this is timely for all. Does developed space pay for itself? Regina
34 said there are some studies that have been done over time. We have looked at this and it's very
35 difficult to come up with. It's not easy to answer because it all depends on the town and specific
36 services and the infrastructure. Andrea said it would be helpful for RPC to emphasize to town
37 planning commissions when they talk about development that they know that the infrastructure
38 capacity and maintenance is related. It would help the town weigh the pros and cons. Lengthy
39 discussion continued. Andrea suggested we collect some hard data on this to help our
40 communities make these decisions. It may be difficult, but rather than rely on intuitive
41 reasoning, we can look at the rural areas in other states to help make decisions. Don Meals said
42 another question is "How do communities use open space?" Burlington has been willing to fund
43 acquisition of open space.

44
45 14. Adjournment. DON MEALS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY CHRIS SHAW TO ADJOURN AT 7:32
46 P.M. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
47

48 Respectfully submitted, Bernadette Ferenc