

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, December 3, 2019  
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
7 PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St. Winooski, VT  
8

9 **Members Present**

10 Bryan Osborne, Colchester, TAC Chair  
11 Nicole Losch, Burlington  
12 Matt Langham, VTrans  
13 Amy Bell, VTrans  
14 Ashley Bishop, VTrans District 5  
15 Chris Jolly, FHWA  
16 Andrea Morgante, Hinesburg  
17 Dean Bloch, Charlotte  
18 Daryl Arminius, Charlotte  
19 Josh Arneson, Richmond  
20 Katherine Sonnick, Jericho  
21 Jon Rauscher, Winooski  
22 Joss Besse, Bolton  
23 Dean Pierce, Shelburne  
24 Allegra Williams, Local Motion  
25 Sandy Thibault, CATMA  
26 Seth Bowden, GBIC  
27 Richard Watts, Environment  
28 Chris Damiani, GMT  
29 Bob Henneberger, Seniors  
30 Bruce Hoar, Williston  
31

**Staff**

Charlie Baker, Executive Director  
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager  
Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager  
Marshall Distel, Transportation Planner  
Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner  
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner  
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer  
Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner

**Others**

Ross MacDonald, VTrans

32 Bryan Osborne called the meeting to order at 9:00AM, calling for a round of introductions.  
33

34 **1. Consent Agenda:** Bryan Osborne asked if there were any questions on the consent agenda. ANDREA  
35 MORGANTE MADE A MOTION APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS  
36 SECONDED BY RICHARD WATTS AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.  
37

38 **2. Approval of Minutes**

39 Bryan asked for any changes, which there were none. JOSS BESSE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE  
40 THE MINUTES OF November 5, 2019 WITH AMENDMENTS, SECONDED BY SANDY  
41 THIBAULT. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.  
42

43 **3. Public Comments**

44 None.  
45

46 **4. High Impact Economic Development Project List**

47 Seth Bowden, GBIC staff, described an effort to create a methodology through which critical and high  
48 impact economic development projects may be vetted and chosen as part of an application for funding  
49 from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). The overall goal is to have a statewide list of  
50 projects that are already identified, can attract resources, and be meaningful to communities. This is being  
51 done throughout the state at the request of Department of Economic Development. This effort is using the  
52 CEDS list from 2017 (which is in the ECOS Plan) as a starting point to identify short, medium, and long-  
53 term projects focused on infrastructure and economic development, and their respective levels of impact.  
54 The goal is to define a methodology to identify projects by the end of 2019 with a draft list ready by early

1 2020. Not being on the list does not make a project ineligible and being on the list doesn't necessarily  
2 give another project priority, but having a list makes for a stronger state application. The project list will  
3 be brought to the TAC, PAC and CCRPC Board for approval. The funding program was initially created  
4 in 2008 to help economically distressed communities, hence the focus on other communities in previous  
5 rounds, but it's now open to other areas. Charlie noted that Winooski previously received \$450,000 for  
6 their Main Street Revitalization Project. Since 2010, when funds were available, about 44 projects have  
7 been awarded in Vermont. Questions from TAC members included:

8  
9 **Are economic conditions considered in the NBRC program?**

10 Yes, a 50% match is required in Chittenden County because we are a "transitional" county rather than a  
11 "distressed" county. It appears that there are no approved "isolated areas of distress" in Vermont – this is  
12 something that exists in other states. Information on how "distress" is evaluated:

13 <http://www.nbrc.gov/content/distressed-counties>  
14

15 **Can these funds be used for matching federal funds?**

16 In Chittenden County, a 50% match is required. NBRC funds can be used as match for leveraging other  
17 Federal grant funds, only up to 80% of the total project. There always needs to be a 20% non-federal  
18 match.  
19

20 **How much money is available?**

21 Depending on appropriations, there is \$3.5M million available for projects in Vermont. There is a  
22 \$500,000 maximum award to eligible infrastructure projects, up to a \$250,000 maximum award for all  
23 other types of eligible projects. There's also local development district grants and state planning grants,  
24 which may not be relevant for this particular round of list making.  
25

26 **Application Details**

27 Details on how State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment Program applications work,  
28 what's considered and an application manual can be found here: [http://www.nbrc.gov/content/2019-eid-](http://www.nbrc.gov/content/2019-eid-investments)  
29 [investments](http://www.nbrc.gov/content/2019-eid-investments)  
30

31 **5. Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study**

32 Eleni Churchill, CCRPC staff, provided an overview of this project. They are now finishing the current  
33 conditions, modeling to develop alternatives, and working on the draft vision, goals, and objectives which  
34 she shared. Vision and goals are important because they are used to guide decisions related to screening  
35 alternatives. The project team will complete a microsimulation model for entire corridor, and they  
36 developed five base scenarios against which all alternatives will be analyzed. The CCRPC's ECOS/MTP  
37 and State's Long-Range Transportation Plan are guiding documents. Dean Pierce asked about the phrase  
38 "in alignment with" municipal and regional plans as part of the vision statement, and Eleni responded that  
39 the plan needs to be in alignment with land uses in adjacent towns. There is plenty of time before the draft  
40 vision, goals, and objectives are finalized, and Eleni asked TAC members to provide any feedback.

41 Andrea asked if the project should acknowledge the rapidity with which transportation and technology  
42 may change in this period of time. Eleni responded that this was debated during MTP development, and  
43 technology across industries is developing at different rates so we don't know how or when technology  
44 will change things, so it's difficult to incorporate. Richard notes that the vision statement doesn't include  
45 "sustainable" which is part of the MTP goal and asked if this should be included? Eleni said this can be  
46 considered. Richard also reflected about induced demand and the need to make it harder for people to live  
47 further away from growth areas, rather than easier via the interstate, if the goal is to focus development in  
48 specific areas. Bryan asked if other RPCs are involved because addressing congestion here may push it to  
49 other areas. Eleni responded that neighboring RPCs, and many other stakeholders are on the Advisory  
50 Committee. Understanding impacts to other areas, outside Chittenden County, is also why the project is  
51 using the regional model. Andrea asked if Federal Highway Administration might change rules about  
52 who/what vehicles can use the interstate as technology changes. Chris Jolly said that with the new federal  
53 transportation bill, addressing issues like this would be an evolving process. Eleni noted that the project

1 team is still developing metrics for the objectives. Dean Pierce noted the challenge of balancing desire to  
 2 keep some areas rural, ag, residential and impacts of I-89 improvements may change demand in those  
 3 areas. Eleni said the next steps include Advisory and Technical Committee meetings, public meetings,  
 4 and beginning the interchange evaluation. Joss asked who makes decisions for this project, and Eleni said  
 5 that she is hopeful that the Advisory Committee would make decisions based on consensus. Charlie  
 6 Baker said that the CCRPC Board will ultimately be okay with the recommendations for the I-89 Corridor  
 7 as they will be included as part of the next MTP (2023). Project website: <https://envision89.com/>.

8  
 9 **6. VTrans State Public Transit Projects**

10 Ross MacDonald of VTrans described current transit projects and funding and noted that they are able to  
 11 work on innovative projects due to legislative and administration support. They are working with open  
 12 source data which allows for coordination of various platforms and services to make trip planning easier.  
 13 The new Go! Vermont trip planner platform will launch in January 2020 and will complement the  
 14 currently available Transit App. They are also launching a media campaign in 2020 to promote these  
 15 services. Upcoming efforts will incorporate Microtransit into Transit App and Trip Planner and will  
 16 develop an interface so Demand Response (dial-a-ride) trips can be revealed in Trip Planner. Other  
 17 programs include Rides to Wellness to meet medical transportation needs, and Recovery Rides to provide  
 18 transportation as part of behavior illness recovery plans. Ross noted that mobility in rural areas need to  
 19 addressed differently. Andrea said she was glad to see youth services included because she’s trying to get  
 20 school buses as part of transit system and encourage young people to be thinking differently about  
 21 transportation decisions. Daryl asked if towns can help collect data that would be useful, and Ross  
 22 responded that it would be helpful for towns to help promote Go! Vermont and other programs, which is  
 23 how they can track data. Bob asked about consideration of “pay as you go” model as an option, especially  
 24 for automated vehicles when they serve rural areas, and Ross noted that mobility on demand is in the  
 25 realm of consideration. Go! Vermont currently supports CarShare VT, which has offered to lease  
 26 hardware/software to other communities. Go! Vermont website: <https://www.connectingcommuters.org/>  
 27

28 **7. CCRPC FY21 UPWP Solicitation**

29 Marshall Distel, CCRPC staff, described the FY21 UPWP development process and noted that  
 30 information was distributed in mid-November with applications due January 17, 2020. For more  
 31 information visit: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/annual-work-plan-budget-finances/>  
 32

33 **8. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports (Information Item):**

34 Bryan noted that the project list on the back of the agenda identifies current projects, and TAC members  
 35 can follow up with staff about these or other projects.  
 36

37 **9. CCRPC November Board Meetings Report**

38 The Board received a report on the CCRPC’s FY19 audit, VTrans update on Williston Park and Ride and  
 39 warn a public hearing for a major TIP Amendment in January, Draft Public Transit Policy Plan update  
 40 from VTrans, and action on Town of Charlotte Determination of Energy Compliance.  
 41

42 **10. Chairman’s/Members’ Items:**

43 None.  
 44

45 AMY BELL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN, SECOND BY ANDREA MORGANTE,  
 46 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.  
 47

48 The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.  
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50 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis