

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, September 1, 2020
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
7 PLACE: Meeting held remotely via Zoom
8

9 **Members Present**

10 Justin Rabidoux, South Burlington
11 Nicole Losch, Burlington
12 Matthew Langham, VTrans
13 Amy Bell, VTrans
14 Jon Rauscher, Winooski
15 Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
16 Bob Henneberger, Seniors
17 Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
18 Chris Damiani, GMT
19 Lisa Schaeffler, Williston
20 Dennis Lutz, Essex
21 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
22 Sandy Thibault, CATMA
23
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25

Staff

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

Guests

Zoe Neaderland, VTrans
Dave Pelletier, VTrans
Chris Lamm, Cambridge Systematics
Brian Stewart, Cambridge Systematics
Shawna Kitzman, FHI

26 1. Justin Rabidoux called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and Bryan Davis did a roll call for attendance.
27

28 2. **Consent Agenda:** Christine Forde referenced the memo in the agenda packet. NICOLE LOSCH
29 MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY DENNIS LUTZ.
30 THE MOTION PASSED.
31

32 3. **Approval of Minutes**

33 Justin asked for any changes, which there were none. BOB HENNEBERGER MADE A MOTION TO
34 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2020, SECONDED BY NICOLE LOSCH. THE MOTION
35 PASSED.
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37 4. **Public Comments**

38 None.
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40 5. **Update of Statewide Rail and Freight Plans**

41 Zoe Neaderland and Dave Pelletier of VTrans were joined by Chris Lamm and Brian Stewart from
42 Cambridge Systematics, and Shawna Kitzman of FHI, to provide an update on the Statewide Rail and
43 Freight Plans. Zoe and Dave introduced the project, and Chris and Brian shared a presentation about the
44 background and process for these two separate but related plans. FRA requires the Rail Plan be updated
45 every 4 years, and FWHA requires the Freight Plan be updated every 5 years. The Rail Plan includes
46 Freight/Intercity passenger rail service, and the Freight Plan includes rail, highway, air, & water. The
47 presentation included goals of the plan updates, passenger rail and freight rail trends, and discussion
48 prompts for conversation. Mary Anne Michaels noted that 85% of rail traffic on Vermont owned railroads
49 starts and/or ends in Vermont. Charlie asked about the top origins and destinations in Vermont (origin
50 counties: Chittenden, Windham, Washington; destination counties: Rutland, Franklin, Chittenden). There
51 was discussion about land uses and zoning adjacent to rail lines and existing sidings. Dennis Lutz asked if
52 the plans were considering which products, we're likely to be shipping in the future, and if the
53 transportation system can accommodate offloading and transporting those products? Brian Stewart said
54 the plans are looking at future rail commodities, and they have a tool to show the transload facilities.

1 Dean Block asked about the use of sidings and if there are emergency preparedness plans. The consultant
 2 team noted that information on sidings is not readily available and is not included as a map info layer.
 3 Dean noted local concerns about freight being stored on sidings outside of urban core without adequate
 4 emergency response plans should an accident occur. Jonathon Weber suggested the passenger rail plan
 5 and stations include secure and covered bike parking, as well as charging stations for e-assist bikes.
 6 Charlie noted the need to upgrade Burlington to Essex for passenger and freight movement. The
 7 consultant team described the rail plan elements and passenger rail forecasting, and Shawna provided an
 8 overview of a webmap that will be used to share information and solicit public input. A link will be
 9 available soon. Charlie asked if the map showed freight moved by truck, as it will be good information to
 10 have when the issue of shifting truck freight to rail is discussed. The map is focused on rail and doesn't
 11 include truck volumes. Zoe shared that the Rail Plan is under time constraints but that the Freight Plan
 12 will consider all freight movements. Charlie asked if commuter rail between cities is being considered.
 13 Zoe noted this is important but is outside the scope of this effort. Chris shared the project schedule, with
 14 more outreach planned for November/December and project completion in January 2021. A town hall is
 15 planned for October 6, 2020 from 4-5 p.m. Amy Bell asked how people without internet access can
 16 comment, and the consultant noted there is a mailing address available. Other related resources:

- 17 • Amy shared a link to a time-lapse video of the Middlebury rail tunnel project:
 18 <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/projects/middlebury>
- 19 • The presentation is posted on the [TAC webpage](#), and more information about the plans is on these
 20 websites:
 - 21 ○ Rail Plan: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports>
 - 22 ○ Freight Plan: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight>

23
 24 **6. CCRPC Public Participation Plan and Title VI Update**

25 Bryan Davis, CCRPC, gave an update on CCRPC Title VI activities. As a reminder, **Title VI of the Civil**
 26 **Rights Act of 1964** prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program
 27 or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. The CCRPC June newsletter shared that we signed on to
 28 the **Community Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Emergency** and Charlie outlined specific
 29 action steps in the newsletter. The CCRPC is creating a **new webpage** centered on racial equity which
 30 will host our commitment to the Community Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Emergency, as
 31 well as other resources including a centralized list of what each municipality in Chittenden County is
 32 doing with regard to racial justice (e.g., training and educational opportunities, changes to policy, and
 33 more). This new webpage will evolve as we implement our work plans annually. Each year the CCRPC
 34 compiles and submits a **Title VI annual report for FHWA and VTrans** which summarizes our efforts
 35 over the previous calendar year to include diverse populations in our work. Their review looks for our
 36 involvement of diverse social and ethnic groups, members of the public with limited English proficiency,
 37 low-income as well as people with disabilities. We recently completed development of an **FTA Title VI**
 38 **Program** which includes the CCRPC Title VI Policy Statement, formalizes the complaint process if
 39 someone believes they experience discrimination, references the PPP and includes project examples of
 40 outreach to diverse populations, and includes county demographic data and maps. We had some of these
 41 pieces already but developing this program not only helps us meet federal regulations but provides us
 42 with another tool to guide our anti-racism work. We are updating our **Public Participation Plan** to not
 43 only reflect use of online virtual opportunities and meetings with which we've all become familiar, but
 44 also to ensure that the Plan acknowledges, supports and promotes racial equity and social justice.

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 46 **7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports (Information Item):**

47 The usual project list was inadvertently omitted from the back of the agenda but will be include next
 48 month. For any questions contact CCRPC staff.

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 50 **8. CCRPC Board Meeting Report**

51 In June the Board held a public hearing for the FY21 UPWP and budget and then voted to approve the
 52 FY21 UPWP and budget, voted to approve the Clean Water Service Provider Draft Proposal, heard an
 53 update from the Board Development Committee, and discussed a draft comment letter for the Draft Basin

1 5 – Direct to Lake Tactical Basin Plan. In July the Board held a public hearing for and approved the
2 FY21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), heard a presentation on the Draft Northern Lake
3 Champlain Direct Drainages Tactical Basin Plan and approved the Tactical Basin 7 Plan Conformance
4 Letter, reviewed Board Committee member appointments, discussed Potential Policy Participation
5 Topics, and discussed the CCRPC’s role in racial justice and equity. There was no Board meeting in
6 August.
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8 **9. Chairman’s/Members’ Items:**

9 Dennis noted the recent VLCT newsletter included a legislative update about the state transportation
10 budget which includes “a one-year pause in Town Highway Structures and Town Highway Class 2 grants
11 for FY21, however town projects will maintain their position in the queue when grants resume.” Dennis
12 asked for clarification from VTrans. Justin noted he asked a similar question to District 5 but they didn’t
13 have additional information at the time. Amy stated that the consensus state budget forecast for FY21 was
14 not available until late July (due to COVID-19), without that updated information the Agency was not in
15 a position to make awards as there was not a clear understanding of the funding which would be
16 available. Once we received that information, the Agency determined that, given the timeframe for the
17 Legislature’s deliberations and finalization of the remaining three-quarters of the fiscal year budget, that
18 awards and contracting with towns for Class 2 and Structures grants would not result in the construction
19 of any projects this construction season.
20

21 Additionally, with all towns statewide facing budgetary impacts, the Agency determined it would be more
22 appropriate to provide \$6 million in supplemental Town Highway Aid funding to support ALL towns,
23 while taking a one year pause in awarding the Class 2 and Structures grants. The towns that are currently
24 in the queue to receive these grants this year, would be moved forward to next year, retaining their place
25 in the award queue. This proposal was submitted to the Legislature 10-days ago and they are still
26 deliberating this proposal, which was vetted with VLCT. If towns have a concern they should contact
27 their legislators.
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29 Justin noted the next TAC meeting is scheduled for October 6.
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31 The meeting adjourned at 10:31AM.
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33 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis