



Transportation Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

9:00 to 10:15 am

Remote Access Meeting Only

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82462008536?pwd=NVIlaWlyZEU2aXRaNHUxZlY5cHoyZz09>

Meeting ID: 824 6200 8536

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Agenda

1. Call to Order, Attendance (1 min)

2. Consent agenda* (Action Item – 2 min)

See attached memo describing TIP amendments

3. Minutes of December 1, 2020* (Action Item – 1 min)

See attached minutes.

4. Public Comment Period (Information item)

Members of the public are invited to raise issues of interest or concern to the TAC on items not on the agenda.

5. Racial Equity Consultant Selection* (Action Item – 10 min)

Staff will provide an update on the CCRPC's RFQ process to select a racial equity consultant and share their recommendation outlined in the attached memo.

6. VTrans Proposed Congestion Policy Update* (Information Item – 30 min)

Joe Segale, VTrans will present the state's proposed congestion policy change to a Volume to Capacity analysis. Presentation available [here](#).

7. Federal Aid Funding and Highway Legislation (Information Item – 15 min)

Chris Jolly, FHWA, will provide an update on the federal transportation budget and implications for Vermont and local towns.

8. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports (Information Item – 1 min)

See bulleted list on the reverse for current CCRPC projects. TAC members are encouraged to ask staff for more information on the status of any of these on-going or recently completed projects.

In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the CCRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, or other requested accommodations, should be made to Emma Vaughn, CCRPC Title VI Coordinator, at 802-846-4490 ext *21 or evaughn@ccrpcvt.org, no later than 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.



9. CCRPC Board Meeting Report (Information Item – 2 min)

No Board meeting in December.

10. Chairman's/Members' Items (Information Item – 5 min)

- **FY22 UPWP program** materials distributed and posted at <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/annual-work-plan-budget-finances/>
- Suggestions on future TAC agenda topics?

* = Attachment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Project List:

- Title VI program participation and Public Participation Plan implementation
- Participation in the Vermont Highway Safety Alliance
- Participation in the State's Rail Council
- Advanced Traffic Monitoring System through FHWA AID grant – Maintenance and Monitoring
- Regional Transportation Energy Planning
- Transportation Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Coordination with United Way on Neighbor Rides and Elders & Disabled Program analysis
- Coordination with GMT on ADA and Elders & Disabled advisory committees
- Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study
- Winooski Avenue Corridor Study (Burlington)
- So. Burlington VT116-Kimball-Tilley Land Use and Transportation Plan
- Railyard Enterprise Project (REP) Supplemental Scoping - *Finalized*
- South Burlington Pedestrian Crossing and Bike Access
- Update to South Burlington's Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance
- Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) Work
- Grants-In-Aid Coordination with Municipalities.
- 2020/2021 Way to Go! to School
- Greenride Bikeshare
- Congestion Policy Evaluation
- Lower Village Supplemental Scoping Study (Huntington)
- Richmond Road Intersection Scoping (Hinesburg) - *Finalized*
- Colchester Ave Protected Bike Lanes and East Ave Intersection Improvements (Burlington)
- CCTV Stormwater infrastructure inspection project (Essex/Essex Junction)
- CCTV Stormwater infrastructure inspection project (Winooski)
- Essex Tanglewood Drive Shared-Use Path and Stormwater Scoping study
- Bikeway Connectivity, Pedestrian Safety, and Stormwater Management in the Old North End (Burlington)
- Watershed Resiliency Mapping/Transportation Resiliency Planning Tool (TRPT; Bolton, Richmond, Huntington (and a little bit of Jericho, Essex and Williston)
- River/Pleasant Valley Road Bicyclist and Pavement Analysis (Underhill)
- Winooski Transportation Impact Fee Study
- LPM services for Underhill sidewalk construction on VT 15
- LPM services for Hinesburg – Village South Area Sidewalk on VT 116
- LPM services for Shelburne – Irish Hill Road Sidewalk and Pedestrian Bridge project
- Property Transportation Plan: Reduce transportation emissions in commercial and affordable multi-unit sectors with Burlington Electric Department and Burlington 2030 District
- Richmond Bike/Ped Master Plan
- Bridge Street (Richmond) Complete Streets Corridor Study
- Old North End Mobility Audit (Burlington)
- City of Burlington School District School Travel Plan and Traffic Control Plan
- Close the Gaps in Regional Bike Facilities
- CCRPC Bicycle Count Program Evaluation and Data Analysis
- Winooski Parking Inventory, Analysis, and Management Plan

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CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC

Communities Planning Together

- Development of Performance Parameters for the Shelburne Street Roundabout
- Huntington Bridge Improvement & Maintenance Plan
- South Burlington Bike/Ped Mapping Phase II
- Shelburne Bicycling and Pedestrian Connectivity Study – *On hold*
- Exit 17 Park & Ride Supplemental Evaluation
- Jericho Riverside Village Sidewalk Scoping Study
- Jericho Bolger Hill Road Supplemental Scoping
- South Burlington Multi-site Intersection Scoping
- Williston Route 2A Connector Path Scoping Study

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CCRPC Transportation Advisory Committee

January 5, 2021

Agenda Item 2: Consent Item

FY2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Issues

Make the following change to the FY2021 year of the TIP.

Charlotte Rail Bridge over Thorp Brook, Charlotte (Project RR008, Amendment FY21-10)

- › **Description of the TIP Change:** Add \$8,000 in federal funds in FY21 to complete right-of-way documentation for a rail bridge rehabilitation project in Charlotte.
- › **Reason for the TIP Change:** This project was to be funded with state dollars only but VTrans is now proposing federal participation in the project. This project is not subject to CCRPC's fiscal constraint limit.

Staff

Recommendation:

Recommend that the TAC approve the proposed TIP amendments.

For more information, contact:

Christine Forde
cforde@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490 ext. *13



CCRPC Transportation Advisory Committee

January 5, 2021

Agenda Item 2a: Consent Item

FY2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Issues: Make the following change to the FY2021 year of the TIP.

Amtrak Operating (Project RR012, Amendment FY21-11)

- › **Description of the TIP Change:** Add \$408,413 in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program funds for Amtrak service in Chittenden County. VTrans will utilize a total of \$2,400,000 in federal dollars to support Amtrak service statewide. The Chittenden County share of this will be 17% or \$408,413. This project is not subject to CCRPC's fiscal constraint limit.

Background: The CMAQ Program was created to help the USA attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and it established a more rigorous link between transportation and air quality planning. The CMAQ program supports surface transportation projects and other related efforts that contribute air quality improvements and provide congestion relief. The program is primarily directed to areas that are not in attainment with the national ambient air quality standards. However, funding is also provided to areas in attainment -- all of Vermont is in attainment. Attainment areas receive a minimum apportionment of CMAQ funding for either air quality projects or other elements of flexible federal aid highway spending.

Vermont's apportionment of CMAQ funds is typically spent on transit service and park and rides. This fiscal year VTrans will receive \$12,623,783 in CMAQ funds and proposes to use \$2,400,000, or 19%, for Amtrak service. Of the remaining funds, \$500,000 will be spent on park and rides and the balance will go to public transit. Because Vermont is in attainment we have the flexibility to use CMAQ as we would STP funds. We can also use STP as CMAQ if needed.

Staff Recommendation: Recommend that the TAC approve the proposed TIP amendments.

For more information, contact: Christine Forde
cforde@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490 ext. *13

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, December 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 Amy Bell, VTrans
13 Matthew Langham, VTrans
14 James Marshal, VTrans District 5
15 Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
16 Josh Arneson, Richmond
17 Bob Henneberger, Seniors
18 Chris Damiani, GMT
19 Bruce Hoar, Williston
20 Jon Rauscher, Winooski
21 Barbara Elliott, Huntington
22 Dennis Lutz, Essex
23 Dean Pierce, Shelburne
24 Maria Rinaldi, People with Disabilities
25 Sandy Thibault, CATMA
26 Kirsten Jensen, Milton
27 Andrea Morgante, Hinesburg
28 Chris Jolly, FHWA
29 Seth Bowden, GBIC
30 Dean Block, Charlotte
31

Katherine Sonnicks, Jericho
Robin Pierce, Essex Junction
Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
Joss Besse, Bolton

32 **Staff**

Charlie Baker, Executive Director
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Regina Mahony, Planning 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

33 **Guests**

Chris Davis, Charlotte
Zoe Neaderland, VTrans
Dave Pelletier, VTrans
Chris Lamm, Cambridge Systematics
Brian Stewart, Cambridge Systematics
Andreas Aeppli, Cambridge Systematics
Shawna Kitzman, FHI

34 1. Justin Rabidoux called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM and Bryan Davis did a roll call for attendance.
35 A new agenda item requiring TAC action will be added to the agenda following the public comment
36 period.

37 **2. Consent Agenda**

38 BARBARA ELLIOTT MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE THE PROPOSED TIP
39 AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA ITEM MEMO, SECONDED BY NICOLE
40 LOSCH. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
41

42 **3. Approval of Minutes**

43 Justin asked for any changes, which there were none. BARBARA ELLIOTT MADE A MOTION TO
44 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2020, SECONDED BY BOB HENNEBERGER. THE
45 MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
46

47 **4. Public Comments**

48 None.
49

50 **New Agenda Item: Proposed Functional Classification Change**

51 Jason Charest, CCRPC staff, reviewed the information provided to the TAC by email yesterday ([see](#)
52 [memo here](#)). At the request of VTrans, transportation planners statewide are reviewing proposed changes
53 to the roadway functional classification system. CCRPC staff updated Chittenden County roadway
54 classifications a few years ago with the TAC approving recommended changes. There is currently one

1 change being requested at this time: reclassify Vermont National Guard Road from VT 15 to the
2 Hegeman/Johnson Ave intersection from Local Road to Major Collector. It appears this was inadvertently
3 omitted when the Campus Connector (connecting Hegeman & Johnson Avenues) was constructed. The
4 Town of Colchester is in support of this change. It was asked if the change is needed because it is a
5 military facility or to receive more federal roadway funding. Bruce asked that if this is being changed
6 because it's a military facility, then should River Cover Road, which serves VT Air National Guard, also
7 be changed. Dennis noted that National Guard Road experiences more heavy truck traffic. Andrea asked
8 if federal funding is tied to the roadway classification. Chris Jolly, FHWA, said yes but since it is such a
9 short roadway section it won't bring in more federal funding, but it will be eligible for those federal
10 dollars. BRUCE HOAR MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE THE FUNCTIONAL
11 CLASSIFICATION CHANGE OF VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD ROAD FROM VT 15 TO
12 JOHNSON/HEGEMAN AVE FROM LOCAL ROAD TO MAJOR COLLECTOR. THE MOTION WAS
13 SECONDED BY AMY BELL AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
14

15 **5. Statewide Rail and Freight Plans: Discussion of Draft Table of Rail Initiatives**

16 Zoe Neaderland and Dave Pelletier of VTrans were joined by Chris Lamm, Brian Stewart and Andreas
17 Aepli from Cambridge Systematics, and Shawna Kitzman of FHI, to provide an update on the Statewide
18 Rail and Freight Plans. Zoe and Dave introduced the project, and Chris, Brian and Andreas shared a
19 presentation about the background, goals, process and update for these two separate but related plans.
20 Brian reviewed draft potential initiatives developed based on input from statewide regional planning
21 commissions, public outreach, online webmap tool, and data analysis. He also shared a screening tool
22 used in the process. This is one of the first opportunities to use this revised screening tool created through
23 the collaborative VPSP2 process (VTrans Project Selection & Prioritization Processes), and the team is
24 open to suggestions on how to improve the tool. Andrea asked at what point in the process input can be
25 provided on the environmental impacts of infrastructure maintenance. Brian noted that environmental
26 consideration was part of the process. Andrea noted that some local environmental guidance is stronger
27 than federal guidance, so how can we ensure there is oversight? Zoe responded that while this doesn't
28 directly answer the question, the planning team realizes that the movement and storage of hazardous
29 materials is a major concern, and the team is interested in how to strengthen partnerships and work
30 together to address all issues. She suggests an annual or other regular check in to work together, which the
31 group appreciated hearing. Andreas pointed out that some projects fall under categorical exclusion, but
32 others have more process and Vermont has more influence than the federal guidance. Charlie echoed
33 Andrea that the plan needs to include language about this aspect. Changes to rail bridges and other
34 infrastructure need to account for local needs. For example, when Bay Road bridge in Shelburne is
35 replaced it will ideally accommodate walkers and bikers on the roadway, who are currently forced to use
36 the narrow roadway. Similarly, the Railyard Enterprise Project recommended railway upgrades between
37 Burlington and Essex. Andreas commented that two issues with the line between Burlington and Essex is
38 that the rail needs to be upgraded to the 286,000 pound limit, and the bridge under North Avenue has low
39 clearance. It was pointed out that the Rail Advisory Council meets next week, and the screening will be
40 complete before then. Jonathon asked who does the screening and was informed that the consultant team
41 and VTrans staff will do it. Jonathon also asked why bike/ped/transit are in the same screening/scoring
42 category as freight, and the team screen-shared the VPSP2 screening tool and described how the eight
43 screening categories were created through that process. Zoe reiterated that the freight and rail plan
44 updates are an early trial of the VPSP2 tool, and suggestions to improve are welcome. Andreas described
45 the modeling approach that is looking 20 years ahead to 2040, and that resulted in 27 potential growth
46 scenarios. Andrea asked if the modeling accounted for potential impacts of electric vehicle on rail
47 demand. Andreas responded that there are two related questions to consider; one is the impact of fuel
48 switch to electrification which could have modest impact, and the other is the impact of autonomous
49 vehicles, which could be more significant. Maria asked about how the speed increase to 79 miles per hour
50 was decided, and if it could be the entire route length. Andreas responded that there are issues to address
51 in increasing the speed from 59 mph to 79 mph such as signaling needs, track geometry/curves, passage
52 through urban areas, grade crossings, etc. Track realignment could be possible in some areas but would
53 require funding and potentially easements. Zoe described that the health access screening as part of the

1 VPSP2 tool isn't a great fit for this project so all scenarios were given full point values. She reminded the
 2 TAC that the tool is used to support informed discussion rather than as a determinant of ranking. Charlie
 3 asked if there is anything in the plans that would prevent a commuter rail system concept, such as the one
 4 being pursued by AllEarth Rail. Zoe said nothing in the plan would prevent it, but it isn't a specific
 5 subject covered in the plan. Andrea asked if the modeling accounted for changes in freight demand due to
 6 increased e-commerce. Dave responded that it is being considered in the freight plan and more
 7 information will be available on the project website. The team noted there is a second virtual town hall on
 8 December 17 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. More information about the plans is on these websites:

- 9 • Rail Plan: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports>
- 10 • Freight Plan: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight>

11
 12 **6. TAC Roundtable: COVID-19 Impacts on This Construction Season**

13 Justin invited TAC members to share the impacts of COVID-19 on their construction season such as
 14 overall experience, critical challenges, found opportunities and more. Dennis said the state's grant
 15 program created some issues since many of Essex's projects were bid early with contracts ready for
 16 summer work using Class 2 funds. They ended up using local funds but it's still not clear how the state's
 17 project list might change since some of those projects were completed. He pointed out that budgeting for
 18 next year is underway but state funding levels are uncertain. Justin said South Burlington is budgeting
 19 conservatively so any grant funding would be extra. He also noted that the City is working on the \$20
 20 million City Hall project but the entire electrician team was lost due to personal choices outside of work
 21 hours, and a similar incident affected the fire department. He noted that there have been lower bid prices
 22 on projects. Andrea asked if any towns have contingency plans in case of COVID impacts to crews.
 23 Dennis replied that the Essex Town website posted their winter operations plan which uses a
 24 green/yellow/red color code system for the public to understand priorities and areas where there may be
 25 delays. They are separating staff to avoid contact, they issued guidance for hunting season, and updated
 26 their personnel policies. Nicole reported that Burlington will train interested people to get their
 27 commercial drivers license (CDL) to be snowplow operators, and will train people to operate sidewalk
 28 plows. Justin noted that South Burlington has more staff than equipment so they are able to call people
 29 into duty when needed. They've issued stricter guidance for personnel management in their shop, such as
 30 maintaining physical distance and staff separation, to keep the shop active and safe. Bruce said that
 31 Williston has split their crews with half being home and half at work to maintain physical distance, and
 32 they adapted Essex's winter operations plan to meet their needs. He noted that crews get low but they
 33 haven't experience COVID-like impacts. He's willing to help other communities but recognized that
 34 Williston is his first priority. He noted that mutual aid isn't a great option since plowing unfamiliar roads
 35 can have safety and infrastructure impacts. Sandy asked if there were any Green Mountain Transit
 36 updates, and Chris Damiani reported that 20-minute service will be returning to the Essex and Williston
 37 routes.

38
 39 **7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

40 See the project list on the back of the agenda. TAC members are encouraged to contact CCRPC staff with
 41 any questions.

42
 43 **8. CCRPC Board Meeting Report**

44 In November the Board heard the FY20 Audit Report from Sullivan Powers, discussed Legislative
 45 Briefing alternatives, heard an update on CCRPC racial equity efforts, and were noticed that the FY22
 46 UPWP application would be released on November 20. Justin asked if there were any audit surprises,
 47 which there were none.

48
 49 **9. Chairman's/Members' Items:**

- 50 • **FY22 UPWP program** materials posted at [https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-](https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/annual-work-plan-budget-finances/)
 51 [us/commission/annual-work-plan-budget-finances/](https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/annual-work-plan-budget-finances/). UPWP requests are due on January 22 with
 52 adoption planned by the CCRPC Board in May 2021.
- 53 • December 2, 1-2:30 pm Vermont Local Roads Virtual Supervisory Roundtable on The Potential

- 1 Effects of COVID-19 on VT Municipal Operations. [Register here.](#)
2 • Eleni Churchill, CCRPC staff, reminded TAC members that the VTrans **Better Roads grant**
3 **program applications are due December 18, 2020.** CCRPC staff are available to help. For more
4 information visit <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>.
5 • Eleni also noted that **Road Erosion Inventory (REI) data for non-MS4 towns** will be uploaded
6 to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation portal and asks that towns review the
7 data next week.

8
9 The next TAC meeting is scheduled for January 5.

10
11 The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

12
13 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis

DRAFT



Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

January 5, 2020

Agenda Item 5: Action Item

Racial Equity Consultant Selection

Issues: The CCRPC stands strongly against racism and made a focused commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, as stated in our [June 2020 newsletter](#). To help us achieve our stated goals, the CCRPC is seeking the services of a consultant partner with experience in the racial equity field to assist with the implementation of short- and long-term goals within our organization. After discovery calls with a few organizations, we determined that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) would allow us to better outline our intentions, describe the evaluation process, and understand the specific skills and expertise of those engaged in and leading this essential work in our communities.

The RFQ was released October 30 with an original due date of November 16 but was extended to November 23 based on several requests due to current workload demands of racial equity consultants. Eleven responses were received and were a mix of Vermont-based and out-of-state firms:

PGN Consulting (OH)	Adaptive X (MD)
Project 986 (MD)	Racial Equity Group (TX)
Zilo International (CO)	US2 Inc (MI)
Abundant Sun (VT)	Think Again (MA)
Creative Discourse (VT)	VT Partnership for Fairness & Diversity (VT)
Racial Equity Alliance (VT)	

The responses were reviewed by Charlie, Eleni, Regina, Emma, Forest and Bryan, with a discussion of the merits of each. Given the intent to create long-term relationships in this work, the review team agreed Vermont-based firms were more appropriate partners and were discussed in more detail. While the quality of the responses differed, previous conversations between CCRPC staff and some firms provided additional background and details. At their December 2 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the proposals and staff recommendation.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the TAC move to approve Creative Discourse as the preferred racial equity consultant and engage in contract negotiations.

For more information contact: Emma Vaughn, 846-4490 ext. *21 or evaughn@ccrpcvt.org
Bryan Davis, 861-0129 or bdavis@ccrpcvt.org