

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
3 DRAFT
4

5 DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2021

6 TIME: 6:00 PM

7 PLACE: REMOTE ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM MEETING VIDEO

8 PRESENT: Bolton: Sharon Murray Buel's Gore: Garret Mott
9 Burlington: Andy Montroll Charlotte: Jim Donovan
10 Colchester: Jacki Murphy Essex: Jeff Carr
11 Essex Junction: Jeff Carr (Alternate) Hinesburg: Michael Bissonette
12 Huntington: Barbara Elliott Jericho: Catherine McMains
13 Milton: Tony Micklus Richmond: Bard Hill
14 St. George: Absent Shelburne: John Zicconi
15 So. Burlington: Chris Shaw Underhill: Absent
16 Westford: Absent Williston: Absent
17 Winooski: Michael O'Brien
18 Cons/Env.: Don Meals VTrans: Amy Bell
19 Bus/Ind: Absent GMT: Absent
20 Agriculture: Absent Socio/Econ/Housing: Absent

21
22 Others: Matthew Langham, VTrans Meghan O'Rourke, CCTV

23
24 Staff: Charlie Baker, Executive Director Regina Mahony, Planning Prgm Mgr.
25 Eleni Churchill, Trans. Prgm Mgr. Amy Irvin Witham, Business Office Mgr.
26 Marshall Distel, Trans. Planner Emma Vaughn, Communications Mgr.
27 Bryan Davis, Senior Trans. Planner Jason Charest, Senior Trans. Planner
28 Sai Sarepalli, Senior Trans. Planner
29

30 1. Call to order; Attendance; Changes to the Agenda. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by
31 the Chair, Michael O'Brien.

32
33 2. Public Comment Period on Items NOT on the Agenda. There were none.
34

35 3. Action on Consent Agenda, MPO Business. There were two items on the consent agenda.
36

37 • Accept the Annual Safety Targets

38 Targets for the Safety Measures are established every year by VTrans, in collaboration with
39 the CCRPC. The TAC and the Board review and accepted these targets annually. The CCRPC
40 is asked to act on the following 2021 statewide targets set in the 2020 HSIP report:

- 41 ○ Number of Fatalities: 58
- 42 ○ Fatality Rate (Fatalities per 100M VMT): 0.82
- 43 ○ Number of Serious Injuries: 275
- 44 ○ Serious Injury Rate (Serious Injuries per 100M VMT): 3.65
- 45 ○ Total Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries: 36

46
47 • TIP Amendments

48 The following TIP Amendments were requested:

- 1 ○ Vermont Railway Switch Replacement, Burlington, Project RR013, Amendment FY21-13;
2 Add \$1,874,500 in federal FRA Tiger VII grant funds to replace three existing manual
3 switches in Burlington. This project is not subject to CCRPC's fiscal constraint limit
4 because it is funded with grant funds.
5 ○ Amtrak Siding, Burlington, Project RR014, Amendment FY21-14; Add a project to the TIP
6 to construct a rail siding in the Burlington rail yard to overnight Amtrak passenger trains.
7 Construction amount for this project is \$1,900,000.
8 ○ Maple Street Rail Crossing Safety Improvements, Project HP154, Amendment FY21-17;
9 Increase construction cost from \$1,035,000 (federal) to \$1,866,276 (federal). TIP
10 amounts will be \$658,750 (federal) in FY21 and \$1,207,526 (federal) in FY21.
11

12 BARBARA ELLIOTT MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY JEFF CARR, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA
13 ITEMS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MPO MEMBERS.
14

15 4. Approve Minutes of the January 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

16 JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY GARRET MOTT, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 20, 2021
17 BOARD MEETING MINUTES, WITH EDITS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
18

- 19 • Edit: Line 38, Pg 4, Catherine requested the addition of "K" to clearly designate the amount is in
20 the thousands.
21 • Edit: Line 38, Pg 6, Jim requested the following clarifying statement be added to the end of the
22 sentence, "*because of the ongoing storage of hazardous materials in Charlotte*".
23

24 5. Comments on Draft Clean Water Service Provider Rule. Charlie referred members to the Draft Clean
25 Water Service Provider Rule letter included in the packet. GARRET MOTT MADE A MOTION,
26 SECONDED BY JIM DONOVAN, TO ACCEPT THE COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT CLEAN WTER SERVICE
27 PROVIDER RULE LETTER, WITH EDITS.

- 28 • An edit was proposed to section § 39-306 - Fiscal Management by Jim Donovan, to clarify that
29 'quotes' are not appropriate for professional services. Jim proposed this be changed to
30 "qualifications and quotes". Members agreed.
31 • Jeff and Garret suggested further examination of Subchapter 6. Conflicts of Interest, as these
32 nuances are very important. Members agreed.
33

34 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

35 6. I-89 2050 Study presentation

36 Charlie and Eleni shared the I-89 2050 Study PowerPoint presentation that was included with the
37 packet with members. Eleni provided the background and overview on the project. She discussed
38 the status of the project, including the review of Interchange Concept Plans, Interchange Evaluation,
39 and the introduction of initial concepts for improvement bundles for the I-89 corridor.
40

41 The project's Vision Statement reads: "The 2050 Vision for the I-89 Corridor through Chittenden
42 County is an interstate system (mainline and interchanges) that is safe, resilient and provides for
43 reliable and efficient movement of people and goods in support of state, regional, and municipal
44 plans and goals." She said the I-89 Vision, Goals, and Objectives, will be reassessed as needed to
45 ensure that these statements continue to address future trends in travel patterns and shifts in mode
46 shares as well as changes in land use.
47

1 Eleni explained, there are two rounds of Interchange Evaluation; based on the results of the first
2 round of interchange evaluation, the I-89 Advisory Committee voted to advance Exits 12B, 13 and 14
3 to the second round of evaluation. The second round of evaluation included metrics under each
4 goal developed for the I-89 Corridor. These included:

- 5 • Safety Goal: Enhance safety along the I-89 Study Corridor and adjacent interchanges for all
6 users. Metrics: Ramp Spacing, Safety Impact, and Bike/Ped Safety.
- 7 • Livable, Sustainable, & Healthy Communities Goal: To promote compact growth that
8 supports livable, affordable, vibrant, and healthy communities. Metrics: Consistent with
9 Regional Plan, ROW Impacts, and Environmental Justice / Underserved Populations.
- 10 • Mobility & Efficiency Goal: Improve the efficiency and reliability of the I-89 Corridor and
11 adjacent interchanges for all users. Metrics: Interchange Trips, VMT, VHT, I-89 Corridor V/C,
12 Average Delay, and Bike/Ped Connectivity.
- 13 • Environmental Stewardship Goal: Establish a resilient I-89 Corridor that minimizes
14 environmental impacts associated with the transportation system. Metrics: Wetland
15 Impacts, River Corridors, Natural Habitats, and Fuel Consumption.
- 16 • Economic Access Goal: Improve economic access and vitality in Chittenden County. Metrics:
17 Connectivity to Areas Planned for Growth and Job Access.
- 18 • System Preservation Goal: Preserve and improve the condition and performance of the I-89
19 Corridor. Metrics: Asset Maintenance Cost, Construction Cost, Maintenance & Construction
20 Cost

21
22 Eleni provided an overview of the Evaluation Matrices (two tables) that were included in the
23 presentation and were also sent as a separate attachment to the Board. The two Evaluation
24 Matrices include the calculated/estimated metric values and the metric scores. Metrics are
25 organized by goal and the results were scored from 0-4 comparing the lowest to the highest value so
26 that each result received points based upon which quintile it fell in. At this phase of the I-89 Study
27 the metrics are specific to the interchanges even though some of them will be carry forward into the
28 corridor evaluation. Charlie and Eleni are seeking input from Board Members regarding additional
29 metrics and the scoring methodology. Eleni shared three initial I-89 Corridor bundles which will be
30 evaluated in the next phase of the study once the decision is made on which interchanges will move
31 forward for further analysis. Eleni stated an important aspect of the project is communication and
32 transparency. The second round of interchange evaluations includes targeted outreach to under-
33 represented populations, interested groups, the South Burlington City Council and Committees and
34 there will also be an online public meeting next month, on March 18.

35
36 Jeff and Bard asked for further information and explanations of the scoring and ranking; particularly
37 the methodology used. Jeff feels it is imperative the commissioners have a deep understanding of
38 the study in order to be able to defend the work. Eleni said they are very comfortable with the
39 numeric values of the metrics, but she welcomes feedback on the scoring methodology because
40 there are multiple ways that the metrics can be scored. Jim asked for more information on the
41 bundles. Charlie and Eleni will send out additional supporting documents and will also set up a
42 Zoom meeting workshop to further explain and review the information for anyone who is
43 interested. Jim also asked about the metrics, specifically if we should incorporate cultural (historic
44 and archaeological) and water quality considerations. Members discussed ways to ensure all values
45 have been factored into the matrix.

46
47 John brought up the following points:

- 1 • If Exit 13 is downgraded to a Boulevard, will this be limited access, or are there further
2 considerations to help relieve the traffic flow at Route 7? Eleni explained this has not been
3 investigated, but it will be if the SPDI concept progresses into the next stage. There will be
4 considerations such as the connection to the upcoming Champlain Parkway and also that
5 the area around the I-189 is federalized so it will likely remain limited access.
- 6 • If improvements for Exit 14 decreasing capacity hinges on the establishment of Exit 12B or
7 13, we need to ensure this data is exceptionally clear and widely shared with the public.
- 8 • In terms of scoring, it is imperative we are mindful these raw scores do not always reflect
9 what is the best option. There are multiple factors to consider outside of the engineering
10 piece of the project, including community impacts.

11
12 Jeff stated it is important we clearly articulate the vision for this project; it is important we
13 completely understand the current and future implications, how this project will be viewed in the
14 future and we need to ensure we can define the success of the project. Eleni agreed and feels the
15 vision clearly defines and articulates the overall goals; that safety, livability, reliability, efficiency,
16 and resiliency are at the core of this project.

17 18 7. All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Committee Appointment

19 Mike thanked Sharon for volunteering to serve on the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update
20 Committee. Sharon said she is happy to do it. She is interested in learning more about the process
21 and how to best represent the commission. GARRET MOTT MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY JIM
22 DONOVAN, TO CONFIRM SHARON MURRAY'S APPOINTMENT TO THE ALL HAZARD MITIGATION
23 PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

24 25 8. Racial Equity Update

26 Charlie provided a quick update on our Racial Equity work. He explained we are in the final stages of
27 setting up the contract with Creative Discourse. There is nothing drastic or quick happening now, as
28 the first phase is to establish an internal leadership team to champion the work. This fall we will
29 dive into heavier work, and hopefully be able to have in-person meetings.

30 31 9. Chair/Executive Director Report.

32 • Draft State Rail Plan

33 Charlie stated VTTrans has the Draft State Rail Plan out for public review. The Transportation
34 Advisory Committee (TAC) will review and vote on staff prepared comments in March. Charlie
35 said this is open to comments for anyone. Jim said he plans to review and share his comments
36 and asked what the deadline for submission is. Charlie said the comment period will close at the
37 end of March. CCRPC staff is working on comments next week that will be ready before the
38 March 3 TAC Meeting. Charlie invited Jim to share his comments so they can be included in the
39 staff comments to the TAC. Charlie said the draft is published online under the Vermont State
40 Rail Plan. Eleni shared the link to the Draft State Rail Plan with members.

41 42 • Legislative Update

43 Charlie said the Legislature is now in full swing. There are a few bills of RPC interest, including
44 bills that affect some of our towns. One example is the project-based TIF (tax increment
45 financing) bill with Westford as the example trying to get community wastewater to the village.
46 The transportation bill has some interesting items, connecting transportation, climate, and
47 energy goals. Charlie said he has been asked to testify on the I-89 Study. They are also working
48 on a broadband bill and various RPC's around the state are helping with this. We are looking at

1 this to determine what we can do. Senator Sirotkin continues to work on the Housing Bill.
2 There is also a Rental House Registry Bill that would take some responsibilities away from Town
3 Health Officers and shift this work to a statewide inspection system with the Division of Fire
4 Safety. Finally, we are asking for increase in base RPC funding, since there has not been an
5 increase for many years.

6
7 Jim wanted to ensure we look at the Rental House Registry bill to see if there will be a negative
8 impact on affordable rentals, as there are already many mandated regulations, fees, and
9 inspections, we want to make sure it is not more difficult to maintain and create affordable
10 housing in rental situations. We want to make sure there is a balance.

11
12 • ECOS Annual Report

13 Charlie explained the ECOS Annual report is being worked on and we hope to have this out
14 before the next meeting.

15
16 10. Committee/Liaison Activities & Reports. Mike noted that minutes for our committees were included
17 as links as well as documents within the packet (Executive/Finance Committee, TAC, PAC, MS4 Sub-
18 Committee and CWAC).

19
20 11. Future Agenda Topics. Mike reminded members in March we will need to warn for the FY22 UPWP
21 & Budget, and the Board Development Committee, (comprised of Andy, Catherine, and Jeff), will
22 develop the FY22 slate of officers. Charlie said VTRANS is implementing their Prioritization and
23 Project Selection process. This is the first time we will be given a 150% list to fill the capital program
24 in the future years; this is a very different model and allows some input from the RPC for new
25 projects coming into the capital program. This will be a May agenda item for action.

26
27 Garret Mott shared his thoughts on future transportation-related considerations; he referenced the
28 I-89 Study and said he would like us to think about the future of electric vehicles. With a clear push
29 toward EVs he feels there will undoubtedly be a need for major changes to the current
30 infrastructure, including the addition of more charging stations and superchargers, as well as grid
31 updates to accommodate the upgrades. We need to think about planning for this. When we
32 consider the I-89 study, that much of this is funded by the fuel tax, and if this funding source is
33 reduced, there will be less money available. The last piece of this is to consider electric bikes. With
34 the expansion of e-bikes we will need to have increased safety measures in place to accommodate
35 volume. He also feels there will be a change in commuter traffic patterns with more people
36 continuing to work from home, post-COVID.

37
38 12. Members' Items, Other business. None.

39
40 13. Adjournment. JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY JIM DONOVAN TO ADJOURN THE CCRPC
41 BOARD MEETING AT 7:35 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

42
43 Respectfully submitted,
44 Amy Irvin Witham