

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2021
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
7 PLACE: Meeting held remotely via Zoom
8

9 **Members Present**

10 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
11 Justin Rabidou, South Burlington
12 Nicole Losch, Burlington
13 Amy Bell, VTrans
14 Matthew Langham, VTrans
15 Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
16 Josh Arneson, Richmond
17 Bob Henneberger, Seniors
18 Chris Damiani, GMT
19 Jon Rauscher, Winooski
20 Barbara Elliott, Huntington
21 Robin Pierce, Essex Junction
22 Sandy Thibault, CATMA
23 Kirsten Jensen, Milton
24 Chris Jolly, FHWA
25 Seth Bowden, GBIC
26 Ashley Bishop, VTrans
27

Dave Allerton, Milton
Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
Joss Besse, Bolton
Richard Watts, Environment

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

Kevin Marshia, VTrans
Susan Hurd, Burlington

28 1. Bryan Osborne called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. He informed the TAC of new agenda item 4a
29 Expedited TIP Amendment for Rail Crossing Safety Improvements at College Street in Burlington.
30

31 **2. Consent Agenda**

32 JUSTIN RABIDOUX MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE THE PROPOSED TIP
33 AMENDMENTS AND SAFETY TARGETS AS PRESENTED IN THE CONSENT AGENDA
34 MEMOS, SECONDED BY BARBARA ELLIOTT. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
35

36 **3. Approval of Minutes**

37 Bryan Osborne asked for any changes, which there were none. BARBARA ELLIOTT MADE A
38 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2021, SECONDED BY BOB
39 HENNEBERGER. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
40

41 **4. Public Comments**

42 Susan Hurd of Burlington provided comments regarding the CCRPC's comment letter on The Burton
43 Corporation's Act 250 application for the Higher Ground project on Queen City Park Road. Susan noted
44 there are lots of facilities at the site with minimal screening, there is a one lane bridge serving 500-600
45 vehicles, and large trucks entering and exiting. There is no sidewalk, crosswalk, bike lanes, or shoulders.
46 There is a lot of parking but no plans for additional parking, which is likely needed. People will likely
47 arrive early before events. She asks that the CCRPC reconsider their comment letter, visit the site in
48 person, review the traffic analysis, and don't put profit over people. She asks what steps will CCRPC take
49 to assure that Burton Corporation and the City of Burlington truly comply with Act 250's criterion as it
50 relates to traffic impact, rather than allowing it to be rubber stamped through? Eleni Churchill, CCRPC
51 staff, noted that CCRPC is preparing a response to similar comments offered at the recent Board meeting
52 and will include Susan on the response. Susan will provide her comments by email to CCRPC staff.
53
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55

1 **4a. FY2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments**

2 As per the memo sent by email and in the online meeting packet, this is a TIP Amendment to add funds to
3 the Rail Crossing Safety Improvements at College Street in Burlington and meet the October 1, 2021
4 deadline to use federal TIGER IV funds for the Burlington Train Station Platform. This is considered a
5 minor TIP amendment and funds aren't subject to the CCRPC's fiscal constraint. Even though staff is
6 asking the TAC to approve this amendment in the typical process, this is considered an Expedited TIP
7 Amendment because the Board will be asked to approve this amendment virtually since VTrans wants to
8 bid this project on February 10, which is before the February Commission Meeting. BARBARA
9 ELLIOTT MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE THE PROPOSED TIP AMENDMENT,
10 SECONDED BY JUSTIN RABIDOUX. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
11

12 **5. VPSP2 Update**

13 Kevin Marshia, VTrans, gave an [overview and update presentation](#) of the VTrans Project Selection and
14 Project Prioritization Process (VPSP2). In the mid-2000s VTrans had more projects than they could
15 deliver, resulting in many delayed projects while still adding more. In 2006 legislation was adopted to
16 establish a project prioritization system to determine which projects were worked on first. This was
17 successful as it established rules and expectations to follow and it allowed us to focus on streamlining and
18 improving our project delivery processes which have been instrumental in establishing an effective asset
19 management program. The current process is now about 12 years old and presents an opportunity within
20 the next few years to accept more community driven projects into the Capital Program. VPSP2 defines a
21 new process for an RPC/Municipality to get a project on to the Capital Program. The vision for VPSP2 is
22 to develop a performance-based, data driven project selection & prioritization framework that maximizes
23 the "transportation value" delivered to Vermont taxpayers. The process has three objectives:

- 24 - Identify and utilize criteria that provide "transportation value" within potential and planned VTrans
25 projects.
- 26 - Develop a mechanism for RPC and communities to provide input in the selection and prioritization of
27 transportation projects.
- 28 - Provide a defined, consistent, and transparent process for selecting and prioritizing the projects that
29 ultimately make up VTrans' Capital Program.

30 Four workshops were attended by a diverse group of stakeholders representing the five modes (highway,
31 rail, bike/ped/trails, transit, aviation). The 8 criteria (safety, asset condition, mobility/connectivity,
32 community, economic access, environment, resiliency, and health access) resonated with the stakeholders
33 who helped determine the initial weighting of the evaluation criteria. The highway mode is being used as
34 a two-year pilot to review the nine process steps and proposed timeline for potential projects. Selected
35 projects must stay within the fiscal constraint, and geographic equity is also examined in the process. If a
36 project moves higher on the list, then that will bump another project down the list. Bryan Osborne
37 commented that VPSP2 clarifies the project selection process and incorporates transparency, noted that it
38 doesn't seem dissimilar to the previous process, and asked if it will make a difference. Kevin replied that
39 because of the strong asset management program we won't notice a big difference for the paving
40 program, but it does provide more opportunity for regionally driven process to add projects. Christine
41 Forde said that CCRPC is looking at the MTP project list and previously scoped projects to decide which
42 projects in our region to advance. Charlie Baker said we want to get a project list to the TAC by March 1.
43

44 **6. TAC Agenda Topics**

45 Bryan Davis, CCRPC staff, noted that on each agenda is a request for TAC members to provide any
46 topics for future agenda items but wanted to set aside this dedicated time to address the request in more
47 detail. CCRPC staff provided a list of potential future topics in the meeting packet for consideration and
48 asked for other ideas. Nicole Losch and Jonathon Weber could present on winter maintenance and
49 innovative facilities for active transportation. Sandy Thibault suggested that each municipality present on
50 their community's work as it relates to TDM activities, needs, and projects. Bryan Osborne is interested
51 in more emphasis on how TAC members can help with their community's issues by understanding the
52 full range of opportunities and programs through the CCRPC. He suggested the UPWP selection process
53 needs more framework to enhance or refine and make it more transparent and efficient. Richard Watts

1 noted the information and community sharing is useful, and appreciated the previous presentations about
2 CCRPC funding allocations by program.

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4 **7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

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

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8 **8. CCRPC Board Meeting Report**

9 In January the Board approved the FY21 UPWP mid-year adjustment, held a public forum for the FY22
10 UPWP, participated in a discussion of municipal powers led by VLCT, reviewed CCRPC's 2021
11 legislative policy participation, and heard an update on the hiring of a racial equity consultant.

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13 **9. Chairman's/Members' Items:**

14 • **2021 VTrans Small-scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grants**

15 VTrans is soliciting applications for small-scale projects through the Bicycle and Pedestrian
16 Program. Complete applications are due by 1:00 PM on Friday, February 19, 2021. The intent of
17 the Small-scale Bike/Ped grant Program is to improve access and safety for people walking
18 and/or bicycling through the construction of simple physical improvements. Grants are to
19 reimburse construction costs only and will be awarded in the range of \$5,000 to \$75,000. The
20 local share of projects is 50%. For a copy of the VTrans 2021 Small-scale Bicycle and Pedestrian
21 Grant Guide and to access the application materials, visit the VTrans Bike/Ped Program website:
22 <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>.

23 • **Vermont AV-Xchange Forum**

24 VTrans is hosting an online forum on February 8, 2021, 1:00-2:30 PM, to promote and discuss
25 testing of Automated Vehicles in the State.

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27 **The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 due to Town Meeting Day.**

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29 ROBIN PIERCE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY SANDY THIBAULT,
30 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

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32 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis