

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, September 7, 2021
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
7 PLACE: Hybrid Meeting: In-person at CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal St. Winooski, VT, and
8 virtually via Zoom
9

10 **Members Present**

11 Justin Rabidoux, South Burlington
12 Matthew Langham, VTrans
13 Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
14 Bob Henneberger, Seniors
15 Josh Arneson, Richmond
16 Deirdre Holmes, Charlotte
17 Sam Andersen, GBIC
18 Nicole Losch, Burlington
19 Joss Besse, Bolton
20 Wayne Howe, Jericho
21 Chris Damiani, GMT
22 David Allerton, Milton

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
Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner
Sai Sarepalli, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Chris Dubin, Senior Transportation Planner

Guests

Evelyn McFarlane, VTrans
Jenn Conley, VHB
Dave Pelletier, VTrans
Zoe Neaderland, VTrans

23
24
25
26
27 1. Justin Rabidoux called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

28
29 **2. Consent Agenda**

30 SAM ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY
31 WAYNE HOWE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
32

33 **3. Approval of June 1, 2021 Minutes**

34 Justin Rabidoux asked for any changes, which there were none. SAM ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION
35 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2021, SECONDED BY JONATHON WEBER. THE
36 MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
37

38 **4. Public Comments**

39 None.
40

41 **5. Highway Safety Improvement Program Assessment & Implementation Plan**

42 Evelyn McFarlane, VTrans, and Jenn Conley, VHB, gave an update on VTrans staffing changes related to
43 the safety program and presented safety initiatives being undertaken by VTrans. The State Highway
44 Safety Plan (SHSP) is considered an umbrella plan, which incorporates elements from other safety plans
45 including the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Implementation Plan and HSIP Evaluation
46 and Manual. The SHSP serves as a framework for reducing fatalities and major crashes and identifies
47 Critical Emphasis Areas and state safety needs. Jenn shared data showing trends related to the Emphasis
48 Areas, noting that lane departures are the most common factor leading to crashes, and that most crashes
49 involve more than one factor.
50

51 The HSIP Implementation Plan was required because Vermont missed two of its stated safety targets
52 (lower fatalities, and bike/pedestrian). Safety targets are statewide and include crashes on all Vermont
53 roadways. The team looked at urban versus rural crashes and amount of funding spent to address crashes

1 in those areas. They identified a need to focus more on rural areas, on collector and local roads, and on
2 locally owned roads.

3
4 The aim of the HSIP Manual is to significantly reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all Vermont
5 roads. This requires a data driven, strategic approach with a focus on performance. Jenn shared an online
6 map with many layers that can be toggled on and off to identify if safety dollars can be used for upcoming
7 projects to address safety issues, such as roadway curves. TAC members can contact Evelyn for access to
8 the map: Evelyn.McFarlane@vermont.gov

9
10 Next steps include engaging regional planning commissions (RPC), RPCs engaging with their
11 municipalities, determining how to select/screen projects, as well as how to contract for improvements.

12 13 **6. Vermont Freight Plan – draft initiatives**

14 Dave Pelletier and Zoe Neaderland from VTrans provided an update on the Vermont Freight Plan, which
15 is a required plan and must be updated every five years. Note the Vermont Rail Plan was also recently
16 updated. They reviewed the Freight Plan goals, trends and issues, the needs assessment, and then walked
17 the TAC through the seven draft packages of initiatives. A TAC member asked if VTrans is in touch with
18 the Vermont Rail Action Network, which they are. A TAC member noted that higher truck weights are
19 allowed on state roads than the Interstate. VTrans staff said those higher weights apply to a few specific
20 commodities (e.g., milk, wood). The state previously asked the federal government about raising the
21 interstate weight limit but that would require an act of Congress. The presentation slides are available at:
22 <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/transportation-advisory-committee/>

23 24 **7. TAC Volunteer to serve on Long Range Planning Committee**

25 Bryan Davis said the CCRPC is seeking a TAC volunteer to serve on the CCRPC Long Range Planning
26 Committee (LRPC) to assist with the ECOS Plan Update. The TAC representative would join a Clean
27 Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) and Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) member as new members
28 of the LRPC. The planning timeline is expected to be from Sept/Oct 2021 to March/April 2023 with the
29 biggest committee engagement anticipated in 2022. There were no volunteers so Justin suggested anyone
30 interested contact Bryan (bdavis@ccrpcvt.org) in the next one to two weeks.

31 32 **8. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

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

35 36 **9. CCRPC Board Meeting Report**

37 In June the Board elected officers and voted to approve the schedule for FY22, warned a public hearing
38 for the FY22-25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), approved the VPSP2 FY23 Transportation
39 Project Priorities, voted to submit a comment letter on the Draft VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan,
40 and heard updates on the I-89 Study, CCRPC Equity Leadership Team, Comprehensive Economic
41 Development Strategy (CEDDS), Comprehensive Energy Plan, and the legislative update from the
42 Executive Director.

43
44 In July the Board held a public hearing for and voted to approve the FY22-25 Transportation
45 Improvement Program (TIP), reviewed Board committee opportunities, reviewed Policy Participation
46 Topics, discussed the FY22 CCRPC budget and staffing levels, and heard updates on the CEDDS, and
47 reinstatement of normal public meeting law.

48
49 There was no Board meeting in August.

50 51 **10. Chairman's/Members' Items**

52 VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant Program is open and applications are due
53 October 9. More information is at:

1 <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>

2

3 The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

4

5 The meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

6

7 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis