

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, October 5, 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 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
12 Justin Rabidoux, South Burlington
13 Dennis Lutz, Essex
14 Robin Pierce, Essex Junction
15 Matthew Langham, VTrans
16 Amy Bell, VTrans
17 Ashley Atkins, VTrans
18 Chris Jolly, FHWA
19 Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
20 Bob Henneberger, Seniors
21 Josh Arneson, Richmond
22 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
23 Deirdre Holmes, Charlotte
24 Sam Andersen, GBIC
25 Elizabeth Ross, Burlington
26 Wayne Howe, Jericho
27 Chris Damiani, GMT
28 David Allerton, Milton
29 Kirsten Jensen, Milton
30

Barbara Elliott, Huntington
Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
Andrea Morgante, Hinesburg
Sandy Thibault, CATMA
Kurt Johnson, Underhill

31 **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
Chris Dubin, Senior Transportation Planner

32 **Guests**

Jackie Cassino, VTrans
Michele Bailey, Vermont Arts Council
Mark Johnson, Bolt Mobility

33 1. Bryan Osborne called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

34 2. **Consent Agenda**

35 No consent agenda this month.

36 3. **Approval of September 7, 2021 Minutes**

37 Bryan Osborne asked for any changes, which there were none. SAM ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION
38 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, SECONDED BY BOB HENNEBERGER.
39 THE MOTION PASSED WITH BARBARA ELLIOTT ABSTAINING.
40

41 4. **Public Comments**

42 None.

43 4a. **TIP Amendment**

44 VTrans requested this TIP Amendment be included for TAC action. The project, Charlotte Rail Bridge
45 over Thorpe Brook, is part of the work that needs to be done for the Amtrak extension to Burlington.
46 Andrea would like more than just a repair project, the embankments are eroding, the culvert is undersized,
47 this is an opportunity to do more and look at it in a comprehensive way. Lewis Creek Association
48 advocated that the Town get involved because of the need for properly sized culverts. Deirdre asked if the
49 TAC could approve the amendment procedurally and then address those issues later? Andrea notes that
50 it's not just a water quality issue, but also erosion and structure size. There's nothing we can really do but
51 bring it to people's attention. Matthew pointed out the cost, it's about \$570,000 to replace the culvert, but
52 to replace with a structure would likely cost more than \$2 million, which VTrans doesn't have, but there
53 are some Western Corridor earmark funds that could potentially be available. Andrea asked about
54

1 compliance by the railroad with stormwater and who is going to push for the improvements. Matthew said
2 the state is responsible for the land beneath the railroad tracks, the railroad company is in charge of the
3 tracks. Andrea asked if there's a way to get the railroad company to pay for the improvements. SAM
4 ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE THE PROPOSED TIP
5 AMENDMENTS, SECONDED BY ROBIN PIERCE. THE MOTION PASSED WITH ANDREA
6 MORGANTE ABSTAINING.
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8 **5. Animating Infrastructure Grant Program and VTrans Art Installation Guidance**

9 Michele Bailey, Vermont Arts Council, and Jackie Cassino, VTrans, presented information about the
10 Animating Infrastructure Grant Program and the VTrans Policy and process for Art Installations on State
11 Transportation Facilities. Michele provided background on and numerous examples of using art and
12 creative placemaking to demonstrate that people and places are valued, to animate local infrastructure, to
13 enhance local economies, engage in civic dialogue, enhance public health, create educational and
14 community engagement opportunities, and more. Sam asked if there will be a press release or other
15 communication with municipalities. Michele said there will be direct outreach in October and November.
16 Justin sees great benefits from public art in South Burlington, which requires projects of a certain size to
17 include funding for art components, as does Burlington. These projects engage the community, showcase
18 public infrastructure, and tend to generate foot traffic. He asked TAC members to consider how to include
19 art components in local policies and budgets. Michele notes that pop up projects are a way to start small,
20 build local interest, then go bigger. Jonathon asked if grant funds could be used to pay for both art and
21 infrastructure, such as covered bike parking. Michele said the funds are only for the artist but there might
22 be a possibility depending on the project, the Vermont Arts Council is interested in new ideas. The Better
23 Places grant program might also be a funding source. Bob pointed out that AARP also has funding for
24 place-making and Michele said AARP has another grant round coming up, as well as a fall workshop
25 October 28-29. Guidelines and application for the Animating Infrastructure Grant Program are available
26 now, with letters of interest due in December, and invitations for 8-10 full proposals to follow. More
27 information on the Animating Infrastructure Grant Program:

28 <https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/organizations/animating-infrastructure>
29

30 Jackie presented installation guidance from VTrans for permanent installations. They are getting more
31 requests thanks to the Vermont Arts Council programs. There is a three-phase application process, and
32 applications are accepted on a rolling basis. There's no timeframe because each project is different so
33 there's a need to be flexible. Justin commended VTrans's response to the public's expectations and their
34 quick turnaround. Art is important in South Burlington and this is a great step forward to have the process
35 developed so quickly. Bryan commented on the illuminated train art on the Waterbury bridge and asked if
36 it's okay to have art illuminated on a state highway. Jackie said yes, it's an option. Bryan asked if art
37 could be installed on bridge abutments as those can be good gateways to a community, and yes that's a
38 possibility. More information on the Art Installations on State Transportation Facilities:

39 <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/policy-planning/art>
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41 Both presentations are available on the CCRPC TAC webpage: [https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-](https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/transportation-advisory-committee/)
42 [us/committees/transportation-advisory-committee/](https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/transportation-advisory-committee/)
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44 **6. Greenride Bikeshare Update**

45 Bryan Davis, CCRPC, and Mark Johnson, Bolt Mobility, provided an update on the expansion of
46 Greenride Bikeshare and conversion to electric assist bikes. Bryan provided background on the history,
47 partners, planning, funding and launch of the initial bikeshare system in 2018, and the system expansion
48 and conversion to electric assist bikes in 2021. Mark shared data trends of the new system, pointing out
49 the positive ridership impacts of summer months and college/university students returning to campus.
50 Bryan Osborne asked if there's a way to track recreational use versus transportation trips. Bryan Davis
51 said that we can look at the hub usage as one tool, and the team continues to push the system as a
52 transportation option. Mark notes that location and time of day are other datasets to inform those
53 discussions. He also noted the impacts of the labor shortage and supply chains as factors in getting the full

1 system deployed. Bryan Osborne asked about the operating season, and Mark replied that it's a year-
2 round system but that the fleet would likely be reduced during the winter. He also talked about how he
3 manages big snowstorms, by pulling bikes out of the system before a storm, shoveling out the stations,
4 then redeploying the bikes. Bryan Osborne asked about the system financials compared to the first
5 system, which was locally funded. Mark said that Bolt currently funds the system, there have been some
6 grant funds, and in the future Bolt will seek local station sponsors to expand the system. Bryan Osborne
7 asked how success is measured, and Mark said by increased ridership and increased members. Sandy also
8 noted the positive impact of bikesharing on vehicle parking demand. Sam said she was impressed with the
9 amount of work this takes, and that the business community and employment hubs would be great
10 locations for stations, especially for New Americans and others with limited access to employment. Mark
11 said he agrees. Jonathon asked about virtual hubs, and Mark said those are created by geofencing existing
12 public or private racks so that they show up on the system app as places where people can park bikes
13 without incurring a fee. Jonathon asked if more racks could be added to station hubs for people to park
14 their own bikes. Mark said that stations have extra capacity built in and could discuss allowing private
15 bikes to be parked at them, and there would need to be a way to indicate that it is okay for people to park
16 there. There was a question about the financial sustainability and profitability, and while Mark didn't
17 have that information he indicated that Bolt is pleased with the system usage so far. Jason asked how
18 bikes are charged, and Mark said that users can see battery charge levels using the app, as can he, and he
19 carries extra batteries with him to swap in the field and recharge at the warehouse. Jason pointed out that
20 the existing system boundary doesn't include St Michaels College and asked if it had been considered.
21 Mark said he agrees with some boundary changes and will pursue.

22 23 **7. Vermont Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2) – Review Statewide Potential** 24 **Project List and Provide Comments**

25 Christine Forde, CCRPC, reviewed the memo in the agenda packet, which shows the Chittenden County
26 projects recommended by VTrans for funding, as well as those for later consideration, on the Statewide
27 Potential Project Lists for Paving, Roadway, and Traffic & Safety. The implementation schedule hasn't
28 been determined but all projects are funded. The TAC is being asked to review the project lists and
29 provide comments to VTrans. The memo includes some suggested comments by CCRPC staff for
30 projects in the "Later Consideration" category. Jonathon asked why there's no funding for the Essex
31 Junction multimodal station. Christine noted this particular project is for circulation at the station, and the
32 Village is interested in the building structure. There's more thinking needed for what needs to be done.
33 VTrans may apply for a grate for station upgrades statewide, which would include this facility. Wayne
34 asked about the VT117/Skunk Hollow Road project and whether it was to replace a culvert, which it is
35 not. Previous thinking was to realign the intersection, or fix the slope to improve visibility. JUSTIN
36 RABIDOUX MOVED THAT THE TAC RECOMMEND COMMENTS PREPARED BY STAFF WITH
37 EDITS TO BE SUBMITTED TO VTRANS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE VPSP2 PROCESS. THE
38 MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SAM ANDERSEN AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

39 40 **8. TAC Volunteer to serve on Long Range Planning Committee (Action Item – 5 min)**

41 CCRPC requests a TAC volunteer to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee to assist with the
42 ECOS Plan Update. Representatives from the CWAC, TAC & PAC would benefit the process, expected
43 from Sept/Oct 2021 to March/April 2023. The biggest committee engagement is anticipated to be in 2022.

44 45 **9. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

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

48 49 **10. CCRPC Board Meeting Report**

50 In September the Board voted to approve the Town of Hinesburg determination of energy compliance to
51 the amended Hinesburg Town Plan, voted to approve the 2021 Underhill Town Plan, confirm the
52 Underhill planning process, and grant affirmative determination of energy compliance for the 2021
53 Underhill Town Plan, and heard updates on Executive Director visits to municipal elected bodies, hiring

1 Ann Janda as the Senior Energy Project Manager, and noted the Housing Convening on 9/30. There will
2 be two Board meetings in October so that members can participate in equity learning sessions with
3 consultant Creative Discourse.

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5 **11. Chairman's/Members' Items**

- 6 • **VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grants** – applications due October 9:
7 <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Highway-and-Stormwater-Mitigation-Program>
- 8 • **VTrans Transportation Alternatives Grant Program** – Applications are due by e-mail by
9 Wednesday, November 24, 2021. <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt>

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11 The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

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13 BARBARA ELLIOTT MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED, SECONDED BY SAM
14 ANDERSEN, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 10:54
15 AM.

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17 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis