

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, June 7, 2022
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
7 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom
8

9 **Members Present**

10 Amy Bell, VTrans
11 Matthew Arancio, VTrans
12 Dave Pelletier, VTrans
13 Tina Bohl, VTrans
14 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
15 Bob Henneberger, Seniors
16 Dennis Lutz, Essex
17 Dierdre Holmes, Charlotte
18 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
19 Barbara Elliott, Huntington
20 Ravi Venkataraman, Richmond
21 Kirsten Jensen, Milton
22 Sandy Thibault, CATMA
23 Chris Damiani, GMT
24 Adam Wechsler, Jericho
25 Robin Pierce, Essex Junction
26
27

Bruce Hoar, Williston
Jon Rauscher, Winooski
Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
Tom DiPietro, South Burlington

28 **Staff**

Charlie Baker, Executive Director
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner
Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner
Sai Sarepalli, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

29 **Guest**

Jonathan Slason, RSG

30 1. Bryan Osborne called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

31 **2. Consent Agenda**

32 DENNIS LUTZ MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY
33 BOB HENNEBERGER. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

34 **3. Approval of May 2, 2022 Minutes**

35 BARBARA ELLIOTT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2022,
36 SECONDED BY JONATHON WEBER. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
37

38 **4. Public Comments**

39 No comments from the public.
40

41 **5. FY2023-2026 Draft TIP**

42 Christine Forde, CCRPC, provided background on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP),
43 reviewed the various sections and components of the document, and gave a presentation on the draft
44 FY2023–2026 TIP. Note that airport items are included for information purposes only because the
45 CCRPC, as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) doesn't have control over aviation funds.
46 Chirstine noted this is a large TIP which reflects a number of large projects that have been in development
47 for a number of years. For example, the New Facility/Major Roadway Upgrades category includes the
48 Champlain Parkway, Railyard Enterprise, and Exit 17. The Safety/Traffic Operations/ITS category has
49 the highest number of projects (18). There is a significant amount of transit funding which goes to Green
50 Mountain Transit. The TIP also includes a number of Circ Alternative projects. Jonathon asked if we
51 have a high level sense of how we're doing with system preservation and are we spending
52 enough to keep up with it. Christine says we take a closer look during development of the long
53 range transportation plan. Eleni adds that we'll be looking at performance measures for progress
54 and we'll have more information in the fall. Dennis said it's important that we look in retrospect at

1 the Circ Alts projects and whether they addressed the congestion they were designed to address since the
2 Circ Highway wasn't constructed.

3 DENNIS LUTZ MADE A MOTION THAT THE CCRPC BOARD WARN A PUBLIC HEARING FOR
4 THEIR JULY MEETING FOR THE FY2023–2026 TIP, AND THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE
5 TIP IN JULY, SECONDED BY SANDY THIBAUT. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
6

7 **6. Regional Park & Ride Plan Update and Discussion**

8 Jonathan Slason, RSG, gave a brief overview of the project purpose and schedule, reviewed the revised
9 vision and goals, shared an facility inventory and commute shed map, noting the absence of a facility in
10 the south/Rt 7 area, shared a summary of facility findings and occupancy data (there has been a decline in
11 use during COVID), pointed out the decline in transit ridership and correlation in lower Park and Ride
12 use, and presented the methodology to screen, prioritize and implement future facilities.
13

14 Jonathon Weber suggested that Park and Rides closer to Burlington consider including bikeshare stations,
15 and he noted that Local Motion is working with VTrans to relocate the existing bike lockers in Burlington
16 and Winooski to Park and Ride facilities and they can evaluate and the utilization rates at some point. He
17 also asked that this team push a little harder on the quality of the bike facilities connecting to Park and
18 Rides which are often located on state highways, and painted bike lanes are high stress facilities and he'd
19 like to see facilities with a bicycle level of traffic stress of 1 or 2. He asked if we have data to support that
20 Park and Rides are reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled? Jonathan Slason said
21 we know there's consolidation at these facilities, but we don't know exactly what that looks like at this
22 time, so let's see if can track how much consolidation onto transit or into cars or on bikes is happening.
23

24 Deirdre asked if there is a way to measure demand for a potential facility that doesn't yet exist, such as in
25 Charlotte? Jonathan said there is demand correlated with certain activities, and that would be a location to
26 go to, and it's primarily the commuting mode that we're looking to shift at a Park and Ride, and we know
27 how many people are employed in a location, we know generally where they work because of census data
28 and employment data, so we know how many people are going to the same origin and destinations, so we
29 can roughly connect the percentage of people who can combine trips, and we know areas with limited
30 access to transit to get to those locations, so level of transit access and number of employed persons gives
31 a starting point.
32

33 Chris from GMT noted that two of the biggest factors from the transit perspective are the frequency of
34 service and the travel time of bus versus car. He also asked why the Ferrisburg/Vergennes facility wasn't
35 included on the Route 7 corridor as it's served by TVT for the Link route. Jonathan said the team didn't
36 have data on its occupancy and we didn't do an existing facility summary of it because it's outside the
37 county, but we should acknowledge that's it's just outside the county boundary. Jonathan asked Chris if
38 the travel time of the buses is tracked, and if it's changed over time, has there been more or less
39 congestion, and is this something that could be shared? Chris says GMT has tracked this at certain times
40 and will look into what is available to share. Jonathan mentioned the ridership demand piece and noted
41 that Steven Falbel, Steadman Hill provided some data but if there are data points or trends that would be
42 valuable to include in the plan to show correlation on Park and Ride occupancy and transit ridership to let
43 him know.
44

45 Sandy agreed with Jonathon Weber that other transportation options need to be near these facilities such
46 as in Colchester. She noted that parking utilization is impacted by things like working from home, there's
47 been a decline at UVM and on the Hill. CATMA will be conducting their fall survey and said they could
48 add a question to it to get additional data. Jason Charest asked if a question could be included to
49 understand people's willingness to share a vehicle with others. Sandy noted it might be related to people's
50 schedules rather than comfort.
51

52 Jonathan suggested that rather focus on facility prioritization, the Plan instead consider what would be the
53 necessary steps for implementation.

1 Amy Bell asked what role do municipal park and rides play in this Plan, it seems like the focus is on state
2 facilities? There might be smaller scale facilities that play a role in meeting Park and Ride demand.
3 Jonathan says RSG has been carrying out the work regardless of facility ownership and jurisdiction, but
4 notes that the implementation and maintenance would matter by jurisdiction. He asked CCRPC staff to
5 respond as to whether and how implementation would be affected by the municipal versus state facilities.
6 Eleni would like to consider this further and the role that/potential impact of smaller municipal facilities.
7 Amy suggests that those local facilities could meet demand in areas where this study shows but doesn't
8 indicate facility. Need to consider how many might be needed if existing ones are currently being utilized
9 to their full potential.

10
11 The TAC gave consensus on the direction RSG is headed. The project is slated to be complete by the end
12 of July. Deirdre asked if RSG has come across a price per gallon that changes people's driving behavior?
13 Jonathan said there isn't specific price but there is price elasticity so that as fuel prices increase, behavior
14 changes to some extent. Also, new technologies like being able to attend meetings virtually can affect
15 transportation behavior.

16 17 **7. I-89 2050 Study Update**

18 Eleni Churchill, CCRPC, gave an overview of the project including vision, goals, and schedule. Jason
19 Charest, CCRPC, then reviewed the project process including a corridor assessment and corridor
20 "bundles" evaluation. Bob asked if electrification of fleet and impacts on fuel consumption were taken
21 into account? Yes that was part of bundle 2 which modeled 90% of light duty fleet being electric.
22 Eleni reviewed a table of final recommendations (short, medium, long term) which were approved by the
23 CCRPC Board in May. This includes forming a monitoring committee that will meet to review data,
24 metrics, transportation demand management (TDM) implementation and so on. The TDM bundle
25 includes an aggressive scenario in the short term, and the implementation and resulting impacts will
26 provide important data and information about other future needed I-89 investments from this study.
27 The next step is to work on completing the final draft report. <https://envision89.com/>

28 29 **8. E&D Summit Recap**

30 Marshall Distel, CCRPC, provided an overview and recap of the Third Annual E&D (Elders and Persons
31 with Disabilities) Transportation Summit held June 3 in Burlington. This event was aimed at providers
32 and partners from around the state. The agenda and presentations are available at:
33 <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit/E-and-D>
34 Sandy noted that CATMA is hosting a transportation summit in the fall and will be in touch about some
35 of the information from the E&D Summit.
36

37 **9. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

38 See bulleted list at the end of the agenda for current CCRPC projects. TAC members are encouraged to
39 ask staff for more information on the status of any of these on-going or recently completed projects.
40

41 **10. CCRPC Board Meeting Report**

42 In May the Board had a public hearing for and voted to approve a Major TIP Amendment, held a public
43 hearing for and voted to approve the FY23 UPWP and Budget, voted to approve the submission of the
44 VPSP2 Asset and Regionally Driven Potential Project List to VTrans, heard a staff presentation on the I-
45 89 2050 Study draft recommendations, heard an update on CCRPC equity contract and tasks, and heard
46 other updates from the Executive Director.
47

48 **11. Chair/Members' Items**

- 49 • 2022 VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program is open. Applications must be received by
50 1:00 p.m., June 8. <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>
- 51 • VTrans Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid program announced – letters of intent due June 24, for
52 more information visit <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Grant-in-aid-Program> or

- 1 contact Ross Gouin, 802-595-2381, Ross.Gouin@vermont.gov.
- 2 • Safe Streets and Roads for All: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new Safe
- 3 Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program to support regional, local, and tribal
- 4 initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.
- 5 ○ SS4A website with the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):
- 6 <https://www.transportation.gov/SS4A>
- 7 ○ Webinars with more info: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A/webinars>

8 Charlie recognized Dennis Lutz and his upcoming retirement and thank him for his years of service to the

9 Town of Essex, CCMPO and CCRPC. Dennis said that Aaron Martin will be the new TAC

10 representative. Dennis will continue with some work for the Town on a part time basis in the fall.

11

12 The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, 2022 but may be cancelled, we will let TAC

13 members know.

14

15 The meeting adjourned at 10:46.

16

17 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis