

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

5 DATE: Tuesday, August 2, 2022
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
7 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom
8

9 **Members Present**

10 Matthew Langham, VTrans

11 Matthew Arancio, VTrans

12 Ashley Atkins, VTrans

13 Dave Pelletier, VTrans

14 Chris Jolly, FHWA

15 Bob Henneberger, Seniors

16 Laura Wheelock, Burlington

17 Dierdre Holmes, Charlotte

18 Barbara Elliott, Huntington

19 Aaron Martin, Essex

20 Ravi Venkataraman, Richmond

21 Dave Allerton, Milton

22 Sandy Thibault, CATMA

23 Adam Wechsler, Persons with Disabilities

24 Tom Dipietro, South Burlington

25 Bruce Hoar, Williston

26 Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
27

Mary Anne Michaels, Rail

Adele Gravitz, Shelburne

Kurt Johnson, Underhill

Elaine Haney, Essex

Wayne Howe, Jericho

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. Barbara Elliot called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

31 **2. Consent Agenda**

32 There is no consent agenda this month however CCRPC staff shared a draft TIP amendment by email
33 yesterday. This was added to the deliberative agenda.

34 **3. Approval of June 7, 2022 Minutes**

35 Bruce noted that Tom Dipietro is listed twice, which CCRPC staff will correct. JONATHON WEBER
36 MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2022, SECONDED BY BOB
37 HENNEBERGER. THE MOTION PASSED WITH ABSTENTIONS BY SAM ANDERSEN, ADELE
38 GRAVITZ, AARON MARTIN.
39

40 **4. Public Comments**

41 No comments from the public.
42

43 **5. TIP Amendment**

44 Christine referred to the TIP amendment memo sent via email yesterday which outlined the proposed
45 changes and reason for change. Dierdre asked for short explanation of the amendment, will the project
46 change in appearance? Christine said it will improve safety with signals and pedestrian crossings, the
47 actual look won't really change, just rail safety function. It will bring the project into compliance to get
48 Amtrak service to Burlington. The additional funding is needed because bids came in higher than
49 anticipated. BRUCE HOAR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TIP AMENDMENT,
50 SECONDED BY SAM ANDERSEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The TAC also
51 supported VTrans bringing a separate TIP amendment related to a culvert project to the Board later this
52 month rather than waiting until September to bring to the TAC first.
53

54 **6. VTrans Transportation Equity Framework**

1 Dave Pelletier, VTrans, introduced Jonathan Slason, RSG, from the consultant team who provided project
2 background information and led a discussion on how the CCRPC and municipalities consider
3 transportation equity in their activities. The Vermont Transportation Equity Framework is being
4 developed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) in partnership with the 11 RPCs as
5 directed by the state legislature in Section 41 of Act 55 (2021) (An act relating to the Transportation
6 Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation). The Framework project seeks to
7 develop a comprehensive set of actions to address inequities through changes in transportation policies
8 and investments.

9
10 The Framework will help inform how equity is embedded in transportation planning and decisions.
11 This transportation equity effort is midway through the process, and this presentation and discussion is
12 part of the engagement task. The working definition of Transportation Equity is “Transportation provides
13 access for an individual's daily needs and quality of life. Transportation provision has been unequal in its
14 distribution, application, benefits, and burdens. This has resulted in existing inequities that we experience
15 today.” RPCs are involved in the project working group with Charlie Baker, CCRPC and Mike Winslow,
16 ACRPC participating. Key input from RPCs is during stakeholder/public involvement, draft
17 recommendations, and draft/final plan.

18
19 A Transportation Equity Framework is a tool to help decision makers plan for and prioritize projects,
20 ensure accurate representation in decision making, and enhance the equitable delivery of services. This
21 effort corresponds to President’s Executive Order 13985 which defines equity. This provides guidance
22 and starting point for this work but will be adapted to Vermont conditions. Other recent federal actions
23 with guidance and information about transportation equity include the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
24 Act (IIJA), US DOT Equity Action Plan, and US DOT Strategic Plan.

25
26 Project team is working to bring new voices to the table and elevate those previously marginalized or
27 underrepresented in the planning process. Engagement process serves two functions: 1) Identify discrete
28 inequities, barriers, and accountability methods that need to be addressed in the framework; 2) Define
29 pathways toward implementation to ensure the framework is actionable. Four communities statewide are
30 targeted in direct engagement including Winooski/Burlington BIPOC young adults. RPC engagement
31 process includes sharing what transportation equity means for each RPC and each region in the state, and
32 discussing how equity can be embedded in the activities of the RPC.

33
34 The preliminary wireframe consists of four Pillars of Process Equity described and discussed as follows
35 (see the [presentation](#) for more detail):

36 Distributive – How can we obtain an **accurate representation of the population** and identify
37 communities of concern?

38 Adele said Community Heart & Soul is a great program and process, what they’ve found is that beyond
39 the data is finding trusted community leaders who can serve as liaisons and connectors. Building trust is
40 important. There also may be new groups that arrive in a community between census data collection.
41 Look for non-traditional activities and gatherings to reach new people and groups. Elaine notes that Essex
42 has used Heart & Soul with success.

43
44 Deirdre asked about ways to anticipate future growth in communities in addition to knowing who is
45 already here. Jon notes that forecasting is fascinating but impossible so it’s challenging to understand the
46 evolution of how communities change over time. Charlie points out that CCRPC uses census data and
47 notes that in the recently released ECOS report, there were 12,000 new people in Chittenden County, of
48 which only 32 were white. CCRPC continues to identify and contact new groups and people with whom
49 to develop relationships. The [Equity Impact Worksheet](#) is another equity tool used as part of projects.

50
51 Laura adds that Burlington is taking significant effort to find community members and groups. The City
52 is also working with high school students which is a diverse population with strong voices. Adam brought
53 up the disability community in Vermont but isn’t aware of anything specific to Jericho, where he lives.
54 He’s also on the Vermont Center for Independent Living council, which has a transportation committee,

1 he notes that there's an issue with finding enough drivers. There's also the E&D (Elders and Persons with
2 Disabilities) program, there was a summit held in June. There's still difficulty ensuring enough volunteer
3 drivers.

4
5 In the chat Jonathon Weber said he thinks it is important to think about how local policies, especially
6 zoning, can and is used by privileged groups to gate keep resources. If we had zoning that allowed for
7 more housing in Burlington, for example, more folks from underserved communities might be able to live
8 here and enjoy access to services like transit. But if we only consider existing populations in
9 communities, we risk perpetuating or not addressing those gate keeping policies. So, in that sense it is
10 important to consider those potential "future" residents.

11
12 Procedural – How can all voices be heard, participate, and engage in the planning process and create
13 space for their involvement? Are those most burdened or affected by the plan part of the dialogue?
14 (equitable access to decision making)

15
16 Bob commented that the people making decisions are typically white middle class people, so while
17 getting input from diverse populations is great, they don't have the decision making power. He used to
18 live in the deep South and that was an issue there. Jon asks if there are examples of bringing new voices
19 to the project planning process. Sam notes that she sits on an economic development committee and when
20 they got a BIPOC member on the committee, it was enlightening to hear their comments, specifically
21 about transportation. Trains were being overlooked and family connections in and out of the state were
22 inhibited because there wasn't good train service to Vermont. Airline travel was too expensive so their
23 family needed more affordable transportation options. Sam also asks if people are able to give up 2-3
24 hours on a weekday morning to participate. How can we make our scheduling more accessible?

25
26 Eleni said that at the project level we try to reach out to diverse populations, including focus groups. One
27 thing that became clear during those groups was identifying who the final decision makers are, and
28 secondly the need to focus on education about how we receive input and how it gets used in decision
29 making. We went back to those groups at the end of the project they couldn't understand that process.

30
31 Sandy said that along with education, employers are finding that transportation impacts who is able to
32 accept and keep jobs, and related a story of someone who had to give up their job because transportation
33 wasn't working out. Providing resources and education to employees and employers could be helpful.

34
35 Contextual – Are there inequities in the outcomes experienced by members of our society? Are services
36 equitable and available to all? (needs analysis, service provision)

37 Jon asked that by bringing new voices to the table, and hearing about needs of different populations, has
38 there been efforts to identify new investments that would be focused on addressing inequities? He
39 referenced the equity analysis and report done by the CCRPC and asked if those and other efforts have
40 resulted in new projects?

41
42 Eleni said they may not have resulted in new or specific projects but those conversations influenced the
43 end result. Bryan noted that outreach for the Regional Active Transportation Plan update included
44 listening sessions for traditionally underserved populations, in FY23 we'll be working on a walk/bike
45 plan for Winooski which will draw on the 2017 Transportation Plan which was a first step for the CCRPC
46 to engage diverse populations and going where people are, including the school. The Old North End
47 (ONE) Mobility Audit with Old Spokes Home used in person surveys and provided new connections to
48 residents in the ONE. In addition, the ONE Walk Bike Stormwater study included translated materials,
49 including fliers in different languages to businesses along North Street. Eleni noted engagement with
50 Winooski youth and officials about transportation to school during winter months since travel from
51 neighborhoods to school is challenging due to lack of options and winter conditions.

52
53 Jonathon Weber expanded on the ONE Mobility Audit and reflected specific comments from a person in
54 a wheelchair about difficulty navigating curb extensions and sidewalk conditions, they were having to use

1 the roadway instead. This was related in particular to pilot curb extensions so Local Motion is revisiting
2 their policy to ensure pilots meet the needs of all users, and that sidewalks are in good condition before
3 installing curb extensions, and he hopes that municipalities will also consider sidewalk conditions
4 complementary to curb extensions so they meet the needs of all users. Bryan noted a key takeaway from
5 that study was that people aren't familiar with the transportation planning process and are unaware of
6 projects and how they can influence decisions.

7
8 Corrective Equity – How will future actions (investments, policies, etc.) deliver equitable outcomes? How
9 will progress toward equitable outcomes be monitored and measured? (prioritization process, ongoing
10 performance management)

11 Christine said that this is a work in progress at the regional level. It's easier for people to react to specific
12 projects at the local level whereas regional projects tend to be higher level so our process is broader in
13 trying to include as many voices as possible and we're still working on getting better at this. Charlie noted
14 that we started to do some of this work over a year ago through the Vermont Project Selection and
15 Prioritization Process (VPSP2), which is a process between VTrans and RPCs, and we're not doing other
16 prioritization outside of that process. Equity is not a specific component of that process but he made a
17 pitch that it be included in that way.

18
19 Jon asked about other local examples, and Deirdre shared that Charlotte is working on a cross-town trail
20 for walking and biking, and the route included a section to go by the Clemmons Family Farm. The Farm
21 is expanding to become a more public place and didn't want the Town trail to go along their property.
22 They spoke several times about this at Town meetings because they felt their concerns weren't being
23 heard. This goes back to who to you go to for information, and who are the decision makers. In this case
24 the decision makers perhaps didn't fully understand the concerns being raised.

25
26 Charlie asked if there has been national research on whether investment in projects, for example in low
27 income neighborhoods, result in equitable outcomes. Laura says it may be worthwhile to look at
28 improvements on North Street to see if there are benefits to those communities.

29
30 How to view and measure success, what does a successful outcome look like? Have there been metrics
31 considered at the regional or town level? Charlie says that CCRPC identified indicators as part of ECOS
32 Scorecard some of which are based on the fundamental indicator of wealth.

33
34 Adele said to ask the community that you're trying to serve about whether there are benefits. Once you
35 make an improvement and if land values increase, are you making the community better if people are
36 unable to continue living there? If we offer to make a place nicer, is that what they really want? Jon notes
37 the term environmental gentrification captures this sentiment.

38
39 Please share any additional feedback and examples after the meeting, as well as any comments on a
40 working definition of transportation equity and other key terms. Any examples of tools, methods and
41 measures are appreciated. Jon notes they plan to include a glossary with at least some working definitions
42 as part of the project. Presentation: [https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-](https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/VTrans_TranspEquity_TAC_Aug2022.pdf)
43 [content/uploads/2022/08/VTrans_TranspEquity_TAC_Aug2022.pdf](https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/VTrans_TranspEquity_TAC_Aug2022.pdf)

44 45 **7. 2023 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update**

46 Christine Forde, CCRPC, provided some background on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and
47 noted that the draft project tables for discussion were included as part of the agenda packet. She
48 commended all the great work to complete the projects in Table 1. Table 2 is the starting point for the
49 2023 MTP Project List and contains projects that were previously selected, in cooperation with
50 municipalities, and Table 3 is being provided as a reference to TAC members and lists the planning
51 studies that have been completed since 2018. There may be projects on this list that should be added to
52 the MTP project list. Next month we'll bring updated lists for consideration.

53

1 Eleni Churchill, CCRPC, said that over the next couple of TAC meetings we'll have more comprehensive
2 discussion on the draft MTP but for now are presenting some draft elements, including the draft MTP
3 vision, goals, and objectives. Eleni screen-shared the draft Transportation Vision, Goals and Objectives
4 which are included in the agenda packet and welcomed comments and suggestions as these are a first
5 draft. Eleni noted that the equity section can be expanded and welcomes comments. Adele suggested
6 including economic equity under Economy, and when you talk about equity to reference the
7 Transportation Equity Framework, it should be mentioned as part of the vision statement. Eleni requested
8 comments by the end of August so we can include them in the September TAC packet.
9

10 **8. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

11 See bulleted list at the end of the agenda for current CCRPC projects. TAC members are encouraged to
12 ask staff for more information on the status of any of these on-going or recently completed projects.
13

14 **9. CCRPC Board Meeting Report**

15 In July the Board held a public hearing on and voted to approve the FY23-26 Transportation
16 Improvement Program, voted to certify the planning process, heard a presentation on the West Central
17 Vermont, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and how the CEDS will be
18 incorporated into our 2023 ECOS Plan, considered openings on various Board committees, heard a
19 legislative priority update, heard an update on the Equity Advisory Committee, and other Executive
20 Director updates.
21

22 **10. Chair/Members' Items**

- 23 • **Safe Streets and Roads for All:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the new
24 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program to support regional, local, and tribal
25 initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.
 - 26 ○ SS4A website with the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):
27 <https://www.transportation.gov/SS4A>
 - 28 ○ Webinars with more info: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A/webinars>
- 29 • **VTrans Mobility and Transportation Innovation (MTI) Grant Program:** Applications are
30 being accepted for innovative strategies and projects that improve mobility and access to services
31 for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles, and reduce
32 greenhouse gas emissions. The application, with more details about the program and funding
33 guidelines, is available on the AOT website at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit>. The
34 deadline for filing applications (email preferred) is Friday August 26 at 4:30 p.m. To request a
35 copy of the application, or if you have any questions, please contact Dan Currier, Go Vermont
36 Program Manager, 802-279-5236, Dan.J.Currier@vermont.gov.
- 37 • **VTrans Park and Ride Grant Program:** Applications are due by e-mail by September 2, 2022.
38 To learn more about this year's grant program and to access the Municipal Park-and-Ride
39 Program information and applications, visit <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/parkandrides>
- 40 • The **VLCT Municipal Equity Toolkit** is a ten-part online resource that covers everything from
41 creating a municipal equity committee to building a framework and action plan to listing equity-
42 related books, podcasts, and videos. It is free and available at vlct.org/JDEIB-resources.
- 43 • **Greenride Bikeshare** update: vendor Bolt Mobility ceased operating in July. The project team is
44 exploring system options for 2022 and 2023.
45

46 Bryan explained that the CCRPC does not plan on applying to the SS4A federal grant program but will
47 support and assist with any local applications. The CCRPC will consider submitted a regional application
48 next year but notes that given the amount of the minimum grant request, the required match is fairly
49 substantial so we'll want to be mindful of using regional matching funds and the potential budget impact.
50 We'll discuss with the TAC in the future.
51

1 Bryan noted the other items and explained that bikeshare vendor Bolt Mobility unexpectedly ceased
2 operations in July so the local partners are working to warehouse the existing fleet and explore next steps.

3
4 Sandy added that CATMA is celebrating 30 years and is planning a Transportation Summit for October
5 18 at UVM. More information coming soon.

6
7 The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

8
9 SAM ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY BOB HENNEBERGER,
10 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 10:41.

11
12 Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis