

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE - MINUTES
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4 DATE: Tuesday, September 20, 2022
5 TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda
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Members Present:

Eric Vorwald, PAC Rep from Winooski
Abby Bleything, Board Rep. Alt. from Winooski
Annie Costandi, CWAC Rep from Essex
Andrew Watts, Board Rep from Williston
Bob Henneberger, TAC Rep
Sandy Thibault, TAC Rep
Dana Hanley, Board Rep from Charlotte

Staff:

Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Taylor Newton, Planning Program Manager
Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Charlie Baker, Executive Director
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner
Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

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9 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

10 Charlie Baker welcomed everyone at 7:02pm.

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12 **2. Approve August 9, 2022 Minutes**

13 Eric Vorwald made a motion, seconded by Andrew Watts to approve the August 9, 2022 minutes. No further
14 discussion. MOTION PASSED.

15 **3. ECOS Plan Schedule**

16 Charlie reviewed the revised ECOS Plan schedule. He noted staffs concerns regarding the alignment of the plan
17 adoption with the formation of a new CCRPC Equity Advisory Committee in fall 2022, VTrans' development of
18 Equity Framework in early 2023, the delay in receiving updated LEAP data from the Department of Public Service
19 required to update the Regional Energy Plan, and the additional time needed to complete the CEDS. He noted that the
20 schedule will result in a more phased approach to completing the ECOS Plan with moving forward with adoption of
21 the CEDS and MTP first (spring and early summer 2023). He stated that the Long-range Planning Committee may
22 not have to meet every month after this fall.

23
24 Eric asked for clarification about the ECOS Plan expiration date. Charlie clarified that the ECOS Plan will not
25 technically expire until 2026.

26
27 The Committee found the revised schedule sound and agreed to recommend it to the Board.

28
29 **4. Review the DRAFT Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Project List**

30 Eleni Churchill provided an overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and explained the need to have
31 the MTP adopted by June 2023.

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33 Introduction Comments:

- 34 1. Eric asked if updates to the Public Participation Plan are required. Eleni said that CCRPC will update the
35 Public Participation Plan in 2024 and will reference that fact in this section of the MTP.
36 2. Eric asked for more clarification in how the regional transportation priorities are established. Charlie noted
37 that the priorities are set by the Region in coordination with the municipalities and VTrans (for Federal
38 projects) and agreed that this section could clarify that point.
39

40 Vision, Goal and Objectives Comments:

- 41 1. Eric requested that under the Environment and Resilience goal include discussion about VMT reduction.
42

43 Metropolitan Transportation System Comments:

- 44 1. Eric asked about fourth paragraph of the Metropolitan Transportation System section. He asked for
45 clarification about the date of "today" when talking about the condition of arterial highways and also if we

1 are talking about pavement condition. He further asked about context as to why there has not been substantial
2 improvement pavement condition between 2018 and 2021. Bob asked that this section reference that
3 pavement conditions will likely get better in coming years due the influx of Federal funds to the State.

- 4 2. Eric asked if the plan will incorporate discussion about electric bike or electric scooter infrastructure in the
5 Active Transportation Facilities section. Eleni said she would follow up with Bryan with an answer.
- 6 3. Bob asked if E-bike charging capabilities will be considered within the plan. Eleni said that the plan will
7 include a recommendation to include all types of charging infrastructure.
- 8 4. Marshall said that he would review the language related to Special Transit Services to ensure that there is no
9 duplicate language and a clearer distinction between GMT and SSTA services.
- 10 5. Abby stated that there needs to be consistency in titles/keys of each charts and that there should be source
11 information provided for each chart.
- 12 6. Sandy requested that the plan provide some information explaining how volume to capacity has changed
13 over time.
- 14 7. Abby asked about the volume to capacity ratio map and why there is a high ratio in the Winooski circulator.
15 Jason said he will double check the model inputs and Eleni mentioned that the circulator is a difficult facility
16 to model. Abby requested that the volume to capacity map continue to show the whole county and that there
17 be smaller inset maps showing particular urban areas.
- 18 8. Dana asked about the last scoping study at the US 7/Falls Road/Harbor Road intersection. Jason stated that a
19 scoping study was conducted in 2014 and the preferred alternative is now included on the TIP.
- 20 9. Safety – Abby said she didn't see the need of the final two graphs on bike/ped safety
- 21 10. In the Freight Transportation section, Eric asked for a comparison between freight tonnage in Chittenden
22 County to other regions in Vermont or comparable metropolitan areas. Jason and Marshall will take a look at
23 that data.
- 24 11. Abby requested that in the transportation climate section that references the 2015 EPA Greenhouse Gas
25 Emissions inventory should be updated to 2020 dataset. Abby also requested that the public health section
26 should reference that Vermont has high rates of asthma (4th in the country).

27 28 Financial Plan Comments

- 29 1. Eric asked that figures be discussed in billions instead of millions in the Financial Plan.
- 30 2. Sandy asked about future spending allocated to EV charging infrastructure. Eleni clarified funding for that
31 kind of infrastructure would be part of the total funding available for new transportation infrastructure.

32 33 Scenario Review Comments

- 34 1. Bob mentioned that he really thinks that population projections in the scenarios are low and that Chittenden
35 County will be higher given climate change. Eleni mentioned that we'll update again in five years so the
36 RPC can adjust accordingly.

37
38 Staff will share a revised version of the MTP with the Committee in October or in November. Will share a Doodle
39 Poll to find time on October 11.

40 41 **6. Adjourn**

42 The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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44 Respectfully submitted, Taylor Newton