

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present

Amy Bell, VTrans
Matthew Arancio, VTrans
Katharine Otto, VTrans
Chris Jolly, FHWA
Bob Henneberger, Seniors
Norm Baldwin, Burlington
Ravi Venkataraman, Burlington
Deirdre Holmes, Charlotte
Sandy Thibault, CATMA
Barbara Elliott, Huntington
Kurt Johnson, Underhill
Bruce Hoar, Williston
Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
Sam Andersen, GBIC
Chris Damiani, GMT
Erica Quallen, South Burlington
Aaron Martin, Essex

Chris Yuen, Essex Junction
Nic Longo, BIA

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
Chris Dubin, Senior Transportation Planner
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Sai Sarepalli, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

Guests

Derek Lyman, VTrans
Ryan Knapp, VTrans
Ian Kilburn, VTrans
Amanda Froeschle, VDH
Roger Thompson, FHWA

1. Barbara Elliott called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2. Consent Agenda

BRUCE HOAR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY SAM ANDERSEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of January 3, 2023 Minutes

BRUCE HOAR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2023, SECONDED BY SANDY THIBAUT. THE MOTION PASSED WITH SAM ANDERSEN AND ERICA QUALLEN ABSTAINING.

4. Public Comments

No comments from the public.

5. Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Projects

Sai Sarepalli, CCRPC, and Derek Lyman and Ryan Knapp, VTrans, provided an update on various Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects including the Bluetooth AID grant project, ITS Management Plan, 511 Traveler Information website, and Advanced Transportation Management Systems (ATMS). The presentation is available on the [TAC webpage](#). VTrans manages a number of systems include roadway weather, traffic counting devices, weigh in motion, pedestrian crossing buttons, radar speed feedback signs and more. Their ITS mission and vision is similar to the VTrans mission/vision and emphasizes excellent customer service, the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, providing real time traffic information, and archiving historical data to inform decision making. The ITS program objectives tie back to education of VTrans staff for what ITS is and its role in safety.

1 Sai presented an update on the Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) FHWA grant, awarded in
2 2015, to study real-time traffic monitoring using Bluetooth technology and to integrate with Tri-State
3 Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) and Traveler Information System (TIS) through
4 the State Traffic Operations Center (TOC). The project funded installation of 33 BlueTOAD Spectra
5 sensors along 5 project corridors in 4 Chittenden County municipalities. Some were solar powered
6 retrofitted with battery packs while others were powered using Power Over Ethernet (PoE). TrafficCast's
7 BlueARGUS web-based software was used to process data and report speed and travel-time. A real time
8 color-coded speed map was available to the public via a URL link. Advanced Transportation
9 Management System (ATMS) enhancements at VTrans delayed the Bluetooth data integration.

10
11 The team learned from this effort, such as: some sensors failed to collect data regularly or didn't perform
12 as expected; Vermont winters were a factor in some sensor failures; PoE performed better than solar
13 powered, even with battery packs; and sensors had to be manually rebooted after power failures. These
14 issues made the system non-reliable, and CCRPC and VTrans jointly decided not to maintain the
15 Bluetooth sensors as they continue to fail, and the entire Bluetooth system will eventually be
16 decommissioned. Bluetooth sensors maybe efficient in small-scale, short-term applications such as
17 monitoring travel conditions in work zones, conducting cut-through traffic and Origin-Destination
18 studies. Since inception of this project, several technologies for collecting and disseminating live traffic
19 data and analytic tools (e.g., INRIX, StreetLight) became available in the market, and VTrans is working
20 on a Thin Client ATMS enhancement project that can provide travel times to the public.

21
22 Sam wanted to clarify that the grant funded a system that failed? Sai said the AID grant purpose is to test
23 and research innovation, and if it performs well then it can be expanded, which this did not. Sam asked if
24 there has been any changes since 2018 that would show promise? Sai said that we learned the battery
25 pack systems worked better than solar, and some were connected to signal cabinet for power supply.
26 When will the system be decommissioned? Derek reported that as the sensors begin to fail and the
27 maintenance burden is more than the value provided, VTrans will then harvest parts for other
28 applications. Other systems have since come on the market that perform better in collecting and
29 disseminating live traffic data and analytic tools. Jonathon asked about the Thin Client ATMS travel time
30 and how it compares to Google Maps data? Ryan said the new 511 Traveler Information website is live
31 and noted the New England Compass enhancements. Data on these maps and what is shown on Google
32 Maps comes from a third party company.

33
34 VTrans staff noted that Survey123 and VAMIS (Vermont Asset Management Information System) will
35 help prioritize ITS management and maintenance. They will also shift from temporary message boards to
36 permanent message boards between all interstate exits to convey info to the public. Sam noted the
37 message boards are invaluable for her daily commute and the sense of humor is appreciated. Road
38 Weather Information Stations (RWIS) will be used for roadway forecasting based on weather forecast.
39 ITS education will also continue. The link for the updated 511 Traveler/ New England Compass site is
40 <https://newengland511.org/region/Vermont> and you can create custom notifications for routes that are
41 relevant to you. Big Transportation Data includes travel time and speed, origin/destination, volume, and
42 conflation (mapping), and using the analytic tool RITIS adds to the variety of use cases for that data.

43
44 Erica asked as we move toward adaptive signals, how do the systems work together? And are there data
45 collection efforts for more walk/bike data? Derek said they will be exploring other modules but haven't
46 yet explored ATMS. Erica said if South Burlington gets a specific grant they would be happy to be a pilot
47 community. Derek said VTrans is working to get better walk/bike data but the tools aren't as developed as
48 the vehicle data collection technology. Ryan noted that Zoe Nederland at VTrans is also thinking about
49 this topic and VTrans is considering how to purchase walk/bike data from vendors as it becomes
50 available. They don't want to buy so much data that it becomes too much to effectively use, and also to
51 not get ahead of current technology capabilities. Norm noted that common architecture is important in
52 sharing data with the public for communities that operate and maintain their own signals, and Derek
53 agrees and appreciates everyone working together.

1 Sai noted the funding available for signal upgrades on Dorset St in South Burlington. Erica said the City
2 budget passed yesterday which included funding for signal upgrades that could be adaptive when timing
3 is right.

4 5 **6. VPSP2 Update**

6 Christine Forde, CCRPC, shared that 2023 was going to be the third year of the VPSP2 program but
7 VTrans decided to postpone this round because projects in the first two rounds are still getting underway
8 so the focus will be on them rather than adding more projects into the process. VTrans is currently
9 working on a scope refinement report for projects, but the timing of construction is unclear. Given the
10 pause in the program, the TAC won't be asked to score projects this year.

11
12 Barbara noted that we have some new TAC members so Christine clarified that VPSP2 stand for Vermont
13 Project Scoring and Prioritization Process, which is a process to get the most bang for the buck of
14 taxpayer dollars by providing a method for new projects to be added to the capital list and also scores
15 other metrics besides roadway capacity.

16 17 **7. FY24 UPWP Update**

18 Eleni Churchill, CCRPC, gave an overview of the draft FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
19 project list, which is included in the TAC meeting packet. The spreadsheet includes comments from the
20 UPWP Committee. For the Safety Action Plan project, Eleni noted CCRPC was asked by some
21 cities/towns if CCRPC would be doing this type of regional project which would provide a pathway for
22 cities/towns to apply for federal Safe Streets for All funding (SS4A). Jonathon said it would be great for
23 CCRPC to move forward with this project, which would allow all municipalities to apply for construction
24 funding for projects. Bruce agreed. Eleni said we will continue to explore this as a project. Ravi asked if
25 this would fulfill the Vision Zero requirement, and Eleni said yes. Ravi and Chris Yuen agreed with
26 moving forward.

27
28 Eleni pointed out a few other projects:

- 29 • The Burlington project Transportation Workforce Development Needs Assessment was deemed
30 ineligible for our federal planning funds.
- 31 • TOD Planning – RAISE Grant project is moving forward with other funding.
- 32 • Chittenden County SOV Commuter Reduction Program - phase 1 of 2 – the UPWP Committee
33 asked that participants from a similar previous project be surveyed to understand their behavior
34 change over time before this request is funded.

35 36 **8. Complete Streets Reporting**

37 Bryan Davis, CCRPC, gave an overview of the reporting form in the meeting packet, which is requested
38 of cities/towns each year. This is an outcome of Act 34 passed in 2011 requiring that VTrans and all
39 cities/towns consider complete streets principles in all projects. The information provided by cities/towns
40 to RPCs is compiled by VTrans and shared in a report to the legislature each spring. Bryan is open to
41 ideas on how to make this process more efficient and expressed gratitude to TAC members and their staff
42 for providing this information each year. More information about complete streets is available on the
43 [CCRPC Complete Streets webpage](#).

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 ongoing or recently completed projects.

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

50 The Board did not meet in February. In January they held a public forum for the FY24 UPWP, approved
51 the FY23 mid-year UPWP and budget adjustment, approved the updated Active Transportation Plan, and
52 heard brief updates on the Draft 2023 Metropolitan Plan, draft West Central Vermont Comprehensive
53 Economic Development Strategy, CCRPC equity work, and Legislative Breakfast De-brief and 2023

Priorities.

11. Chair/Members' Items

- **AARP VT Accepting 2023 Community Challenge Grant Applications:** AARP VT invites local eligible organizations and governments to apply for the [2023 AARP Community Challenge](#) grant program. Grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, diversity and inclusion. Deadline for applying is March 15, 2023; all project activities must be completed by November 30, 2023. To submit an application, visit www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge
- **VT Bond Bank's Capital Planning Forum:** An in-person event for governmental units of all sizes and associated professionals to explore Vermont specific best practices in capital planning. April 13, 9 am-4 pm, Barre, VT. Free but space is limited. [Details and registration here](#).

Chris Damiani in the chat asked that TAC members please share within your networks a survey GMT is undertaking to update our existing schedules for this summer. <https://ridegmt.com/chittenden-county-schedule-survey/>

Bryan Davis noted that the Tier 2 Rivers and Roads Training information has been released and he will share with the TAC by email.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

SAM ANDERSEN MOVED TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY SANDY THIBAUT, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11.

Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis