CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, May 2, 2023
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present
Amy Bell, VTrans
Chris Jolly, FHWA
Jacqui DeMent, FHWA
Barbara Elliott, Huntington
Bob Henneberger, Seniors
Dayton Crites, Burlington
Deirdre Holmes, Charlotte
Adam Wechsler, People with Disability
Bruce Hoar, Williston
Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
Sam Andersen, GBIC
Chris Damiani, GMT
Adam Lawrence, SSTA
Aaron Martin, Essex
Josh Arneson, Richmond
Mary Anne Michaels, Rail
Kurt Johnson, Underhill
Matthew Langham, VTrans
Sandy Thibault, CATMA
Kit Luster, Shelburne,
Chris Yuen, Essex Junction
Lisa Schaeffler, Milton
Tom Dipietro, South Burlington
Jon Rauscher, Winooski

Staff
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Taylor Newton, Planning Program Manager
Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner
Chris Dubin, Senior Transportation Planner
Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner
Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer
Sai Sarepalli, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer

Guests
Matthew Arancio, VTrans
Katharine Otto, VTrans

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

2. Consent Agenda
No consent agenda this month.

3. Approval of April 4, 2023 Minutes
SAM ANDERSEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2023, SECONDED BY BOB HENNEBERGER. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Public Comments
Dierdre Holmes let TAC members know Charlotte had a bridge failure last week and has been in touch with CCRPC and others to get immediate attention. No other comments from the public.

5. FY24 UPWP
Marshall Distel, CCRPC, reviewed the process to develop the draft FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and gave an overview of the funding allocated to planning categories and task areas, as outlined in the memo in the TAC agenda packet.

KURT JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FY2024 UPWP TO THE CCRPC BOARD, SECONDED BY SAM ANDERSEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Infrastructure (pavement and bridges) and National Highways System (NHS) Reliability Targets
Eleni Churchill and Sai Sarepalli, CCRPC, gave an overview of the Transportation Performance Management (TPM) program, then presented the measures established by FHWA and the targets set by

VTrans to gauge progress towards the national goals (see presentation here). TPM is a strategic, data-driven approach to making investment and policy decisions to achieve goals. National goals were established for Safety, Infrastructure Condition (Pavement & Bridges), Congestion, System Reliability (NHS Performance), Freight Movements (Interstate), and Environmental Sustainability. VTrans established statewide pavement and bridge performance targets for the Interstate and non-Interstate NHS in collaboration with the CCRPC. As an MPO, the CCRPC has 180 days after VTrans sets targets for specific measures to either agree to accept the statewide targets or establish our own quantifiable targets for the MPO area.

Sai presented the data on Chittenden County NHS (national highway system) pavement condition and targets, and the NHS infrastructure (bridges) condition and targets. Eleni suggests that next time we include the number of bridges in addition to the percentages. Sam commented that the 28% target for "good" pavement condition seems like a low bar. Jon Rauscher asked if the pavement condition scores are based on pavement condition index (PCI) scores, and what those scores are. Sai will provide that information after the meeting. Sai then presented the NHS travel time and freight reliability data and targets. He noted that the data source is probe data called National Performance Measures Research Data Set (NPMRDS) from the company INRIX from 2017-2021.

Chris Jolly added that for the pavement conditions, which are on a statewide basis, VTrans did not meet the pavement target largely based on rutting on the interstate pavement. The safety measures weren't addressed in the presentation (note: they were presented at the January 2023 TAC meeting) but Chris said VTrans hasn't met their safety target in terms of fatalities so they are restricted in how they can spend their safety funding. Sam notes the pavement rutting is particularly bad in Lamoille County. She asked if trucks are monitored for whether their destination is within Vermont versus path-through trips. Chris notes there is some origin-destination data but he's not sure of the extent to which it's tracked across the country. Sai isn't familiar with datasets that can provide this information but perhaps the regional model can forecast this. Trucks need permits but we don't really know how many trucks whose origin or destination is Chittenden County, we have a better handle on general freight moving into and out of the county rather than truck volumes. Sam recognizes the challenges and reflects that the state is going to start charging a per mile fee, how will we capture Canadian trucks in the formula. Eleni notes this is a good point and this may get captured through DMV permit fees. Chris Jolly notes that DMV tracks through registration of diesel fuel tax and whether they are interstate or intrastate.

In the chat Jason Charest shared a link to the NHS in Chittenden County for reference: https://map.ccrpcvt.org/ChittendenCountyVT/?extent=-8189223.7771%2C5504253.1986%2C-8070364.1981%2C5569912.6059%2C102100

KURT JOHNSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC ACCEPT THE LATEST STATEWIDE NHS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEM RELIABILITY PERFORMANCE TARGETS ESTABLISHED BY VTRANS IN CY2022 FOR THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA AND RECOMMEND THAT THE CCRPC BOARD APPROVE THESE TARGETS, SECONDED BY ADAM WECHSLER. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Milton Downtown Core Charette Project

Taylor Newton, CCRPC, provided information about the Milton Downtown Core Charette Project and the process to select a preferred consultant. The CCRPC does not have a pre-qualified consultant with this skill set so an RFP was issued. Since this project is using federal highway planning funds, the TAC needs to approve the preferred consultant. Matthew Arancio reminded the group that the Route 7 corridor study should be referenced and included in this project, and Taylor said it was referenced in the RFP and will be used as part of the project.

BOB HENNEBERGER MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE HIRING DUBOIS & KING AS A CONSULTANT TO COMPLETE THE MILTON DOWNTOWN CORE CHARETTE PROJECT, SECONDED BY SAM ANDERSEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Burlington School District Travel Plan

Dayton Crites, Burlington, presented the highlights of this plan which provides school travel plans for Burlington School District (BSD) campuses with a focused assessment of regional, neighborhood and individual school campus' travel patterns and access constraints, and recommendations for small and large scale projects to increase equitable access to public schools for all, regardless of mode of travel. This was a unique partnership among the City, School District, CCRPC and DuBois & King. BSD Travel Plan website »

Dayton pointed out the scale and focus of the project included the city, neighborhood, and campus. Public input came from walk audits/maps, online survey, and personal interviews, and the data reflected the impacts of COVID at the time. The school district was a great conduit for public input. CCRPC built a walk audit tool that allowed people in the community to pinpoint specific issues. The report design is also unique and reflects our digital world. There are numerous links in the document to access the different sections, schools, neighborhoods, etc. Recommendations were also specific including transit, crossing guards, infrastructure, traffic patterns, etc.

Key takeaways from the project include: school access improvements require partnerships; all approaches should be explored; safety and convenience can be at odds; and district wide approach needs careful involvement from those who know the site best.

Jason Charest, CCRPC, was the project manager and thanked Melanie Needle, CCRPC, for creating the online audit and map for public use. He also likes this type of digital report and its navigability and is working with staff to head in this direction for future plans and reports.

Sandy Thibault also commented on the report navigation and content presentation. This could be a great model for school districts around the state. She didn't notice any faculty/staff survey and asked if that was considered, perhaps that could be a future conversation and potential role for CATMA. Dayton thanked Sandy for the comment and agreed this could be a good consideration. Principals represented some level of staff knowledge but not all.

Jonathon Weber asked if bike parking was considered or studied. Dayton noted this came us at several schools and was also mentioned by some principals, and are included in some recommendations. Many racks are overused during the warmer months, and more could be needed.

Adam Wechsler asked if families with kids with disabilities, or kids themselves, were interviewed. Dayton said not as much as they could have been. Jason noted that these comments may have been captured through the online survey or with principal conversations.

9. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports

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

10. CCRPC Board Meeting Report

In April the Board voted to warn a public hearing for the FY24 UPWP and Budget for the May 17, 2023 Board meeting, voted to warn a public hearing for the metropolitan transportation plan for the May 17, 2023 Board meeting, heard a presentation on the Burlington International Airport from Nic Longo, Director of Aviation, and heard updates on CCRPC equity work, staffing, and legislative updates.

11. Chair/Members' Items

- **VTrans Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program**: VTrans invites municipalities to participate in the Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program, which provides funding for municipalities to implement best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the Vermont Department of

Environmental Conservation (DEC) Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). VTrans anticipates receiving funding to support BMP implementation under this program and intends to provide grant funds to participating Vermont municipalities that agree to the terms (see participation Letter of Intent on the VTrans website). The municipality must return the signed letter **by May 5, 2023** to be eligible. Details, documents, and the Initial Funding Offers are available on the VTrans website.

- **VTrans Bike/Ped Grant Program:** VTrans is seeking grant applications for new infrastructure projects that improve access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. Applications must be received by June 9, 2023. A pre-application information and training webinar is planned for May 3, 2023, and potential applicants are strongly encouraged to participate. For more information and grant materials visit https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped.
- **VTrans Traffic Research counts schedule:** Please see this list of the 2023 VTrans Traffic Research counts schedule. Chittenden County cities/towns include Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Hinesburg, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston and Winooski.
- **2023 Tier 2 Roads and Rivers Trainings:**
  - Tier 1 slideshow discusses river terms and concepts to provide a background for the Tier 2 class. The slide show may take 30 minutes to an hour to review and includes some quick quizzes that are not recorded but provide immediate feedback for the user.
  - Tier 2 two-day training at VTrans Training Center (VTTC) in Berlin:
    - May 17th & 18th @ 1716 Route 302 in Berlin
    - October 11th & 12th @ 1716 Route 302 in Berlin
  - Sign up: Non-state staff sign up through our new registration page. State/municipal staff: SOV LINC (look at the events calendar for the "Rivers and Roads Tier II).
  - Contact Staci Pomeroy, staci.pomeroy@vermont.gov, 802-490-6191.
- **2023 Green Your Fleet event:** This is the biggest Alternative Fuel (AF) and Electric Vehicle (EV) event hosted at the NH Motor Speedway on Friday, June 9, 2023. GYF spotlights diverse vehicle, equipment, fuel, technology, and infrastructure alternatives: biodiesel, electric, hydrogen, natural gas, and propane for commercial and municipal LD/MD/HD onroad and offroad, vehicles and equipment, as well as other fuel efficiency strategies in transportation. Register here. Contact Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco, poneillv@uvm.edu, (802) 656-9123.
- **Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program funding:** Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FHWA Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program is now available for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 in the amount of $111.85 million. The program helps carry out projects by certain Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments, including municipalities, counties, and others that reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. The deadline for applications is 11:59 PM EST on August 1, 2023. Grant applications must be submitted through Grants.gov. Please check the webpage for future webinars and more information. Contact: wildlifecrossings@dot.gov.
- **2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program**: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Clean School Bus Grant Program includes two sub-programs, one for school district and Tribal applicants (School District Sub-program) and one for third-party applicants (Third-Party Sub-program). EPA is providing two separate competitions under this single NOFO to address the unique needs and concerns of diverse recipients and encourage participation in the CSB grants program. EPA is prioritizing applications that will replace buses serving high-need local education agencies, rural areas, Tribal school districts funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and public school districts receiving basic support payments for students living on Tribal land, and rural areas. In addition, EPA is committed to ensuring the CSB Program delivers on the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative that at least 40% of the benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. Grant applications submitted to Grants.gov by Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 11:59PM ET.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Bryan Davis asked if there was interest from the group to meet in person (with hybrid option) and got positive feedback. This could be a combination business meeting/social networking.

SAM ANDERSEN MOVED TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY BOB HENNEBERGER, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59.

Respectfully submitted, Bryan Davis