CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present
Bryan Osborne, Colchester
Amanda Clayton, Colchester
Aaron Martin, Essex
Bob Henneberger, Seniors
Matthew Arancio, VTrans
Jacqui DeMent, FHWA
Jonathon Weber, Local Motion
Sam Andersen, GBIC
Kurt Johnson, Underhill
Chris Yuen, Essex Junction
Lisa Schaeffler, Milton
Chris Damiani, GMT
Jon Rauscher, Winooski
Dean Bloch, Charlotte
Julia Ursaki, Burlington
Mary Anne Michaels, Vermont Rail System
Bruce Hoar, Williston
Joe Segale, Huntington

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

Guests
Katharine Otto, VTrans
Jim Cota, VTrans
Emily Adams, CATMA
Matt Kimball, GMT
Jon Moore, GMT
Greg Rowangould, UVM TRC
Narges Ahmadnia, UVM TRC

1. Bryan Osborne called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Consent Agenda
CHRIS YUEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY SAM ANDERSEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of September 5, 2023 Minutes
BOB HENEBERGER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, SECONDED BY CHRIS YUEN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Public Comments
No comments from the public.

5. Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Safety and Asset Performance Targets
Jon Moore and Matt Kimball, GMT, discussed the federal performance transit measures and targets as part of their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan. A copy of their presentation can be found on the TAC webpage.

Sam Andersen asked a question about undercoating of the buses. After some trial and error, GMT has found an undercoating with a 10-year warranty which works well for cutaways. Joe Segale asked a question about percentages as it relates to their performance targets. GMT is aiming to keep things in a state of good repair and the percentages on slide 6 are the percent of the asset category that need replacing in a given year. On slide 10, MB = Motor Bus, CB = Coach Bus, DR-DO = Demand Response Directly Operated, DR-PT = Demand Response Purchased Transportation.

Joe Segale asked about how it's possible to have 0.67 injuries (slide 10). Jon Moore Responded that it was an average over three years. In response to a different question it was clarified that system-wide their buses age out before they hit their mileage limit (500K miles). Christine Forde is interested in connecting with Jon and Matt about hazard mitigation planning. GMT does a lot of de-escalation training and are interested in additional training for staff/drivers.

6. TAC Volunteer for Regional TDM Plan RFP Process

On October 30 the CCRPC released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultant services to assist in developing a Regional Transportation Options (Transportation Demand Management, TDM) Plan for Chittenden County. This is a major CCRPC project, and we are asking for a TAC member to volunteer to be part of the proposal review/selection process in early December that will also include TDM partners. The RFP is here: https://www.ccrpcvt.org/resources/rfprfqgrants/.

Eleni Churchill solicited volunteers for this effort. Sam Andersen asked how many responses they anticipated receiving. Eleni estimated there would be 4 to 6 responses. There were no volunteers at this time, and anyone interested is encouraged to email Eleni directly at echurchill@ccrpcvt.org.

7. FY25 UPWP Solicitation

Marshall Distel, CCRPC, announced the upcoming FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This is our annual solicitation of projects to be considered for next year's CCRPC work program. Information and materials will be released later in November with requests due in January. He reviewed the matching fund requirements and process to develop the UPWP throughout the spring.

Marshall has started putting together materials and plans to send them out Friday, November 17th and the deadline to respond will be Friday, January 19th. For projects with a transportation nexus there is a 20% match requirement. For projects that are deemed to be of regional significance, the match is waived. Match is also not required for small transportation technical assistance projects. The same is true for land-use projects under 12 hours of work. For those over 12 hours, the cost is $60/hour. Christine Forde added for those that haven't been through this process, the projects would be managed by CCRPC staff with the work being conducted by our retainer consultants. Marshall is looking for two TAC volunteers to be on the UPWP committee. Kurt Johnson and Jon Rauscher volunteered to be on the UPWP committee.

8. Shifting to ArcGIS Online for Asset Management – Colchester Public Works

Amanda Clayton, Colchester Public Works, presented the Town's multi-phase project to rebuild Colchester's asset management system within ArcGIS online.

Amanda explained how ArcGISOnline does a better job for them compared to VueWorks in managing and organizing their data. VueWorks was a great original choice for them initially, but ArgGIS Online has come a long way over time. See the presentation on the TAC webpage for more details. Jon Rauscher was appreciative of this presentation as they're looking to improve their asset management systems. One problem they have is cataloging comments/complaints from the public sort of like SeeClickFix does. Amanda highlighted that asset management systems are great, but they can take a lot of time to keep up to date. Jon agreed and felt that some of the systems they have can be redundant at times. Chris Dubin highlighted ArcGIS Online's scalability and the ability customize it to Colchester's needs thereby removing some of the extraneous information that was required with VueWorks. Chris sees this design as a potential cheap option for other communities.

9. Chittenden County Housing Location Dissonance Study

The CCRPC partnered with the UVM Transportation Research Center to conduct a survey to better understand the potential impacts of Autonomous Vehicles (AVs), Electric Vehicles (EVs), and the growing trend of remote work on individual's housing location choices and travel behavior. The central question evaluated is if AVs, EVs, and remote work are likely to increase or decrease travel demand in

Chittenden County. Greg Rowangould & Narges Ahmadnia, UVM TRC, provided an overview of the survey and shared their findings. A copy of their presentation can be found on the TAC webpage.

Chris Yuen asked about the impact of AVs and people leaving urban areas. Greg responded that their results didn't show this was likely since people who live in urban areas are generally satisfied with their housing location. Joe Segale found it surprising that more than half of respondents were dissatisfied (dissonant) with where they live. Narges agreed and offered that this number is higher compared to other areas that are closer to only 20% dissonant. Marshall asked if Greg was surprised at the level of dissonance of suburban residents. Greg wasn't personally surprised given there are many tradeoffs associated with choosing to live in suburban areas. It seemed like most respondents wanted to live in town village areas. Bryan Osborne asked how much Greg and Narges thought the gender imbalance influenced results. It's tough to say, but they were surprised at the imbalance as it was unique compared to previous surveys they've conducted with similar recruitment methods. Jacqui DeMent asked about next steps with this research. Narges explained that they're interested in creating a model to simulate peoples housing choices. Greg is interested in conducting the same survey over a larger area. Jason Charest explained that there are no immediate steps on behalf of the CCRPC as they're in the process of reviewing the draft report and will share it with the TAC once it's available. Taylor Newton suggested sharing the results of this study with the Vermont Association of Realtors

10. 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.

11. CCRPC Board Meeting Report

In **September** the Board approved committee appointments, approved an organizational equity statement, approved the West Central Vermont Economic Development District Memorandum of Understanding, heard an update on the ECOS Plan development, and heard an update on studies related to the S.100 Housing Bill. In **October** the Board approved the FY25 municipal dues, discussed the draft Code of Conduct, discussed the ECOS Plan update, and heard an update on regional future land use concepts as part of the S.100 studies.

12. Chair/Members' Items

- The **VTrans Transportation Alternatives Program** (TAP) and **Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program** (MHSMP) grants program are now open. **Applications are due by e-mail by December 8th, 2023**. Approximately 50% of TAP grant program funds are reserved for pollution mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects. Approximately $1.5 million of MHSMP grant funding is available for eligible stormwater pollution mitigation projects as described in the MHSMP guide:
  - TAP: Transportation Alternatives Program | Agency of Transportation (vermont.gov)
  - MHSMP: Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program | Agency of Transportation (vermont.gov)
- **VTrans 2025 Better Roads Grant Program:** VTrans is accepting applications to support projects on municipal roads that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The grant funds are provided by AOT in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Vermont Better Roads Program promotes the use of erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing water quality throughout the state. **Applications accepted until December 20, 2023.** For the most up-to-date information or to download a copy of the application, please go to http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads.
- **Model Bike Parking Ordinance:** Local Motion prepared this model bike parking ordinance for communities to use as the basis for developing their own local policy. The model is based on an extensive review of existing ordinances and grounded in best practices. All of the associated graphics are available and free for any non-commercial use. Including these directly in an

ordinance is a good way to prevent non-conforming racks and non-compliant setbacks. For questions and assistance, contact Susan at susan@localmotion.org.

- **Update to Buy America Guidance:** On August 16, 2023, USDOT announced a public interest Waiver of Buy America Requirements for De Minimis Costs and Small Grants. The waiver applies to a single financial assistance award for which:
  - The total value of the non-compliant products is no more than the lesser of $1 million or 5 percent of total applicable costs for the project; or
  - The total amount of federal financial assistance applied to the project, through awards or subawards, is below $500,000.

  The waiver is applicable to awards that are obligated on or after August 16, 2023. More details available in the Federal Register posting.
- **Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG):** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has published new guidelines under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) that address access to sidewalks and streets, crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. These guidelines also review shared use paths, which are designed primarily for use by bicyclists and pedestrians for transportation and recreation purposes. The final rule is effective October 7, 2023. Learn more at: https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

CHRIS YUEN MOVED TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY BRUCE HOAR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Jason Charest