MINUTES | Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
All materials online at: ccrpcvt.org/transportation-advisory-committee

DATE: Tuesday, December 2, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: Virtual meeting using Zoom
ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:	Staff:
Aaron Martin, Essex Adam Wechsler, People with Disability Bob Henneberger, Older Adults Bruce Hoar, Williston Chris Yuen, Essex Junction Holly Francis, Environment Jon Rauscher, Winooski Lindsay Kahn, Charlotte Matthew Arancio, VTrans Norm Baldwin, Colchester Richard Amore, Local Motion Roger Thompson, FHWA Sam Andersen, GBIC Sandy Thibault, CATMA Will Hodgson, GMT	Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Director Bryan Davis, Senior Transportation Planner Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner Eliana Fox, Transportation Planner Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Planner Sai Sarepalli, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer Taylor Newton, Planning Program Director Guests: Zoe Neaderland, VTrans Dave Pelletier, VTrans Nicole Gadbois, VTrans Alex Kubala, Colchester Jack Evans, Local Motion

1. Call to Order, Welcome + Attendance, Group Agreements
   Eleni Churchill called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and reminded members about the CCRPC group agreements which are included in this month's agenda. Bryan recognized that this is Sam Andersen's last TAC meeting and thanked her for her support, participation, and partnership in CCRPC's programs, plans and committees. She will be missed! Alex Demoly, Vice President of GBIC, will take her seat on the TAC.

2. Consent Agenda
   None this month.

3. Approval of November 4, 2025 Minutes
   BRUCE HOAR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025, SECONDED BY SANDY THIBAULT. ALEX KUBALA AND NORM BALDWIN ABSTAIN. THE MOTION PASSED.

4. Public Comment Period
   No comments from the public.

5. VTrans Freight Plan Update
   Zoe Neaderland, VTrans, provided an update on the Rail Plan and Freight Plan development. The Rail Plan, which is more detailed than the Freight Plan, has been updated and comments are expected from Federal Rail Administration (FRA) in the coming weeks. Materials are posted at https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports.

The Freight Plan is required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and is typically a higher-level policy plan. Trains excel at moving heavy goods long distances while other modes are better for moving other types of goods and distances. Zoe shared the 6 goals and 21 initiatives for TAC feedback.

Bruce asked about the goal that included water transportation infrastructure and what that means since goods currently aren't moved on Lake Champlain. Zoe noted trucks use the ferry to cross the lake, the Champlain Canal to Hudson River was dredged but she's not sure if there are plans to use it again.

The group explored potential collaboration with rail operators to identify priority industrial sites for preservation or reuse. Eleni suggested focusing efforts on sites that rail operators are interested in using. Vermont Rail System might be open to this idea and Zoe will schedule a meeting with them to discuss. Zoe also covered trends in e-commers, transportation funding challenges, and the importance of protected airspace around airports.

The TAC is invited to provide comments by December 11 and explore the interactive web tool. The Plan will be submitted to FHWA in January or February.

Eliana asked about the autonomous vehicles (AV) initiative and if neighbors like Canada are using them. Dave Pelletier said he isn't sure if AVs are operated in Canada but there are some in use across the US. This initiative is a placeholder and holdover from previous plan to be ready if and when AVs become more prevalent. There is more coordination across the border related to EV charging. Zoe noted autonomous trucking is being tested in Texas and there is also research and testing into the electrification of trucking.

Eleni asked how VTrans will use the Plan when it is approved. Zoe said that rail projects need to be in the plan, but more broadly the plans will guide VTrans's work with RPCs and be included in the long range transportation plan. Zoe will share the full draft in the near future. For more information visit https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight.

6. VTrans Hydraulic Engineering Instructions
   In recent weeks CCRPC shared emails from VTrans about hydraulic modeling and invited Matthew Arancio, VTrans, to share more information. Matthew shared a website that has all of the hydraulic and hydrology modeling updates that consultants and others should follow and use. (Technical resources https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/structures-hydraulics/technical-resources) These were shared with consultants who do this type of work. Sam asked if there is a cost impact to municipalities. Matthew noted there isn't a cost associated with these updates but rather they provide guidance to professionals on current best practices.

7. Vermont Multimodal Roadway Guide Update
   Matthew Arancio, VTrans, provided an update on development of the Vermont Multimodal Roadway Guide, which is an update and replacement of the Vermont State Design Standards. Phase 1 was development of the Guide outline, completed in April 2025; phase 2 is developing the

draft Guide to be available in January 2026 (driven by a legislative deadline); and phase 3 is implementation. Three committees are guiding the process, with CCRPC and other RPCs involved.

"Context" is a key word for this plan as it is context-driven, recognizing that roadways change related to adjacent land uses even if functional classification remains the same. The Guide is a menu of options rather than prescriptive approach. Matthew will share the draft when available for comment.

Sam asked if the legislature will take action on the plan? Matthew noted that a previous legislature required presentation of the draft plan. for more information visit the Vermont Multimodal Roadway Guide webpage: https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/VSDSUP

8. Regional Project Priority List
   Eleni Churchill, CCRPC, referred to the memo in the agenda packet and invited Sam Andersen, GBIC, to share more information about the list of regional project priorities (RPP) and how they were developed. The RPP is updated twice a year and submitted to the state. Projects on the list get more points when/if applying to an Northern Border Regional Commission grant. A committee of different interests reviews projects applications and selection. Sam notes there are five additional projects to the ten included on the list, and while they aren't eligible for additional points they are deemed important enough to be recognized. In addition to the memo in the packet, learn more about the RPP at https://gbicvt.org/regional-priority-projects/.

9. FY26 UPWP Transportation Projects
   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. See the full FY26 UPWP at https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/FY26_UPWP_Adopted_20250521.pdf.

10. CCRPC Board Meeting Report
    In November the Board approved a TIP amendment, first quarter financials, draft bylaws, draft municipal review guidelines, draft regional project priority list, discussed legislative breakfast topics, and heard outreach and engagement updates, and other Executive Director/Chair updates.

11. Chair/Members' Items
    a. **VTrans Small Scale Safety Grants**: more details coming soon from VTrans Safe Systems Section but generally: $1.5 million to be available for quick build, low cost safety improvements such as signage, striping, guardrail, rumble strips, fixed object removal. Max award of $50,000 per applicant which can be used for multiple projects.
    b. **ADA and Title VI One-Sheets for Local Public Agencies**: VTrans has designed one-pagers to simplify your understanding of ADA and Title VI compliance. Compliance isn't just a legal requirement—it's about safeguarding vulnerable communities and ensuring everyone has equal access. Get started here: ADA and Title VI.
    c. **USDOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard:** https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard.

Chris Yuen from Essex Junction asked for feedback on installing RRFBs at a location with several utility poles and if others have gone through a similar experience. Norm suggested that the ground uses include public safety and are a higher priority than the utilities so they could be moved, but this could come with a cost. Sai suggested overhead lights, not necessarily a HAWK or PHB but more similar to a

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2025, 9:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Davis