

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Minutes
October 27, 2020

Attendees:

	Barre City: Scott Bascom		Northfield: Jeff Shultz
x	Barre Town: James West and Alt Sebastian Arduengo	x	Orange: Lee Cattaneo
x	Berlin: Robert Wernecke, Vice- Chair	x	Plainfield: Bob Atchinson
	Cabot: John Cookson	x	Roxbury: Gerry D'Amico
x	Calais: David Ellenbogen	x	Waitsfield: Don La Haye
x	Duxbury: Alan Quackenbush		Warren: Jim Sanford
	East Montpelier: Frank Pratt	x	Washington: Peter Carbee
	Fayston: Matt Lillard	x	Waterbury: Steve Lotspeich, Chair
x	Marshfield: Robin Schunk	x	Williamstown: Rich Turner
x	Middlesex: Ronald Krauth		Woodbury: Vacant
x	Montpelier: Dona Bate	x	Worcester: Bill Arrand
x	Moretown: Joyce Manchester		

Staff: Ashley Andrews, Clare Rock

Guest: Zoe Neaderland, VTrans; Chris Damiani, GMT

Chair S. Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Quorum was present. Introductions were completed.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

Review of Draft September Minutes

Minutes were accepted with no changes made. *R. Wernecke moved to accept the minutes; R. Turner seconded. Motion passed.*

TAC Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure were discussed previously in May and September where the TAC expressed that it wanted outside groups to participate, but not in a voting capacity. To accomplish this within CVPRC's bylaws, the TAC had two options.

1. Recommend the Board of Commissioners revise CVPRC's bylaws to remove the language.
2. Adopt the revised bylaws as presented and not invite other transportation-related groups to hold seats on the TAC.

1
2 S. Lotspeich - recommended that the TAC accept that this is the way it is for now.
3 R. Krauth - is concerned about adding groups and then having them not show up to the meetings
4 and then is worried about not having a quorum.
5 D. Bate – asked whether the Commission had issues with the bylaws in the past. S. Lotspeich said
6 it doesn't seem to have any issues in the past.
7 J. West - thought this had been discussed at the last meeting. TAC was not in favor of having
8 outside groups. What are the criteria for allowing one group and not another? He is
9 concerned about fairness if certain groups are selected to participate and not others. He
10 suggested that other groups not be allowed to vote.
11 S. Lotspeich – stated the TAC doesn't have a choice due to language in the CVPRC bylaws.
12 Lotspeich asked if TAC has a set of guidelines for what groups would be allowed to vote and
13 ones that would not.
14 R. Werneke – noted that previous conversation suggested that TAC should request the bylaws be
15 changed. The discussion started from the point of view that 51% of the vote to add another
16 group was not sufficient especially if one group were voted in and they wanted to add another
17 group. He recommended TAC request the bylaws be changed.
18 G. D'Amico – concurred with J. West's suggestion that adding a group provides inherent bias.
19 A. Quackenbush – suggested entertaining a motion to request to change the bylaws.
20 B. Atchinson – asked, "If groups are considered a member, are they are a voting member? If so,
21 it could create quorum issues." Atchinson suggested following the State Rail Council model
22 of having non-voting members that don't count as a quorum.
23 D. Ellenbourgen - thought this had been discussed last time, and TAC members were in
24 agreement that those lines would be taken out. He stated he didn't see any need to discuss
25 the issue further.
26 S. Lotspeich – noted the TAC doesn't have the authority to delete the language from the rules.
27 L. Cattaneo – said TAC shouldn't amend the rules so that they're in agreement. He suggested the
28 language be left out with a request to change the bylaws. He noted he sees a problem with
29 having voting members that are not appointed by elected officials when TAC's current
30 members are appointed by municipal officials.
31 S. Lotspeich - we can't change the language until the Commission bylaws are changed.
32 L. Cattaneo- A lot of the members of the TAC are Commissioners. He suggested a vote to amend
33 the bylaws would pass.
34 G. D'Amico – asked if he could make a motion to adopt the rules of procedure after TAC makes a
35 recommendation.
36 D. Bates - recommended moving to approve the Rules of Procedures as they are and then move
37 forward to petition the Commission to make changes to the membership rule in the future.
38
39 *G. D'Amico moved to move forward with adopting the Rules of Procedure as drafted; D. Bates*
40 *seconded. **12 yeah and 3 nay. Motion passed.***
41

1 *G. D'Amico moved to recommend to petition the full Commission to revise the bylaws to take out*
2 *the language that allows the TAC to approve outside groups as voting members of the TAC; J.*
3 *West seconded. In discussion, J. West suggested when the TAC approaches the Commission to*
4 *request the bylaw change, that the TAC request the Commission develop criteria the TAC can use*
5 *to decide which groups can be TAC members if the Commission decides not to pursue the bylaw.*

6 **Motion passed.**

8 **GMT On-Demand Microtransit**

9 Chris Damiani from GMT presented on GMT's new pilot project in conjunction with VTrans and
10 the Sustainable Montpelier Collation. The service will cover three Central Vermont routes:
11 Montpelier Hospital Hill, Montpelier Circulator, and Capitol Shuttle. All other Berlin based routes
12 will run as they are now. GMT also operates: Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)
13 service, and E and D Transportation. The area is 7.5 square miles that will be used for microtransit
14 services. The service is On-Demand Travel, which uses technology to improve the passenger
15 experience, which also may provide more service to more people, and focuses on a service area
16 rather than a fixed route, and eliminates the first, and last mile change (in some cases).

17
18 The three primary goals for microtransit are that they want to increase ridership and improve the
19 quality of service for the routes and upgrade existing specialized transportation services, to the
20 extent feasible, providing both general and specialized transportation services using the same
21 fleet and making sure they aren't harming the riders that are already using the service.

22
23 The service would run Monday-Friday 7am-6pm (running three vehicles) and Saturdays 8am-6pm
24 (running one vehicle from 8am-10 and 2 vehicles from 10am-6pm).

25
26 For the next three months, GMT will be working with Via and Sustainable Montpelier to do
27 outreach and training on how to use the service.

28
29 The service will start on January 4, 2021 and run for two years.

30 31 **Plainfield Route 2/ Main Street Intersection**

32 Bob Atchinson, TAC Rep from Plainfield, and Clare Rock, CVRPC Senior Planner, presented on the
33 issues the Town is currently having with the intersection and the new design that the Town
34 decided on from VTrans for the intersection. The design the Town decided on was one where the
35 intersection will have a three way stop with a traffic signal, and will lower the grade of Route 2
36 for better visibility and make it more accessible to pedestrian use.

37 38 **TAC Member Concerns**

39 P. Carbee - VTrans has completed the paving on Route 110 from East Barre to Washington Village,
40 it is drivable again which is wonderful but he is a bit confused on where they decided to put the
41 centerline rumble strips, hard to tell rhyme or reason. Apparently it is due to where people live,

1 and the amount of noise they make.

2

3 A. Quackenbush - would still like to have the field trip to Waterbury and was wondering if it was
4 possible to have it without CVPRC staff. He was told it was not possible due to the current
5 pandemic policy at CVPRC. The Town of Waterbury will still be working on the project next year
6 so hopefully in the spring the TAC can do a field trip.

7

8 J. West - Met with Public Works Director in Barre Town to get up to speed on projects that are
9 happening in the region. There are two projects: bridge replacement on Route 110 in East
10 Barre for 2022, and the intersection of Route 14 and Bridge Street in South Barre is going to be
11 a lighted intersection and will be going out to bid soon.

12

13 **Adjourn**

14 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm; L. Cattaneo seconded. **Motion passed.***