



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting via Computer, Tablet or Smartphone:

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Agenda

- 6:30 CCRPC I-89 Project Discussion (Eleni Churchill, www.envision89.com)
- 7:00 1) Meeting Commencement
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Adjustments to the Agenda
 - c) Public Comment
- 7:15 2) Approval of April TAC Meeting Minutes (*Enclosed, Motion*)
- 7:20 3) Nomination of Officers
- 7:35 4) VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process (*Christian Meyer, Enclosed, Motion*)
 - a) Review of Project Scoring and Ranking
- 8:15 5) VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Applicants (*Christian Meyer, Enclosed*)
 - a) Applicant who will need a regional letter of support
- 8:25 6) TAC Member Round Table
 - a) Traffic Calming: crosswalks, bump outs, orange barrels, rectangular rapid flashing beacons(RRFBs)
 - b) Topics for future meetings
- 7) Adjourn

Next Meeting June 22, 2021

Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or chartrand@cvregion.com at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

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CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
DRAFT Minutes
April 27, 2021

Attendees:					
X	Barre City	Scott Bascom	X	Moretown	Joyce Manchester
X	Barre Town	James West			Dara Torre, Alt
		Sebastian Arduengo, Alt		Northfield	Jeff Schulz
X	Berlin	Bob Wernecke	X		Jon Ignowski, Alt
	Cabot	John Cookson		Orange	Lee Cattaneo
X	Calais	David Ellenbogen		Plainfield	Bob Atchinson
		Karin McNeill, Alt	X	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
X	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	X	Waitsfield	Don LaHaye
	E. Montpelier	Frank Pratt			Harrison Snapp, Alt
X	Fayston	Jared Cadwell		Warren	Camilla Behn
X	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	X	Washington	Peter Carbee
X	Middlesex	Ronald Krauth	X	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
X	Montpelier	Dona Bate	X	Williamstown	Richard Turner
		Harold Garabedian, Alt	X	Woodbury	Chris Koteas
			X	Worcester	Bill Arrand
Staff:		Christian Meyer			
Guests:		Zoe Neaderland			

Chair Steve Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. A quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda

Public Comments

Zoe Neaderland announced that as part of the continuing State Rail Plan and State Multimodal Freight Planning effort there will be a Virtual Freight Forum on May 6, 2021 from 4-5:30.
<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight>

Review of Draft March Meeting Minutes

*Richard Turner motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Peter Carbee seconded. **Motion passed.** James West abstained*

VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process

Asset Driven Projects:

Christian Meyer discussed the process for evaluating the proposed asset driven projects put forth by VTrans to the Region for review. He led the committee through the process as using the example of the Barre City to East Montpelier paving project.

Under mobility and connectivity, several TAC members felt that access was being improved in the projects where the cited facilities (park-and-ride or bus stop) were present. While the resurfacing of the road may not be providing additional turn lanes it was improving access for non-motorized forms of transportation and as such should probably be noted. The committee asked Christian Meyer to record these concerns and follow up with VTrans on how to approach them in this context.

Zoe Neaderland noted that regardless of what guidance VTrans would provide on these questions it was still a good idea to record the assets within the project limits even if they do not contribute to the final scoring. Including these facilities is valuable because it will be recorded for future conversations, helping both ourselves and others over time.

Christian Meyer expressed some confusion as to how to best interpret the nature of the Economic Access questions oriented toward the region. From her experience, Zoe Neaderland suggested, documenting how we approached this question and be consistent throughout.

The question was posed as to whether shoulder widening was an inherent indicator that travel lanes were being narrowed. Steve Lotspeich noted that in the route 100 repave from Waterbury to Morristown, the design narrowed the lanes by a foot to 11 feet and added a foot of shoulder. Per HSDEI 15–103, under Vermont State Guidelines, state highways should have a maximum lane width of 11 feet for all directions of travel.

Steve Lotspeich asked how these criteria were being ultimately aggregated. Christian Meyer explained that the points from each criterion were summed to arrive at a final Transportation Value (TV). There is no minimum score a project need receive to be considered for funding. While this prioritization process is still in its pilot phase, the ultimate purpose of the TV is to help facilitate a well-informed discussion. The role of the TAC will be to ultimately endorse a ranking of the projects. TV may be an important consideration in this ranking but need not be the be-all-end-all consideration in this ranking. It is the TAC's task to provide project elements that may not be fully reflected in the score. We will document our scoring process and convey this with our endorsed submission.

1 James West asked if there is a total budget for these projects. There is a state-wide budget for
2 transportation projects. There is not a regional budget. Projects from the CVRPC will be
3 considered for geographic equity with the rankings from regions across the state.
4

5 Robin Schunk asked about how the project limits were set. She is familiar with the Peacham to
6 Marshfield paving project and felt the section in most need of work was outside the project
7 limits. Zoe Neaderland could not speak to this project specifically but noted that often it is most
8 cost effective to maintain those portions of roadway that are in relatively good shape and
9 reconstruct the deteriorated section in the future. What about the Moretown to Montpelier
10 project? Why was the project split in Middlesex? Christian Meyer will forward these questions
11 to VTrans for comment.
12

13 Concern was raised regarding the incorporation of demographic data, such as average income,
14 in the ranking process. This is an element that VTrans has already indicated they are working to
15 revise. They will incorporate equity in the prioritization process.
16

17 The committee discussed how best to proceed. There is still another month before the regional
18 rankings of the asset driven projects needs to be submitted to VTrans. In light of the meeting's
19 conversation, the Committee requested that Staff redistribute the project sheets. Committee
20 comments shall be collected by Staff (please hold project discussions via email), and Staff will
21 develop a preferred ranking for committee review. At the May TAC meeting the Committee will
22 vote to endorse a preferred ranking of the projects.
23

24 Chris Koteas asked if there was any expectation of how this process would play out versus past
25 processes. Zoe Neaderland mentioned that VTrans did do a simulation using this process
26 compared with the former prioritization process and the results were favorable. Christian
27 Meyer mentioned he would share the program White Paper which has a certain amount of
28 background on the prioritization process.
29

30 Regional Projects:

31 Waitsfield has put forward the intersection of Route 100 and Route 17 as a regional priority.
32 Regional priorities need not have a final project design for submission. This can be a method for
33 a community to bring VTrans' attention to a troubled location or corridor. In this case the
34 project went through scoping 20 years ago. No final design could be agreed upon. The
35 intersection has remained a trouble spot for crashes and additionally there is increased bike
36 and pedestrian demand. This project would go to VTrans for their consideration and study.
37

38 *Jared Cadwell motioned to submit the project to VTrans. Don LaHaye Seconded. **Motion passed***
39 *unanimously.*
40

41 **VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program**

1 The intent of the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is to improve access and safety for
2 bicyclists and/or pedestrians through the planning, design and construction of infrastructure
3 projects. Application deadline is 1PM June 4, 2021.

4
5 Recording of program webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy2RTIRG8xM>

6 Program Website: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>
7

8 **TAC Member Round Table**

9 Bob Wernecke discussed the ongoing work in Berlin to complete needed maintenance on a
10 historic bridge over the Dog River. While the Bridge is a town asset, Berlin signed an agreement
11 with the state that requires VTrans to be responsible for maintaining the structure in exchange
12 for Berlin preserving its historic features. Other municipalities in the region may also have bridges
13 that fall under this category.
14

15 Ronald Krauth brought up the better back roads program. He spoke to how the improvements
16 that came through this program have made a really positive impact on the road but that over the
17 years they have deteriorated. Are there opportunities to replace the damaged reflectors? Bob
18 Wernecke noted that the primarily purpose of the program had been to aid towns in designing
19 improvements but that now it is likely the town's responsibility to maintain the improvements.
20

21 **Adjourn**

22 *Don LaHaye motioned to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Seconded by Ronald Krauth. **Motion passed***
23 *unanimously.*



MEMO

Date: May 25, 2021

To: CVRPC Transportation Advisory Committee

From: Christian Meyer, Senior Planner

Re: Project Prioritization

Each year the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) submits a transportation capital program to the state legislature for consideration and approval. Transportation capital improvement projects must be included in the capital program in order to proceed to construction. To develop a prioritized list of projects to be included in the capital program each year, VTrans, in collaboration with the regional planning commissions and stakeholders across the State, has developed the VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2). This process is meant to improve transparency while promoting a performance based, data driven project selection process. The current program of projects under review are roadway paving projects, roadway rehabilitation or reconstruction projects, and traffic signal and safety projects. Other categories of improvements, including bridges, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, will be considered in coming years. The 2021 scoring process will inform the selection of projects for the 2023 capital program.

Projects that are prioritized in the VPSP2 are examined for a number of characteristics, including asset condition, economic activity, health access, community impact and more. From the points awarded in each of these categories a global transportation value (TV) is derived. CVRPC staff reviewed the projects under consideration in the VPSP2, updated values for the regional fields where necessary, and ultimately developed a ranked list of projects based on the TV. The following table includes each project, its corresponding TV score and overall program rank by category.

CVRPC TV Scores and Rank for the VTrans Capital Program*

Paving	TV Score	TV Score Rank
Barre-EastMontpelier_Route14	66	1
Bradford-Orange_Route25	47	6
Chelsea-Washington_Rout110	47	6
Montpelier-Marshfield_Route2	64	2
Northfield-Williamstown_Route64	54	4
Peacham-Marshfield_Route232	42	8
Waitsfield-Moretown_Route100	56	3
Worcester-Morristown_Route12	53	5

Roadway	TV Score	TV Score Rank
Middlesex-Montpelier_Route2	54	3
Moretown-Middlesex_Route2	60	1
Williamstown_BarreTown_Route14	60	1

Traffic Signals	TV Score	TV Score Rank
BarreCity-BarreTown	46	1
Berlin-Montpelier	44	2

**Route 100/17 intersection improvements will be included once VTrans asset scoring is complete*

Given the expressed purpose of the VPSP2 to improve transparency, and given a staff review of regional inputs and the comments received from the CVRPC TAC, staff recommends endorsing the transportation values for the program of potential project as developed under the VPSP2.

SUGGESTED MOTION: *to approve the final transportation values, as scored in the VPSP2 and presented to the committee at its May 25, 2021 meeting.*