

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Draft Minutes
July 27, 2021

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

Chair Steve Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present

Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda

Public Comments

S. Lotspeich congratulated B. Atchinson on retiring from VTrans after 19 years. Z. Neaderland commented on how well/ exciting she thought the reopening events of Amtrak went.

Review of Draft June Meeting Minutes

R. Wernecke made a motion, seconded by Richard Turner, *to accept the minutes from June 22, 2021 with no corrections.* The motion was unanimously adopted.

Amendments to FFY21 TPI budget

C. Meyer presented the adjustments to the FFY21 budget which include, reallocating tasks among staff to reflect workload shifts, with the addition of a senior transportation planner, increasing funding under Task 4 (short range planning) to account for hiring two planning technicians to help with field work, reducing funding under Task 3(long range planning) to help accommodate the increased work under Task 4, and reducing contractual funds to ensure all allocated funds can be spend down within the fiscal year. G. D'Amico made a motion to *approve the FFY21 TPI budget adjustments* and R. Wernecke seconded. The motion was adopted.

Visitor Information Center discussion

CVRPC is making comments as a commission based on a study done by a consultant working with VTrans. The study was emailed to TAC on June 28, 2021 but will be forwarded again to the TAC. The study was collectively initiated by VTrans, the Department of Building and General Services, and Agency of Commerce and Community Development, to work collaboratively on a comprehensive planning effort to understand the current physical conditions and financial funding structure for Visitor Information Centers across the state, coordinate with stakeholders to identify issues and opportunities, identify current and future funding options, and develop an implementation plan to advance recommendations developed through a study. It is recommended to have Dave Pelletier from VTrans attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the study.

Artwork-Vermont Arts Council

Vermont Arts Council. ACCD and VTrans are offering programs that municipalities may be interested in taking advantage of to develop a sense of place in their communities.

Vermont Arts Council is providing an animating infrastructure grant to support community projects that integrate art with infrastructure improvements.

<https://www.vermontartscouncil.org/grants/organizations/animating-infrastructure>

ACCD-Better Places will provide “place making” grants that improve the vitality of state designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas. <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/better-places>

VTrans has developed a process for how to pursue gaining approval for art installations on state transportation facilities and on which structures in can occur.

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/policy-planning/art>

This Animating Infrastructure video was shown to the TAC. Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVpPpYueDs0>

VTrans Permitting Services is updating the town road standard (A-76)

Nate Covey from VTrans requests that you provide comments by 7/29 or call him to discuss it.

Nathan.covey@vermont.gov or 802-498-7055

1 **TAC Member Round Table**

2
3 a) **VPSP2 “A year round process”** VTrans would like municipalities to think of the VPSP2 as
4 a year round process. If there is any new local projects, that come up during the
5 planning process through planning commission or select boards meetings please reach
6 out to the RPC at any time and or the VPSP2 team from VTrans.

7 b) **Climate Action Plan and Transportation-** This is a topic that has been in the news a lot
8 this year. Please start thinking about how Transportation fits into climate action.

9 VTdigger has a nice article [https://vtdigger.org/2021/07/26/vermont-climate-council-](https://vtdigger.org/2021/07/26/vermont-climate-council-committees-present-draft-recommendations/)
10 [committees-present-draft-recommendations/](https://vtdigger.org/2021/07/26/vermont-climate-council-committees-present-draft-recommendations/)

11
12 c) **Local concerns including project updates and other issues**

13 B. Atchinson - The staging process has started for the sidewalk bridge from US Route 2 to the
14 village (temporary lights placed) the contractor thinks it will take 90 days to build.

15
16 The Cross Vermont Trail Bridge was installed this week, the project is slated to be done by the
17 end of the year. See VtDigger article with video of bridge being placed.

18 [https://vtdigger.org/2021/07/25/bridge-to-connect-montpelier-area-trails-installed-over-](https://vtdigger.org/2021/07/25/bridge-to-connect-montpelier-area-trails-installed-over-winooski-river/?fbclid=IwAR170g-WzOhD5MTmjUWpdAkN410MfEpnXqkXYKxXVdUef4ssYGTbbXQVXnY)
19 [winooski-river/?fbclid=IwAR170g-](https://vtdigger.org/2021/07/25/bridge-to-connect-montpelier-area-trails-installed-over-winooski-river/?fbclid=IwAR170g-WzOhD5MTmjUWpdAkN410MfEpnXqkXYKxXVdUef4ssYGTbbXQVXnY)
20 [WzOhD5MTmjUWpdAkN410MfEpnXqkXYKxXVdUef4ssYGTbbXQVXnY](https://vtdigger.org/2021/07/25/bridge-to-connect-montpelier-area-trails-installed-over-winooski-river/?fbclid=IwAR170g-WzOhD5MTmjUWpdAkN410MfEpnXqkXYKxXVdUef4ssYGTbbXQVXnY)

21 R. Wernecke shared that the bids are out for the Fisher Rd Bridge replacement project,
22 however the bids exceeded the funds available.

23
24 R. Turner shared that the new Williamstown park & ride on route 64 has been started, it will
25 replace the existing park & ride that had 25 parking spaces and move further down the road
26 with 75 parking spaces and have electric vehicle charging!

27
28 R. Wernecke shared that the updated Berlin park & ride has the pavement going down, and the
29 consultant has started to build the new access ramp.

30
31 D. La Haye asked if anyone knew whether VTrans had started improving road centerlines to
32 make them friendlier to autonomous vehicles.

33
34 S. Lotspeich shared that he went to a Ford dealership recently and heard there was a 50 person
35 waitlist for the new electric F150, and that some electric vehicles can be used as a generator to
36 power houses!

1 **Topics for future meetings**

2 Visitor Information Center, VTrans Permitting Services, VPSP2, and Climate Action and
3 Transportation

4

5 **Adjourn**

6 D. La Haye made the motion, seconded B. Atchinson, *to adjourn*. The motion carried.

7

8 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

DRAFT