

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Minutes
October 26, 2021

Attendees:						
	Barre City	Vacant		X	Moretown	Joyce Manchester
X	Barre Town	Stephanie Magnan				Dara Torre, Alt
X		Sebastian Arduengo, Alt			Northfield	Jeff Schulz
X	Berlin	Robert Wernecke				Patrick Demasi, Alt
	Cabot	John Cookson			Orange	Lee Cattaneo
X	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		David Wendt, Alt.				Harrison Snapp, Alt
	E. Montpelier	Frank Pratt			Warren	Camilla Behn
X	Fayston	Donald Simonini		X	Washington	Peter Carbee
	Marshfield	Robin Schunk		X	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
X	Middlesex	Ronald Krauth		X	Williamstown	Richard Turner
	Montpelier	Dona Bate			Woodbury	Chris Koteas
		Harold Garabedian, Alt		X	Worcester	Bill Arrand
Staff:		Christian Meyer				
Guests:		Chris Damiani (GMT), Michael Hellein, Zoe Neaderland (AOT), Alice Peal				

Chair Steve Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present

Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda

Public Comments

Zoe Neaderland updated the committee that the Draft State Freight Plan is forthcoming and will have a short public comment period.

Robert Wernecke updated the TAC that the work to replace the defunct culvert on Fisher Road is nearing completion and the road should be open to vehicles in roughly three weeks.

1 Bob Atchinson asked if there was any information on when the Berlin Park and Ride would be
2 opening. Zoe Neaderland will look into it. Peter Carbee thought they would be installing EV
3 chargers as part of the project.

4
5 David Ellenbogen asked what the process would be for getting stop signs added on local roads.
6 The Chair added discussion of the item to the Local Concerns portion of the meeting.

7 8 **Review of Draft September Meeting Minutes**

9 Joyce Manchester made the motion, seconded by Ronald Krauth, *to accept the minutes as*
10 *presented*. The motion carried.

11 12 **Waterbury Main Street – Presentation Steve Lotspeich**

13 Steve shared a presentation of the Main Street Waterbury full depth reconstruction project and
14 lessons learned. The recently completed construction project along the section of class 1 town
15 highway took nearly 2 ½ years to complete and cost roughly \$22 million.

16
17 A key to the success of the project was working with and communicating with local business
18 owners. The town posted extensive signage and offered assistance.

19
20 Also important to the project's success was a positive relationship with the contractor who was
21 easy to work with and got involved in the community, whether by wearing costumes for
22 Halloween or taking part in the Fourth of July parade.

23
24 For additional project information visit <https://waterburyworks.com/>.

25 26 **VPSP2 – Update and responses to questions**

27 Staff briefed the committee on the responses received to the questions that were posed at the
28 September TAC meeting. VTrans representative Zoe Neaderland added that programming
29 above the expected level of funding was also important to ensure a full program of projects
30 even if any individual project ran into snags or other difficulty that might slow its development.

31
32 Additional questions were posed regarding how the Agency of Transportation is currently
33 thinking about scarcity of labor or materials if a large infrastructure bill is passed at the federal
34 level. Zoe Neaderland, responded that she had observed no direct concern of this taking place
35 from her colleagues, perhaps due to the longer time horizon associated with a federal
36 transportation and infrastructure bill, allowing projects to be spaced out.

37 38 **Better Roads Grant (formerly Better Backroads)**

39 Staff briefed the committee on the forthcoming FY 2023 solicitation for the VTrans Better
40 Roads Program, announcing that the new application should be available on the program web
41 page by the close of the week. Municipal representatives should reach out to the RPC if there
42 any support is needed preparing the grant.

1 **Local Concerns Including Project Updates and Other Issues**

2 Steve Lotspeich asked staff about municipalities presenting new projects for VTrans
3 prioritization, in particular bridge projects. Staff responded that municipalities should be in
4 touch with the RPC and that staff will track down the eligibility requirements for the bridge
5 program.

6
7 Donald Simonini asked to whom exactly the announcements of new grant solicitations are
8 being sent? Zoe Neaderland and staff will look into this. Alice Peal recommended signing up for
9 the ANR listserv as it often has relevant announcements. Staff will look into some relevant lists

10
11 Bob Atchinson updated the group on ongoing planning work in Plainfield on the flood prone
12 bridge along Brook Road and the pedestrian bridge construction project on Main Street.

13
14 Discussion resumed around installing stop signs on local roads and if any studies or warrants
15 are necessary. Staff stated that they could be an additional resource for studying any locations
16 and that they would provide additional information.

17
18 Discussion continued on what maintenance programs exist through VTrans for municipalities
19 for Class 2 town highways. Staff and VTrans stated that they would follow up and provide a
20 brief for the group.

21
22 **Adjourn**

23 Don Lahaye made the motion, seconded by Alan Quackenbush, *to adjourn*. The motion carried.

24
25 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.