



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday February 22, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

This meeting will be held virtually

Join Zoom Meeting via Computer, Tablet or Smartphone:

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Agenda

- 6:30 1) Meeting Commencement
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Adjustments to the Agenda
 - c) Public Comment
 - d) Staff introduction – Sam Lash, Climate and Energy Planner
- 6:35 2) Approval of January 2022 and October 2021 TAC Meeting Minutes (*Enclosed*)
- 6:40 3) Regional Issues
 - a) Transportation demand management (*Christian, Enclosed*)
- 7:10 4) TAC Member Round Table
 - a) Municipal Road General Permit – Update (*Christian, Enclosed*)
 - b) Regional Priorities for VTrans Project Selection Process (*Christian*)
 - c) TPI project solicitation is open through March 8
 - d) Local concerns including project updates and other issues
- 7:35 5) Adjourn

Next Meeting March 22, 2022

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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802-229-0389 E Mail: CVRPC@CVRegion.com

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.



Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Minutes

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Attendees:						
	Barre City	Vacant		X	Moretown	Joyce Manchester
	Barre Town	Stephanie Magnan				Dara Torre, Alt
X		Sebastian Arduengo, Alt		X	Northfield	Jon Ignatowski
	Berlin	Robert Wernecke				Patrick Demasi, Alt
	Cabot	John Cookson		X	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 LaHaye
X		David Wendt, Alt.				Harrison Snapp, Alt
	E. Montpelier	Frank Pratt			Warren	Camilla Behn
	Fayston	Donald Simonini			Washington	Peter Carbee
	Marshfield	Robin Schunk		X	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
X	Middlesex	Ronald Krauth		X	Williamstown	Richard Turner
X	Montpelier	Dona Bate			Woodbury	Chris Koteas
		Harold Garabedian, Alt		X	Worcester	Bill Arrand
Staff: Christian Meyer						
Guests: Chris Damiani (GMT), Amanda Holland (AOT), 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
- Amanda Holland, the new VTrans regional coordinator for CVRPC, introduced herself.

Adjustments to the Agenda

- No adjustments to the agenda.

Public Comments

- No comments made.



1 **Review of Draft November Meeting Minutes**

- 2 • Steve Lotspeich asked that the text be clarified on page 2 under local concerns regarding
3 salt penetration on bridge deck in Plainfield. Staff made the modifications. Dona Bate
4 made the motion, Seconded by Bob Atchinson, to *accept the November TAC meeting*
5 *minutes as modified*.
6 By unanimous consent, the motion carried with Sebastian Arduengo abstaining.

7 **CVRPC TPI Work Program and Transportation Studies**

- 8 • Staff outlined the current projected budget surplus given current billing trends under
9 the TPI work program. This surplus will provide the region the opportunity to pursue
10 additional temporary staff or run consultant led studies. Staff requested input from the
11 TAC on what would be most valuable to municipalities from a programmatic
12 perspective.
- 13 • Discussion ensued with several members voicing support for intermunicipal and regional
14 active transportation studies. Sebastian Arduengo also advised that the Region should
15 see if there were opportunities to collaborate with the Cross Vermont Trail.
- 16 • Joyce Manchester inquired if there were opportunities for the region to help
17 municipalities prepare for the major state and federal initiatives on climate change
18 mitigation and adaptation. Staff recognized that in this context this work would have to
19 focus on transportation's impacts on and vulnerabilities to climate change.
- 20 • Joyce Manchester suggested a regional training series to educate municipal leaders and
21 the public on energy and electric vehicles might be beneficial. Steve Lotspeich
22 mentioned that Waterbury does an EV fair once a year where residents come and talk to
23 their neighbors about switching to an EV. Don LaHaye mentioned that there was a
24 website tracking charging stations and providing route planning. He also mentioned that
25 there are a number of incentive programs available from the utilities to support
26 switching. David Ellenbogen followed up that this could be more than just
27 transportation, but should also be a discussion of how this new transportation
28 infrastructure will fit local ordinances.
- 29 • Additional discussion on local priorities ensued.
- 30 • Staff then asked the committee members to consider the criteria by which the Region
31 prioritizes proposals for funding. Lee Cattaneo requested that economic impact, both in
32 terms of jobs and social equity, be considered as a criterion. Fellow committee members
33 voiced support.



1 TAC Member Round Table

- 2 • Don LaHaye brought up road painting and how it can be maintained in a manner that
- 3 supports the line detection safety features included on many modern cars.
- 4 • Gerry D'Amico mentioned that the legislature is studying transportation finance. Zoe
- 5 Neaderland mentioned that testimony has been given by VTrans and that she would
- 6 look into which committees were looking at the issue. Conversation ensued.
- 7 • Bob Atchinson updated the group on the pedestrian bridge in Plainfield. The project has
- 8 been shut down for the winter. The Plainfield EV charger at Mill Park is still offering
- 9 charging for a recommended donation of \$0.25 a kWh.
- 10 • Ronald Krauth inquired about E-busses. CD stated that there were currently two 40'
- 11 electric busses operating in Chittenden County. The electric versions of the smaller
- 12 busses that operate in the Central Vermont region are not yet available for purchase
- 13 with federal funds.
- 14 • Bob Atchinson asked that the topic of road crew recruitment be included in a future TAC
- 15 meeting.
- 16 • Zoe Neaderland gave a quick update on this VTrans equity framework study. Stating that
- 17 the study is still in early stages but as it develops additional information will be shared
- 18 with the TAC.
- 19 • Staff gave a quick update on the availability of funding through the Downtown
- 20 Transportation Fund for capital improvements in designated downtowns and the
- 21 expanded eligibility for those designated village centers where better connections
- 22 studies have been completed.

23 Adjourn

24 Don LaHaye made the motion, seconded by Lee Cattaneo, *to adjourn*. By unanimous consent,

25 the motion carried.

26

27 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 22, 2022

To: Transportation Advisory Committee

From: Christian Meyer, Senior Planner

Re: TPI Work Program Task 2.1.2 Transportation Demand Management

⊗ **ACTION REQUESTED:** Provide feedback on how staff can best support TDM goals in your community.

Transportation demand management (TDM) is about providing travelers with effective choices to improve travel reliability. Choices may include route, mode, work location or time of travel. Traditionally TDM has prioritized reducing the negative impacts of transportation on air quality and reducing congestion. While these outcomes remain central to State TDM efforts, as stated above, today reliability is of equal concern.

Under the CVRPC TPI work program, staff supports VTrans' goals and efforts in a number of ways outlined in the excerpted text below. The objective of discussing this task with the TAC is to improve how the Region is working with its member municipalities to support any ongoing local efforts. Under our work program supporting CVRPC communities will help us achieve our regional goals. Let us know if there are other stakeholders or local businesses with whom we should be communicating.

Excerpted from VTrans TPI guidance:

Go Vermont Program General Support:

VTrans continues to expand and improve the Go Vermont program. This web-based program is designed to be the information clearinghouse for all modes of transportation available in Vermont. Automated matching for carpool, vanpool and public transit routes are available as well as links to 511 travel information and other services.

VTrans requests RPC assistance with:

- Making the printed materials available in their regions
- Link the program (www.connectingcommuters.org) to respective websites wherever possible
- Provide feedback and planning to support expansions of vanpools, carpools and commuter routes and new technologies in transportation demand management systems.

The **Way to Go! Challenge (WTG)** is a year-round program highlighting, advocating and incentivizing the use of sustainable transportation options. The focus of the event is to promote travel by other modes to single

occupancy driving such as walking, bicycling, taking the bus, or carpooling. For FY22 the program will include both a “school challenge” as well as general public challenge which will likely occur in the Spring. RPC participation in WTG will help promote the program in all regions throughout the State.

The following resources are expected to be available to assist regions with the promotion of WTG:

- On-line Event Registration
- Website Resources at www.WAYTOGOVT.org
- Outreach Materials such as posters/brochures, email templates, social media posts, etc.
- Awards and Raffle Winner Determinations
- Financial assistance with local marketing/advertising

RPC Role could include (but not limited to):

- Coordination with the consultant leading the statewide WTG event
- Local Outreach to your region’s schools to identify interest and if they are best served by WTG and/or SRTS services.
- Direct Outreach to 3-5 schools in your region
- Finding and supporting Local Champions
- Promoting an Inter-school and/or intra-regional challenge(s)
- Local/regional marketing and advertising
- Assisting with updating or creating a School Travel Plan
- Attending the yearly Way to GO summit hosted by Local Motion
- Marketing the benefits of commuting alternatives to business owners so they encourage their employees to use them

Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP)

What's New (and Due) for 2022

Here are some upcoming important Vermont Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) related schedules and permit requirements, training opportunities, and resources available to towns in 2022.



Due Dates and Requirements for 2022

Due Date	Requirement	Fee
April 1	Annual Report Form	--
June 1	Annual Fee	\$500, \$1350, or \$1800 - prorated based on population & road miles

April 1, 2022 - Annual Report Form Due

Towns are required to complete and submit an [Annual Report Form](#). This is an easy to fill out, one-page form.

June 1, 2022 - MRGP Annual Fee Due

Towns are required to pay an annual fee (\$500, \$1,350 or \$1,800 based on population and road miles) before June 1, 2022. Towns will be sent an email invoice from DEC in April. Find your town's fee on the [list of prorated MRGP annual fees](#).

MRGP Implementation Requirements- 2022 Field Season

The MRGP requires towns to upgrade 15% of non-compliant hydrologically-connected road segments to MRGP standards by December 31, 2022. This number will vary according to your REI results. Please keep track of where road segments have been upgraded and make those updates through the DEC Survey 123 app or the [MRGP web-based Reporter Tool](#).

If you need help, attend a Virtual Road Roundtable training or check out the [MRGP website](#).

Example:

- Your completed initial inventory indicates that 100 road segments (1 road segment= 328 feet) scored "Does Not Meet" or "Partially Meets" standards.
- 15% of 100 segments or 15 segments (just under 1 mile of road) are required to be brought up to the MRGP standards by December 31, 2022.

Road Erosion Inventory (REI) - December 31, 2020- (*Past Due*)

Towns were required to complete and submit REIs using DEC's template before December 31, 2020. If your town has not yet submitted this requirement, please do so as soon as possible. REIs are conducted to determine which road segments meet or do not meet MRGP standards. The REIs serve as a basis to determine which roads will be required to be upgraded to meet MRGP standards.

To be complete, you must (1) upload the REI to the Implementation Portal, (2) submit the [REI Amendment Form](#), and (3) pay the processing fee of \$240.

Upcoming Trainings for 2022

Virtual and In-Person Road Roundtable Forums- DEC and the VTrans Local Roads programs will be offering a series of virtual Road Round Table Forums in 2022. Check the VTrans Local Roads Program website for dates and registration information: <https://localroads.vermont.gov/>

This year's Virtual Road Roundtable Forum Topics will include:

- How to download and use DEC's MRGP REI applications such as Collector and Survey 123.
- How to re-assess road segments after segments have been upgraded to MRGP standards.
- How to view, interpret, and use your town's REI data in the MRGP database portal.
- How to use mapping tools to assist in implementation of road practices.



Virtual Roundtables are currently scheduled for the following dates and times:

- March 30, 2022 from 9:00-10:30
- April 27, 2022 from 9:00-10:30

In-Person Road Roundtable Forums- VTrans Local Roads Program and DEC plan on offering In-person Road Roundtable Forums, if Covid-conditions allow, in spring of 2022. Dates and times TBD.

Finding Your Town's Compliance and REI Data Online

MRGP Compliance Status Database

Want to find out if your annual fee has been paid? Do you have an upcoming report due? Check out the [Compliance Status Database](#) to see the administrative compliance status of your town's MRGP.

Permit Information			Requirements for Full Compliance			
Town	Project Number	MRGP Fully Compliant	2021 MRGP Annual Fee Paid	REI Amendment Received	REI Amendment Fee Paid	REI Data Submitted and Technically Complete
Addison	7977	YES	YES	3/17/2021	YES	YES

MRGP Implementation Table Portal

Want to find the Road Erosion Inventory for your town? Want to show others the progress your town has made to implement the road standards? Check out the [Implementation Table Portal](#) to find Baseline REI summaries, Baseline REI inventories, Current inventories, Outlet surveys and Progress Reports.

Municipality	Baseline Summary	Baseline Inventory	Current Inventory	Current Summary	Outlet Inventory	Progress Report	All Assessments
Addison		Baseline Inventory	Current Inventory	Current Summary		Progress Report	All Assessments

Financial Assistance Available

Municipal Grants-in-Aid (GIA) for road upgrades to MRGP standards:

The Municipal Grants-in-Aid program made awards to towns in the fall of 2021, for funding under SFY22. These awards were for implementation projects in the 2021 and 2022 field season. It is anticipated that VTrans will again send letters to towns announcing the next round of GIA funding in the spring of 2022 for implementation of projects under SFY23. Grants will be awarded in late summer/fall allowing for implementation in the 2022-2023 field season. Towns receive grant funding to help them bring their connected roads up to MRGP standards. For more information visit the [Municipal Grant-in-Aid website](#) or or contact Ross Gouin at ross.gouin@vermont.gov.

Grants-Aid-Small Equipment Grant:

Over the past 4 years, all Vermont municipalities have been offered the opportunity to enroll in the Small Equipment Grant Program to purchase equipment that assists in implementing required MRGP practices. In FY23, DEC anticipates funding municipalities who submitted Letters of Intent for the program in FY22 and were notified that they are on a “wait list” pending funding availability. Regional Planning Commission staff will be in touch with those municipalities when they are approved to proceed with an equipment purchase. Please contact Linda Blasch at the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (lblasch@nrpcvt.com) for questions regarding the FY22 or FY23 equipment grant program. DEC will be reevaluating the need for continuing this program in future budget years.

VTrans Better Roads Grants:

VTrans Better Roads Grant funding can be used to develop MRGP Road Erosion Inventories (Category A), as well as implement road best management practices (Category B) that will assist municipalities in meeting MRGP implementation requirements. For more information visit the [Better Roads Grant Program](#) or contact Ross Gouin at ross.gouin@vermont.gov.



MRGP Re-Issuance In Early 2023

DEC will be re-issuing the MRGP permit in early 2023. The MRGP was issued for five years and will be expiring on January 26, 2023. The MRGP will be re-issued for a second five year term spanning approximately January 2023 to January 2028. During the re-issuance process there will be an opportunity for public review and comments. DEC is currently meeting with stakeholder organizations to gather input and draft permit amendments based on experiences with implementation of the existing standards. We will be seeking public review and comment in late summer or early fall of 2022. Stay tuned!

Future REI Requirements and Schedules (To Be Determined)

Dates and requirements for the next round of MRGP REIs have not yet been determined, as the MRGP will be re-issued with some changes in early 2023. Please hold off on conducting any new rounds of inventories until DEC provides additional guidance. That said, any towns that have not fully completed their initial REIs should do so as soon as possible. It is DEC's recommendation for towns, and those organizations assisting towns, that the focus should be on the MRGP implementation requirements for the 2022 calendar year. DEC will provide additional information on future REI requirements in 2022 as part of the MRGP re-issuance.

For more information about the MRGP, visit:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program>

or contact

Jim Ryan - DEC's Municipal Roads Program Coordinator at (802) 490-6140 or jim.ryan@vermont.gov

Tim Pricer - Agency of Digital Services, for questions about REI data submittal, reports/queries, scoring, and the MRGP Portal tim.pricer@vermont.gov

Ryan Knox - Agency of Digital Services, for questions about the MRGP Survey 123 app, Collector map layer, the ANR Natural Resources Atlas Municipal Road Theme, and MRGP Reporter web-based tool ryan.knox@vermont.gov