



Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Minutes

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Attendees:						
	Barre City	Vacant		X	Moretown	Joyce Manchester
X	Barre Town	Stephanie Magnan				Dara Torre, Alt
		Sebastian Arduengo, Alt			Northfield	Jon Ignatowski
X	Berlin	Robert Wernecke				Patrick Demasi, Alt
	Cabot	John Cookson		X	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
	Calais	David Ellenbogen		X	Plainfield	Bob Atchinson
X		Karin McNeill, Alt		X	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush		X	Waitsfield	Don LaHaye
		David Wendt, Alt.				Harrison Snapp, Alt
	E. Montpelier	Frank Pratt			Warren	Camilla Behn
	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, Sam Lash				
Guests:		Amanda Holland (VAOT)				

Chair Steve Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Roll Call

- Roll was called and a quorum was present

Adjustments to the Agenda

- No adjustments to the agenda.

Public Comments

- No comments made.

New Staff Introductions

- Sam Lash, the CVRPC Climate and Energy Planner, introduced herself to the committee. Sam will provide assistance for addressing climate change and Vermont's clean energy goals.

Review of Draft November Meeting Minutes

- Steve Lotspeich asked that several small corrections be made to the minutes for October and January. Staff updated the minutes. Richard Turner *moved that the minutes from January 25, 2022 be accepted as revised*. Don LaHaye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Robert Wernecke *moved that the minutes from October, 21 2021 be accepted as revised*. Joyce Manchester seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Transportation demand management

- Staff gave a little background on transportation demand management, and how it is the process of providing a greater diversity of choice to all users of transportation infrastructure to provide greater flexibility to all users while reducing congestion and emissions. Staff continued that under the TPI work plan, staff are encouraged to complete a certain number of activities to support state goals. In the past this work has followed VTrans guidance. Staff wanted to open the subject to the greater TAC to explore opportunities for to broaden this work.
- Committee members shared their past experiences with TDM, focusing on how the work has often revolved around teaming up with larger employers to created ride share opportunities or encouraging the use of the Park and Ride lots.
- Robert Wernecke then pointed out that the pandemic has really brought remote working and meetings to the forefront as a viable alternative to driving, but the infrastructure is still lagging to provide equal service in remote areas where low bandwidth can be a restricting factor. Robert Wernecke continued that we also need to work on how we use the technologies at hand, as he has been in some meetings where the message is failing to be transmitted to the participants because of poor audio or other technical factors. Further musing on how can we improve on this process? Bob Atchinson voiced support for these points further underlining the need for the infrastructure in rural communities. Karin McNeill further questioned how the region perhaps could support improved hybrid meeting formats.
- Joyce Manchester brought up the generous subsidies that the state offers its employees for ride sharing or for using transit, adding that it might be a good idea to advertise those programs again once the impact of Covid begins to recede. Joyce Manchester then shifted the conversation to funding a regional level electric vehicle car sharing program, perhaps with grants, similar to the Local Motion E-bike Library. Karin McNeill brought up

1 the Hitching Post concept that was getting underway in 2019 to encourage ride sharing.
2 Based on a post with flags placed adjacent to the road at local hubs, individuals could flag
3 a ride from a rural community into Montpelier and back again. Karin McNeill wondered
4 how this could be reactivated.

- 5 • Karin McNeill then wondered what role cyclist safety improvements, particularly at rural
6 intersections, could play in making biking a more attractive alternative to driving.
- 7 • Bob Atchinson asked about the MyRide ride hailing program in Montpelier and Berlin and
8 staff gave a brief report on the current status of service and some its strengths,
9 weaknesses and how it is being tweaked to improve service.

10 **TAC Member Round Table**

- 11 • Staff gave some updates and reminders on the Municipal Road General Permit, the
12 forthcoming state solicitation for bridge projects, and the TPI planning study solicitation
13 that will continue until March 8.
- 14 • Richard Turner reported that the new Park and Ride lot in Williamstown has been really
15 well received. Discussions continued on Park and Ride Lots, touching on the new design
16 of the Berlin lot.

17 **Adjourn**

- 18 • Robert Wernecke made the motion, seconded by Don LaHaye, *to adjourn*. By unanimous
19 consent, the motion carried.

20 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.