



Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Minutes

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Attendees:					
x	Barre City	Michael Hellein	x	Moretown	Joyce Manchester
x	Barre Town	Stephanie Magnan (Chair)	x	Northfield	Thomas Davis
	Berlin	Robert Wernecke			Jeff Schulz, Alt
	Cabot	John Cookson		Orange	Lee Cattaneo
	Calais	David Ellenbogen	x	Plainfield	Bob Atchinson (Vice Chair)
		Karin McNeill, Alt	x	Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico
x	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush		Waitsfield	Don LaHaye
		Bill Whitehair, Alt.	x		Alice Peal, Alt
	E. Montpelier	Gina Jenkins		Warren	Michael Bridgewater, Alt
	Fayston	Donald Simonini		Washington	Peter Carbee
	Marshfield	Todd Eaton	x	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
x	Middlesex	Ronald Krauth	x	Williamstown	Richard Turner
x	Montpelier	Dona Bate		Woodbury	Chris Koteas
				Worcester	Bill Arrand
Staff: Keith Cubbon					
Guests: Amanda Holland					

Stephanie brought the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Roll Call

- Roll was called and a quorum was present

Adjustments to the Agenda

- None

Public Comments

- None

1 **Staff Announcements**

- 2 • Keith mentioned that Sam Church, CVRPC's new planning tech started work on Monday
3 for the summer.
4 • Mentioned working on a document detailing funding for diesel vehicle replacement and
5 town fleet electrification upcoming within next week or two.
6

7 **Approval of April 2023 TAC Meeting Minutes**

- 8 • The April minutes were accepted Gerry D. made a motion to accept the minutes and
9 was Rich T. 2nd the motion.

10 **Memo TPI Guidance and Budget Review**

11 Keith laid out the timeline for the TPI guidance and budget review and need to have
12 workplan and budget accepted by August 4 2023.

13 **Memo Work Plan Tasks**

14 This memo is about tasks that the TAC would like to see included in the guidance. Keith
15 asked for ideas to include in the new TPI workplan and budget.

16 Questions/ideas follow:

- 17 • ARPA funding and who monitors this and if CVRPC was monitoring this. Keith replied
18 that we offer assistance as well as VLCT and that the US Treasury is who is actually
19 monitoring this.
20 • Joyce-Obtaining and locating EV chargers in towns and throughout the region? We have
21 discussed this amongst staff. Have looked into possibly buying a data set that could
22 allow us to analyze that data. We plan on doing this in the future.
23 • Michael H. spoke about the desire for corridor planning between Barre City and
24 Montpelier for multimodal access.
25 • Steve L. asked if the Regional Transportation plan would be a stand alone plan or a
26 chapter within the Regional Plan? Keith- The Regional Transportation Plan will be a
27 chapter and the outline will be crafted in June and in September/October will present it
28 to the TAC before taking to the select boards with the rough draft will be in January.
29 Steve also asked about the state's corridor plans. Amanda H. of VTrans replied that
30 these are usually done when a larger project is also planned. Route 2 Moretown and
31 Middlesex are next in our region. Planning to layout ideas for what the towns would like
32 these corridors to become. Michael- Responded that establishing some kind of vision
33 about what we would like the corridor to be and it may make sense to plan Route 2 and
34 Route 302 corridors together. Amanda- Agreed that towns having a vision of what their
35 community can be and mentioned task 7 Bike and Ped planning both inventorying what
36 is on the ground and what the planning is in connecting gaps.

- 1 • Alice-Asked if Joyce was asking about advertising locations or finding locations. Joyce-
2 Planning the locations in towns and villages. Alice-Their town has been having them pop
3 up from private investment at stores, breweries/restaurants. And was wondering if
4 Michael had meant advertising bike trails locations. His reply was that no he meant no
5 bike trails specifically but transportation that is less car focused.
- 6 • Stephanie- In the tasks listed I don't see EV charging listed is it bundled into another
7 task. Keith-It is incorporated in climate mitigation planning. Amanda- It was a funny
8 struggle; our environmental team is primarily looking at climate footprint. Previously the
9 RPC were responding and working with the state's EV plan but RPCs are working in
10 some regions with towns to plan locations for EV charging. This task also has Travel
11 Demand Management which is trying to get people out of their vehicles and use other
12 modes of transit. Stephanie-So we could put a note under there that the TAC would like
13 the RPC to place more consideration under this core piece. Keith-Yes, we can do that.
- 14 • Gerry-I think the Transportation Planning Initiative seems to be pretty comprehensive.
15 Why is the calendar set on the Federal Fiscal Year? Keith-This is because most of the
16 funding comes from the Federal government. Keith also explained the task reporting
17 calendar and the dates are for either state meetings or reporting to the state. Gerry-I
18 assume the private industry will jump into this, being a capitalistic society that we are.
19 Keith-The current state numbers are around 3% EV usage and as that ramps up most
20 likely the private enterprises, such as gas stations will get into the program at an
21 increased rate. Towns may want to get involved in it at some locations, but as the
22 number increases, I would expect them to get more involved.
- 23 • Ron-What planning is being done on the grid infrastructure? Haven't seen anything in
24 the state plan as far as local distribution? Really thinks this planning needs to be
25 addressed. Stephanie-I believe this is part of the department of public services purview
26 and that they are developing process for this. Ron-Would like them to come to one of
27 our meetings and explain this process. Keith- I am aware of Phase 3 power lines in the
28 region but we don't have a complete map but it is mapped. Explaining the need for 3
29 phase for faster charging and this is partially one of the reasons you see such large
30 ranges in cost for installing chargers, due to need for 3 phase conversion. Joyce- The
31 department of public service is conducting surveys of the grid and Vermont Public
32 Power Suppliers Authority that puts out an annual report for how to handle the grid and
33 whether Vermont will be ready to handle the increased demand.
- 34 • Bob-Yes apart from EV not being a sustainability solution for dealing with the climate.
35 Has attended both Efficiency VT and the New England Power Consortium, that the
36 power companies aren't that concerned since they already own the rights of way and if
37 it comes to larger towers and stronger wires, they aren't that concerned. Level 2
38 chargers will do most of the work. Installed one in Plainfield for \$2000. Level 3's will be

1 for main corridors. The Chinese model of standardized batteries and swapping out
2 batteries is probably better and is a 7 min. turn around. Which is faster than any fast
3 charger. Thinking that electrifying America will save the planet, when conservation has a
4 better chance of doing that rather than mining exotic minerals all over the world.

- 5 • Michael- I just want to second what Bob said that there is a lot of industry pressure and
6 consumer pressure to make sure EVs work but mode shift is what we need to plan so
7 the idea that somehow, we transition to a future based on electrons rather than
8 hydrocarbons.
- 9 • Stephanie- Transportation Equity Planning task work. Keith- We are trying to implement
10 this in all our tasks, discussed our yearly report. Mentioned reaching out to stakeholders
11 and helping to facilitate stakeholder engagement. Creating opportunities for affected
12 communities to have a voice and a place to be heard. Amanda- Equity is included in
13 every task, the state's draft plan and working groups have a lot of recommendations for
14 the agency and RPCs can do more to increase outreach and equity. This is currently
15 written vaguely as the state finishes up the process of how to implement. Keith- Gave an
16 example of the during outreach meetings are very important to find out about issues
17 within a community. Michael- Spoke about the status quo of this plan and the need to
18 dramatically change our plan, we aren't doing enough, we are 5 years late for an
19 emergency. We should try for more drastic change. A lot of things happen between
20 creating a plan and making real change.

21 **TAC Member Round Table**

- 22 • Michael-Barre City already has a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon-RRFB, but it is not
23 bright enough.
- 24 • Alice-She asked about a tool kit for traffic calming. Keith-I will send out a link to the slide
25 deck and will include it in the email with the minutes. It is more geared for town streets,
26 rather than the state highway system. Alice-As Waitsfield is moving to improvements in
27 the downtown areas so they are thinking of planning for traffic calming. Is it still really
28 hard to get an RRFB, VTrans requires a traffic study and to try everything else first?
29 Keith-Northfield is getting ready to try and install one and they are trying to engineer as
30 much of this as possible themselves to lower the cost. The state does require a 1111
31 permit and cement pads to anchor them into. You might want to reach out to them to
32 see if they have streamlined the process. You might want to reach out to Jeff Schulz.
33 Tom D.- spoke that Alice could contact him and they would set up a meeting with Jeff.
34 They don't have final approval yet but would be willing to discuss.
- 35 • Alice-Is there any date or timeline for the Route 17/100 intersection. They will be
36 bringing forward the final report to selectboard on June 5th. This is a background
37 investigation, compiling information on the area. Amanda- Is this the scope refinement

1 from the VPSP2 project. If that is the regional project refinement. This is pre-scoping,
2 there will be some report there will not be any decisions or designs made it is just trying
3 to understand the problem.

- 4 • Alice-You mentioned that CVRPC will be bringing Regional Plan drafts to Towns in
5 October. Keith-Yes, we will be doing presentations to all the selectboards in October
6 and November we will not have the draft done yet but will be between having the
7 outline and the first draft which is scheduled for January. Steve-Will this be the regional
8 transportation plan or the complete regional plan. Keith-The complete regional plan.
- 9 • Steve-We talked about the last meeting to hold a meeting in Waterbury for a sight visit.
10 Can start at the municipal meeting for a brief hybrid meeting, can walk up to Stowe
11 street. Can work with Keith to make sure it is accessible if people can't come. Would
12 love to show everyone the project. Asked that the TPI workplan and budget would work.
13 Keith-Said that would work for us, next month we would do the heavy work at June and
14 July would just be voting to accept. Stephanie approved. Steve said he would reserve
15 the meeting room then.
- 16 Stephanie thanked Amanda for attending.

17 **Adjourn**

- 18 • At 7:44PM Alan made a motion to adjourn Ron 2nd the motion.