



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Attendees:					
	Barre City			Northfield	Thomas Davis
X	Barre Town	Phil Cecchini			Jeff Schulz, Alt
X	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	X	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
	Cabot	John Cookson	X	Plainfield	Bob Atchinson (Chair)
X	Calais	David Ellenbogen	X	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
		Karin McNeill, Alt	X	Waitsfield	Don LaHaye
X	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	X		Alice Peal, Alt
				Warren	Jim Crafts
X	E. Montpelier	Adam Stanforth		Washington	Peter Carbee
		Jen Devine, Alt			
	Fayston		X	Waterbury	Mike Hedges (Vice Chair)
	Marshfield	Todd Eaton			Doug Greason, Alt
X	Middlesex	Ronald Krauth	X	Williamstown	Richard Turner
X	Montpelier	Dona Bate	X	Woodbury	Michael Gray
	Moretown	John Lynch			
			X	Worcester	Bill Arrand
Staff: Reuben MacMartin, Keith Cubbon					
Guests: Faith Dall (VTrans), Marcella Dent (VTrans), Stephen Whitaker (Public)					

Bob A. brought the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Roll Call

- Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

- None

Public Comments

- Stephen Whitaker raised concerns about the lack of consultation between the Municipal Plan Review Committee and the Transportation Advisory Committee, particularly regarding the Country Club Road development and its impact on hospital access. He also highlighted a VHB-designed project to raise Route 2 and mitigate a railroad elevation

bottleneck, which the committee should consider. Whitaker suggested applying for CDBG DR money for planning to address potential disaster resilience issues and emergency dispatch relocation.

Staff Announcements

- CVRPC Staff provided updates on ongoing projects, including a pedestrian study in the Mad River Valley, bridge design applications for Waitsfield Meadow Road and Cabot's Bridge B7, and a new community-supported bike share model. Staff also announced the hiring of a new planner with strong technical and community development experience, who is expected to start in early October.

Approval of July 2025 Minutes and June 2025 Notes

- July Minutes were approved without modification.

Approval TPI FFY 26 Workplan

- Workplan and budget was approved following clarification of process for estimating required funding levels.
- Robert W requested that staff prepare year-on-year comparisons and expenditure tracking by program area for October meeting.
 - Staff will prepare these for TAC review.

Discussion: VTrans Better Connections Grant Program

- Faith D, the program manager for the Better Connections grant program, presented details about the joint grant initiative between three state agencies. She explained that the program supports local master planning projects to inform policy decisions and guide future investments, with funding available for multimodal connectivity, active transportation, and stormwater management projects. Faith highlighted that the grant provides up to \$67,500 in funding with a low 10% local match, and she shared examples of previous successful projects in Springfield and Fairlee. She encouraged interested communities to discuss the grant with their select boards and emphasized that the program includes significant state involvement and support.

Discussion: FFY 26 Town Study Proposals

- Staff explained that no formal proposals were available but outlined the process for selecting and funding town transportation studies. Staff proposed that the TAC establish a funding cap and selection process for projects.
 - Alice P inquired about the scope of town studies, which Staff clarified could cover a wide range of transportation issues. The group discussed the challenges

1 of securing contractors for smaller projects, with Staff noting that in-house
2 capacity was now available to conduct these studies.

- 3 ○ Alan Q requested more information for the next meeting to facilitate further
4 discussion or action items.
- 5 ○ Robert W shared historical experience of similar projects, suggesting that
6 candidate projects may be of sufficient scale to attract consultant interest. He
7 further proposed that Staff solicit proposals from towns and that the TAC
8 determine funding based on submissions.
 - 9 ■ Staff agreed to pursue this course of action.
- 10 ○ Mike H suggested using the funds for bridge feasibility studies, similar to the
11 Stowe Street Bridge project, which Staff supported as being within the intended
12 scope.
 - 13 ■ Alan Q expressed concerns about the high costs of bridge design and
14 construction. Alan also requested adding the Mad River Valley Active
15 Transportation Corridor study to the committee's agenda for further
16 discussion.

18 **TAC Member Round Table**

- 19 • Alice P reported on planning projects in the Mad River Valley:
 - 20 ○ VHB recently completed a scoping/feasibility study of the proposed Active
21 Transportation Corridor (ATC) and Mad River Path (MRP) is seeking Bicycle and
22 Pedestrian Grant funding for engineering and design of a section from Warren
23 Village into Waitsfield. MRP recently requested matching funds at a Waitsfield
24 Select Board meeting, but the board indicated that they were focused on funding
25 critical projects and building reserve funds.
 - 26 ○ Alice reiterated the critical need for replacing the Meadow Road Bridge in
27 Waitsfield, which is currently under VTrans review, and mentioned a \$250,000
28 grant to fund a 90% engineering project for replacement.

29 **Adjourn**

- 30 • At 8:00 PM Alan Q moved to adjourn Philip C 2nd the motion.
 - 31 ○ Group voted; Motion passed.

32 **Action Items**

- 33 • Staff will reach out to Montpelier regarding plans for raising US-2 at Country Club Road
34 intersection and brief TAC at October meeting
- 35 • Staff will prepare year-on-year budget comparisons and expenditure by month by
36 program area breakdown for TPI FFY 25 for next TAC meeting.

- Staff will solicit study proposals from towns for discussion and potential selection at October TAC meeting.
- Staff will prepare a briefing on Mad River Valley ATC for October TAC meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Reuben MacMartin, Senior Transportation Planner

DRAFT