

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2020

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held in Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney, VT at 6pm.

Attendance

TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock (Vice Chair), Baltimore; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Arne Jonynas, Chester; John Saydek, Cavendish; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Eric Bye, member-at-large, Springfield; Barbara Bye, member-at-large, Springfield.

Others present: Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC.

Wayne Wheelock opened the meeting at 6:05 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

Wayne Wheelock welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introductions were made.

2. Changes to the Agenda

An update on outreach for the draft Active Transportation Plan was added under item #7.

3. Approval of Minutes

Tom Kenyon made a motion to approve the October 30, 2019 meeting minutes. Second by Gordy Eastman. Motion approved.

4. VT Railway Project Update

Gordy Eastman gave an update on the ongoing railway project in Middlebury. The project is lowering the railroad through downtown Middlebury, involving work on about 2/3 of a mile of railroad corridor and 360 feet of new tunnel, costing about \$49 million. The project will involve a rail traffic detour through our region during May to August 2020. For more information see the [project website](#).

5. Project Prioritization

- a. The prioritization methodology that we have been using over the past few years was reviewed. No changes to that process are needed.
- b. Jason Rasmussen provided the new list for project prioritization, last year's pre-candidate town bridge list and a summary of other ongoing projects that do not need to be prioritized. The new pre-candidate list from VTrans was reviewed in a little more detail, looking at VTrans' initial rankings and how the RPC priorities influence the final VTrans rankings. The TAC agreed that we should re-evaluate projects based upon the most recent information. Next steps involve reaching out to each town to review the lists and get input. Preparation for the next TAC meeting will include mapping project and pre-candidate bridge locations. The intent is to complete the prioritization processes at the February TAC meeting.
- c. Jason Rasmussen reviewed potential changes to future project prioritization. We will be testing a new methodology over the next year or two. Included in the new process will be a way to evaluate requests for new projects.

6. Legislative Updates

Jason Rasmussen provided a summary of transportation bills. The [Tree Warden bill](#) (H.673), which expands tree warden authority, is pretty controversial. The [Governor's Recommended FY2021 Transportation Program](#) was also just released.

7. Updates and Announcements

- a. [MRGP Due Dates](#): April 1st annual planning reports are due; June 1st annual fees are due; December 31st road erosion inventories and amendment form are due.

- b. A [Pedestrian Safety and Vulnerability Road User Toolkit](#) was recently released, which may be a helpful reference for towns.
- c. VTrans recently updated their pedestrian facilities cost report. The cost of sidewalks is now \$317 a linear foot (concrete with granite curb), an increase of roughly 33% since 2014.
- d. Staff are assisting VTrans to conduct a survey of transit riders of The Current's services funded through the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Program. Input will help to evaluate these services. This process is complicated by the recent changes in who provides these services in our region.
- e. Staff conducted outreach over the past few months to get input on the draft Active Transportation Plan. We received a few good comments, but not a significant level of input. There were very few changes made as a result. We will recirculate this document for review at the next meeting.

8. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 25 at 6PM
- b. Future Agenda Topics: Active Transportation Plan and project prioritization in February. Airport anniversary in May.

9. Adjourn

- a. Sharon Bixby made a motion to adjourn. Second by Tom Kenyon. Motion approved.
- b. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.