

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held via Zoom at 6pm.

Attendance

TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock (Vice Chair), Baltimore; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Arne Jonynas, Chester; John Saydek, Cavendish.

Others present: Joe Segale and Mike Obuchowski, VTrans and Jason Rasmussen, SWCRPC.

Wayne Wheelock opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Changes to the Agenda

None. *Sharon Bixby made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by John Saydek. A roll call vote to pass the motion was unanimous.*

3. Automated Vehicle Testing

Joe Segale and Mike Obuchowski presented about VTrans' effort to test automated vehicles in Vermont. Automated vehicles are projected to become a significant portion of the vehicles on the road in the future (estimated 40% to 60% by 2050). Testing is desired to facilitate deployment in Vermont, build public confidence, provide a clear process for testers, and establish a transparent testing process. This technology has the potential to improve highway safety, reduce space in downtowns needed for parking, and provide mobility for those that cannot drive (e.g. the "[Little Roady](#)" shuttle being tested in Rhode Island). There may be a benefit, especially for tourist destinations, to accommodate visiting automated vehicles from the Boston and New York metropolitan areas in the future, for example.

State law requires a permit to test levels 3, 4 and 5 automated vehicles. VTrans has released a draft Automated Vehicle Testing Permit Guidance and Application for public review. Jason will send that information around after the meeting.

VTrans is inviting municipalities that are interested to participate in the testing. Springfield and Bellows Falls have already expressed an interest. Sharon indicated that Ludlow is interested to learn more about it. Arne said he would ask the Chester Selectboard if they are interested.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sharon Bixby made a motion to approve the February 25, 2020 meeting minutes. Second by Wayne Wheelock. John Saydek and Arne Jonynas abstained. A roll call vote to pass the motion was unanimous.

5. Election of Officers

Arne Jonynas made a motion to appoint Kristi Morris as Chair and Wayne Wheelock as Vice Chair of the Southern Windsor County Transportation Advisory Committee. Second by Tom Kenyon. A roll call vote to pass the motion was unanimous.

6. New Transportation Work Plan

Jason reviewed VTrans guidance for our transportation work program for FFY 2021, which begins October 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2021. New tasks include environmental policy/planning (e.g. TCI, electric vehicles), inform planning efforts with information from the Transportation Resilience Planning Tool, clarified roles and responsibilities for the Elders and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program, continuing a pilot of the new project selection and

prioritization process, and New Project Summaries which provides an opportunity to include additional improvements in new programmed paving projects.

Jason asked if there were any local projects that towns would like the RPC to specifically include in the work program. If anyone has a suggestion, please contact Jason.

7. Updates and Announcements

- a. Jason provided a few updates. Due to COVID-19, there are delays (or cancellations) with both the Hartness Airport 100 Anniversary celebration as well as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program applications.

8. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: June 24
- b. Possible Future Agenda Topics: Town success with roadway rip rap projects, COVID-19 related impacts on town highway departments

9. Adjourn

- a. *Arne Jonynas made a motion to adjourn. Second by John Saydek. A roll call vote to pass the motion was unanimous.*
- b. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.