

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2019

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; John Saydek, Cavendish; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Eric Bye, member-at-large, Springfield.

Others present: Carol Lighthall, Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce; Jackie Cassino, VTrans; 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

No changes to the agenda were made.

3. Approval of Minutes

Sharon Bixby made a motion to approve the September 25, 2019 meeting minutes. Second by John Saydek. Motion approved.

4. VT Public Transit Policy Plan

Jackie Cassino provided a handout and presented the draft Vermont Public Transit Policy Plan (PTPP). It is on a 5-year update schedule. The Human Service Transportation Plan used to be a separate document. This time it is being integrated into the PTPP. Common needs include:

- a) A lack of transit access in rural areas;
- b) A lack of resources to meet the needs of vulnerable populations both today and in the future;
- c) In areas that have bus routes, improved service levels and connections are needed; and,
- d) Transportation for access to jobs.

Draft recommendations include:

- a) Addressing aging Vermont
- b) Expansion of transit access
- c) Outreach and raising awareness
- d) Using technology to move to next generation of ride scheduling
- e) Land use planning and investments

5. Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee Efforts

Carol Lighthall reported on the activities of the Okemo Valley Chamber. Shortly before she started working there, the Chamber developed a strategic plan. Transportation was a priority issue identified in that plan. An example is the lack of transportation for the actors that travel up from NYC to the Weston Playhouse in the summer. They are frequently isolated due to a lack of transportation. Carol indicated that a recent survey of Ludlow businesses indicated a desire for a shuttle loop, Uber or Lyft, and/or taxi service. A survey of Chester businesses will be going out soon. Sharon Bixby indicated that a shuttle was tried years ago, but it did not continue due to low ridership. Carol indicated that some businesses, such as Killarney's, have been paying recently for a shuttle service for patrons. Jackie Cassino suggested the senior van in Essex and the "Mad Bus" in the Mad River Valley as examples of community efforts in the state. A feasibility study may be the best way to determine what type of services would make sense in Ludlow. Jackie suggested talking with The Current and Tim Bradshaw and Amy Bell at VTrans about possible feasibility study options.

Carol also talked about how the Green Mountain Flyer is interested in expanding their presence in Ludlow.

6. Other Business

No other business to discuss.

7. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: Due to schedules and the holidays, the next meeting will be January 22.
- b. Potential Future Agenda Topics: Legislative updates, airport anniversary (May), and project prioritization.

9. Adjourn

- a. Sharon Bixby made a motion to adjourn. Second by John Saydek. Motion approved.
- b. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.