

**Mount Ascutney Regional
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2023

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held via Zoom and in-person at 6:00 pm.

Attendance

TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Brandon Gulnick, Weathersfield; John Saydek, Cavendish; Diane Foulds, Windsor; Peter Hudkins, Chester; Eric & Barbara Bye, At-Large; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow

Others present: Otis Munroe, MARC; Christine Howe, SEVT; Amanda Holland, VTrans

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

All present members of the TAC and guests introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Otis added an announcement and Kristi agreed to give a legislative update. A microtransit update was also added.

3. Updates and Announcements

Otis shared that Grants-in-Aid letters have gone out to towns listing final award amounts.

4. Approval of Minutes

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to approve the April 26th minutes. Second by Peter Hudkins. The motion passed unanimously.

5. FFY24 Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Workplan

Otis gave some background for the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) and the role of the workplan. The FFY24 workplan and budget are largely unchanged from FFY23. A memo on the workplan had been shared as part of the agenda packet. Kristi asked when the TAC can provide input. Due to summer meeting schedules, the TAC would give RPC staff approval to draft a workplan and then RPC staff would submit it to the RPC Board for final approval. The TAC as well as town staff and boards can continue to have input throughout much of the process, especially in proposing region-specific projects. Amanda added that tasks are written to provide freedom to address needs of the community as they arise throughout the year and that only larger-scale regional projects should have their own tasks.

Peter mentioned that Chester is considering reclassifying class 4 town highways as legal trails and is anticipating that it will be a large project. Amanda confirmed that the RPC's support for that work would be covered under the existing tasks in the workplan.

Amanda provided an update since the memo had been drafted. The VTCulverts budget will not roll over as the memo states, but a certain amount is reallocated every year. Amanda also reminded the TAC that tasks are written to provide freedom to address needs of the community as they arise throughout the year.

John made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to finalize this work program with VTrans and submit it to the RPC Board for approval. Second by Wayne Wheelock. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Kristi shared that the Legislature sent the following high-profile bills to the governor: the FY24 budget, housing, childcare and a bill funding the school lunch program for everyone. The paid family leave bill wasn't taken up this year. The clean heat standard also passed over the governor's veto. The Legislature will still have to weigh in again before any rules take

effect. Peter asked about the status of H.29 about the state taking over management of floodplains. It was assigned to Kristi's committee but wasn't taken up. Wayne asked about whether the Legislature got a raise. Compensation for the Legislature may go up in 2025 but is likely to be vetoed.

5. Windsor Microtransit Update

Christine shared that the number of rides has slowly been going up. After 6 months, in June, the pilot will be reassessed and they'll consider adding to the service area. The vans have finally arrived and are taking over the service this week. SEVT and Mount Ascutney Hospital continue to work on outreach. SEVT is following up on Diane's advice to post on Front Porch Forum. Ridership always goes up with warmer weather. Diane asked about brochures. Brochures have been left at various places and organizations around Windsor and were mailed to all residents.

6. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: June 22, 2023.
- b. Topic: Meeting at Hartness Airport, both in-person and Zoom options are available.

9. Adjourn

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn. Second by Peter Hudkins. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.