

**Mount Ascutney Regional
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2022

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

Attendance

TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Kristi Morris, Springfield; John Saydek, Cavendish; Eric and Barbara Bye, at-large; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Diane Foulds, Windsor.

Others present: Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen MARC; 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

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to approve the November 30, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Diane Foulds.. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Jason Rasmussen gave an update on the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the T-Bill, and the Transportation Innovation Act. The IIJA includes additional funding for VTrans, off-system (ie town) bridges, and many discretionary grant programs. Rules are still being finalized so details are scarce. The T-Bill includes EV, ebike, and other efficiency programs as well as changes to the 1111 permit process. The Transportation Innovation Act covers a lot of the same ground as the T-Bill including EVs and other transportation emissions programs. In general, a lot of funding will be coming soon.

Kristi Morris gave an update on the ongoing budget adjustment. The legislature is looking at appropriating money for water and wastewater, brownfields, and broadband.

Conversation centered around the Transportation Innovation Act and its relationship to the T-Bill and H.123 on alternatives to the gas tax for electric vehicles.

5. Updates and Announcements

- Otis Munroe provided a series of updates beginning with the Ludlow Microtransit Feasibility Study. The public meeting was held on February 7th and we are awaiting a final draft of the report incorporating public feedback. Barabara Bye noted that the Ludlow study didn't evaluate the purchase of an electric vehicle and current incentive programs. Arne Jonynas suggested as a service that would benefit Okemo, the Mountain might be expected to contribute to operating expenses.
- The Springfield area Microtransit Study is ongoing and a final report is expected this summer. The report will evaluate microtransit service in both Springfield and Windsor.
- VPSP2 will be starting up again next month for bridge projects.
- MRGP annual reports are due April 1st and the annual fee is due June 1st. 15% of failed road segments will have to meet the standard by December 31st 2022. The second round of road erosion inventories will be beginning in 2023.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Sections 3.1.3–3.4¹ of the draft Regional Transportation Plan were shared with the TAC ahead of the meeting. Discussion focused on widened shoulders and narrowed travel lanes to provide on-road facilities for bicyclists.

6. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: March 23, 2022.
- b. Potential topic: VPSP2: Bridges, Regional Transportation Plan.

7. Adjourn

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn. Second by John Saydek. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

¹ Multiple Users of the Roadway Network, Park and Ride Facilities, Public Transportation, Sidewalks and Multi-use Path Network, Rail Network.