

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2021**

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

**Attendance**

TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield; Arne Jonynas, Chester; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; John Saydek, Cavendish; Eric Bye (at-large); Barbara Bye (at-large); Brandon Gulnick, Weathersfield.

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Otis Munroe, MARC; Kent Gilman, Chester; Jonathon Weber, VT Local Motion.

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kristi Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

**2. Changes to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*John Saydek made a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 meeting notes. Second by Brandon Gulnick. The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Discussion of E-Bike Rules – Jonathan Weber, Local Motion**

Jonathon Weber gave an overview of e-bikes and cargo e-bikes and introduced Local Motion and their network of e-bike lending libraries. He summarized a 2018 nationwide survey of e-bike riders. Key takeaways from the survey were that people use e-bikes to overcome barriers that otherwise prevent them from biking. Purchasing an e-bike led to a considerable increase in the frequency of riding. Common uses of e-bikes were for recreation, commuting, and running errands.

Jonathan gave an overview of current VT e-bike legislation. E-bikes are considered motor-assisted bicycles in VT statute as long as they have a top speed of 20mph when using the throttle alone. There are no, registration, inspection, or insurance requirements; you can't ride e-bikes on a sidewalk, and you must be over 16. Municipalities may regulate e-bikes further.

Pending legislation (H.100/S.66) requires municipalities to undertake a public process if limiting class 1 and 2 e-bikes. Class 3 e-bikes may be regulated without having to go through a public process. People under 16 will be permitted to ride e-bikes.

Following the presentation, there was a discussion of e-bikes sharing bike paths and mountain bike trails. Jonathan related that conflicts are rare because e-bike riders rarely ride faster than traditional bicyclists in these environments.

**5. Vermont Rail Plan Comments**

Jason Rasmussen and Otis Munroe reviewed the draft letter from the TAC to VTrans containing comments on the Draft State Rail Plan. Wayne Wheelock suggested amending the comment on Initiative 112 to voice support for system upgrades to the new 286k standard statewide. The current letter only supported upgrades to the GMRC line from Rutland to Bellows Falls.

*Arne made motion, to accept and sign letter with the inclusion of support for the 286K standard statewide. Second by Brandon Gulnick. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **6. Updates and Announcements**

### **a. Project Prioritization and Selection Process**

Jason Rasmussen and Otis Munroe gave updates on the VPSP2 pilot and the role of the RPC and TAC in scoring asset driven projects and proposing regionally driven projects. The Committee discussed traffic operations improvements at the intersection of VT 131 and US 5. Also discussed was paving US-5 in Weathersfield as a potential regionally driven project. There is potential for harmonization with a possible sewer extension from Windsor that is in very early planning stages.

The RPC will provide information on existing capital program projects, the asset driven project in Weathersfield, and VPSP2 intake forms to the TAC. Further discussion of regionally driven projects will be held at the April TAC meeting with the goal of drafting a list to forward to VTrans.

### **b. Transportation Board Landing Facilities Guidance (enclosure)**

Towns in the Region have received a letter from the Transportation Board on local regulation of private landing facilities. Baltimore and Chester are discussing the letter in future meetings. Chester is currently updating their zoning bylaws and may consider the letter as part of that work.

## **7. Future agenda items & next meeting date**

a. Next meeting: April, exact date TBD

b. Potential Future Topic: Project Prioritization and Selection: Regionally Driven Projects

## **8. Adjourn**

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn. Second by Brandon Gulnick. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.*