

**Mount Ascutney Regional
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of March 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; John Saydek, Cavendish; Eric and Barbara Bye, at-large; Diane Foulds, Windsor; Gordy Eastman, Reading.

Others present: Otis Munroe; Amanda Holland and Ken Valentine, VTrans

Wayne Wheelock 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

Gordy Eastman made a motion to approve the February 23, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Diane Foulds. The motion passed unanimously.

4. VPSP2 2022 Bridges, Asset Driven Projects

Otis Munroe and Ken Valentine gave an overview of the Vermont Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2) and its application to bridge projects. Ken related that VPSP2 is very early in the process and is meant to determine whether a particular bridge is worth assigning resources to but that no project details have been worked out.

As a demo, the TAC evaluated two asset driven potential bridge projects against the regional criteria, one in a “rural” location - Bridge 44 in Cavendish, and one closer to a community center, Bridge 55 in Windsor. Eric and Barbara reviewed bicycle and pedestrian considerations including travel lane and shoulder width, vegetation management, and sweeping. John provided additional background on Bridge 44 including plans for further development on the far side of the bridge. Diane noted the proximity of Bridge 55 to important destinations, including the Precision Museum, and a multiunit affordable housing facility. Diane also raised concerns with pedestrian safety due to high volumes and pedestrians along with high vehicle speeds. There was a conversation about how best to capture these details as part of the VPSP2 process. The RPC will compile any additional notes for each project that don’t fit on the submission forms.

5. Updates and Announcements

- Otis Munroe provided a brief legislative update on the progress of the T-Bill and highlights including increased EV and town highway bridge funding and continued funding for the MTI program. Otis introduced the upcoming Regional Bike Network Planning Pilot.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Sections 3.1.3–3.4 were revisited. Diane suggested the inclusion of more on EV charging and rural transit, including microtransit and the use of electric vehicles for microtransit service. Amanda suggested adding or calling out a dedicated bicycle section to the Regional Transportation Plan. Discussion included the potential impact of ebikes on the volume of bicyclists and the likelihood of less experienced bicyclists using the roadway network.

Section 3 intro and 3.1.1 – Road Network, Road Network Conditions – of the draft Regional Transportation Plan were shared with the TAC ahead of the meeting. Diane offered to conduct a survey of town residents on commuting patterns.

Barbara raised the issue of bicyclist safety on VT-10 with high traffic speeds and narrow shoulders along a route that is very popular among bicyclists.

6. Future agenda items & next meeting date

a. Next meeting: April 27, 2022.

b. Potential topic: VPSP2: Bridges – Regionally Driven Projects, Regional Transportation Plan.

7. Adjourn

Gordy Eastman made a motion to adjourn. Second by Sharon Bixby. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.