

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2020

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

Attendance

TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Gordy Eastman, Reading; John Saydek, Cavendish; Kent Gilman, Chester; Kristi Morris, Springfield

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Otis Munroe, MARC; Katharine Otto, VTrans.

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristi Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to approve the April 27, 2021 minutes meeting notes. Second by Gordy Eastman. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Vermont Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2) Transportation Values Review

Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen provided an overview of the process undergone to translate the preliminary project scores from the April TAC meeting to final Transportation Values (TVs). Katharine Otto helped to answer questions about the new process and provided context for how MARC's TVs compared to Values statewide.

The Values reviewed were for the following potential projects:

TV 59: Four intersections along VT Route 11 (VT 11/106, Main St/Valley St, Main St/Summer St, Main St/Clinton St/South St) in Springfield (regionally driven);

TV 56: VT Routes 103/131 intersection, Proctorsville (regionally driven); and,

TV 38: VT Route 131/US Route 5 intersection, Ascutney (asset driven from VTrans).

Tom Kenyon indicated there are numerous crashes near the VT 131/US 5 intersection. Gordy suggested that many of the crashes may be along the VT 131 corridor between the intersection and the I-91 interchange. The TAC agreed that the whole corridor is problematic and ought to be looked at for a traffic safety and operations project. Gordy noted that the ongoing two-year I-91 Exit 8 bridge construction and related traffic control will alter normal traffic patterns.

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to recommend approval of the regionally driven project Transportation Values (TVs) and to recommend approval of the asset driven project TV with the accompanying comment that the conditions along VT Route 131 between the I-91 interchange and the VT 131/US 5 intersection contribute to the high crash history at the intersection and warrant review. Those conditions include the geometry of the I-91 off ramps, combined with the VT Route 131 lane changes and compounded further by access management issues associated with the commercial buildings along the VT 131 corridor. Second by Gordy Eastman. The motion passed unanimously.

The Transportation Values will be submitted to the RPC Board for their approval and comment before final comments are submitted to VTrans.

5. Updates and Announcements

Otis Munroe announced the Southeast Vermont Energy Planning Forum on June 1st from 4-6pm. The Forum is hosted by the three southeastern RPCs and Public Service Department to collect input from local officials on the ongoing Comprehensive Energy Plan Update. Transportation will be a major focus.

Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen announced the completion of the Keys to the Valley Housing project and the ongoing Springfield Area Working Communities Challenge. Keys examined housing and transportation affordability and transit and bicycle and pedestrian friendly housing. The Working Communities Challenge is focusing on transportation and access to employment and services.

Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen provided an overview of upcoming transportation projects in the Region funded by COVID relief funds and highlights of the State Transportation Bill.

7. Future agenda items & next meeting date

a. Next meeting: June, exact date TBD

Going forward, the Committee expressed a preference for hybrid in-person/remote meetings with a certain number of meetings each year designated as in-person.

b. Potential Future Topics: Meet with the Airport Commission about the Hartness State Airport

8. Adjourn

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn. Second by Tom Kenyon. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.