

**SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2021

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

Attendance

TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Eric and Barabara Bye, at large; Kent Gilman, Chester; Kristi Morris, Springfield

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Otis Munroe, MARC; Chris Beitzel, VTrans; Peter MacGillivray, Bruce Johnson, Alasdair Crawford, Mike Knoras, Charles Schumacher, Don Shattuck, Walter Martone, and Larry Perry, Springfield Airport Commission; Bob Flint, SRDC.

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

All present members of the TAC and Airport Commission introduced themselves and the towns they represent or reside in.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to approve the May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Kent Gilman. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Hartness State Airport Update

Following introductions of the TAC and Airport Commission and the respective bodies' roles and responsibilities, the Airport's priorities and needs were discussed. Among the top priorities identified were repairing or replacing the out of service hazard beacons, securing easements to cut trees on neighboring properties that impact protected airspace, providing ground transportation, improving cell phone service, and extending town sewer service to the Airport. Additional needs included completing the master permitting process, addressing issues of deferred maintenance, extending fiber internet to the terminal and other buildings, meeting/conference space, and electric aircraft and vehicle charging.

Members of the Airport Commission shared the benefits the Airport provides to the region as an economic development and career training asset and through the various events held at the airport. They also related the role the Airport has played in disaster response during Irene and the COVID 19 pandemic.

The TAC and RPC offered to facilitate further discussions between the Commission and the surrounding towns of Springfield and Weathersfield and with VTrans Rail and Aviation. The Commission's priorities will be reflected in the ongoing Regional Transportation Plan update.

5. Updates and Announcements

Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen shared a memo summarizing the changes to the TPI workplan for FFY 2022. Major changes include a 2.5% funding increase, closer collaboration with VT Local Roads, and collaboration with VTrans on a transportation equity framework. Further changes include the removal of MIRE and replacement with a bus stop and road surface inventory. Otis will send the draft work program around to see if anyone has any comments or additions.

Otis Munroe informed the TAC of the events associated with the restart of Amtrak services on July 19th, 2021.

7. Future agenda items & next meeting date

a. Next meeting: July or September, exact date TBD

b. Potential Future Topics: Discussion with VTrans representative from the Rail and Aviation Bureau, VT Freight Plan Update

8. Adjourn

Sharon Bixby made a motion to adjourn. Second by Kristi Morris. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.