

**Mount Ascutney Regional  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2022**

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held via Zoom at 6:00 pm.

**Attendance**

TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield; Arne Jonynas, Chester; John Saydek, Cavendish; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Diane Foulds, Windsor

Others present: Otis Munroe, MARC; Jason Rasmussen, MARC; Amanda Holland, VTrans; Christine Howe, SEVT; Dave Pelletier, VTrans; Jonathan Slason, RSG

Kristi Morris opened the unofficial meeting at 6:03 pm.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

All present members of the TAC and guests introduced themselves.

**2. Changes to the Agenda**

No changes.

**3. Transportation Equity Framework**

Dave Pelletier introduced the Transportation Equity Framework and Jonathan Slason. Jonathan provided the state and federal legislative context for and overview of the project. The Framework will be a tool to help plan for and prioritize projects, ensure accurate representation, and enhance the equitable delivery of services. The project is in the midst of the public engagement phase which will involve both online and in-person engagement activities. As the draft report comes together the TAC will continue to be consulted.

Discussion began with the current state of regional data on and outreach to underserved communities and on what populations within the Vermont and the Mount Ascutney region would be the focus of this work. Diane described Windsor's Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) committee and its focus on BIPOC communities. Jason mentioned the Reading/West Windsor Aging in Place Committee and the Springfield Area Working Communities Challenge.

From there, conversation turned to project prioritization and implementation within the region designed to help address inequity. Diane and Kristi brought up challenges with finding volunteers and funding to implement projects. Jason raised the issue of the emphasis of the current prioritization process on the need but not on articulating solutions. Diane and Kristi noted the intersection between this work and broader climate and environmental justice work.

**4. Regional Transportation Plan, Public Hearing Draft Review**

Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen gave an update on the Regional Plan public hearing process, including the Regional Transportation Plan. Otis and Jason reviewed changes from the last draft reviewed by the TAC. Diane has comments she will submit via email.

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adopt the public hearing draft of the Regional Transportation Plan. Second by John Saydek. The motion passed unanimously.*

**5. Approval of Minutes**

*Sharon Bixby made a motion to approve the June 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Second by Wayne Wheelock. The motion passed unanimously.*

**6. Election of Officers & Meeting Scheduling**

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to maintain the existing slate of officers. Second by Sharon Bixby. The motion passed unanimously.*

After a discussion, it was decided to maintain the existing meeting schedule, both time and day. An evening time was decided on to allow those who work regular hours to attend meetings especially any in-person meetings.

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to maintain the existing meeting time and day of the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Second by Diane Foulds. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **7. Updates and Announcements**

Otis Munroe provided an update on the Region's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application. The application is for funding to write a Safety Action Plan, which is needed to apply for future implementation funding. Diane asked about what strategies are eligible under the SS4A program to improve safety.

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support in support of the application contingent on the TAC's review of a draft letter. Second by Sharon Bixby. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

- a. Next meeting: September 21, 2022.
- b. Potential topic: GMP electric vehicle program, short term rentals, transit update

There was a discussion of short term rentals, ongoing conversations at area towns, and relevance to transportation and as a future TAC topic.

## **7. Adjourn**

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn. Second by Sharon Bixby. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.*