

**Mount Ascutney Regional
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2021

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) offices and via Zoom at 6pm.

Attendance

TAC members present: Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Gordy Eastman, Reading; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow; Kristi Morris, Springfield; John Saydek, Cavendish; Eric and Barbara Bye, at-large; Kent Gilman, Chester.

Others present: Jason Rasmussen and Otis Munroe, MARC; Zoe Neaderland, VTrans

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:01 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

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to approve the June 23, 2021 meeting minutes. Second by Gordy Eastman. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Freight Plan Initiatives

Zoe Neaderland provided background on the ongoing state Freight Plan update. She reviewed the Plan's current elements and goals and the trends, issues, and needs identified so far. The emphasis of the presentation and discussion was on the initiatives currently being drafted and refined. In particular, discussion focused on initiatives to promote freight as a "good neighbor" and air freight. The need was expressed to balance the needs of truck freight and the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, especially in downtown and village centers. For air freight, The TAC emphasized the importance to maintain the infrastructure and address hazards at Hartness Airport to allow for the possibility of air freight service in the future. The role of the RPC and TAC in ongoing and future projects including resiliency and damage assessment and to identify industrial parcels with rail access were also discussed.

5. Updates and Announcements

Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen provided updates on the VPSP2 process. Both projects in the MARC region, intersection improvements in Springfield and Cavendish, were selected to move forward. Next steps will involve a simplified scoping process to better define the projects.

Otis Munroe and Jason Rasmussen provided updates on ARPA funding and currently open and upcoming grant opportunities. ARPA has limited applicability to transportation outside of resilience, but more specific guidance is still to come. Municipal stormwater and Transportation Alternatives grants are currently open, and Better Roads is expected to be announced later this fall.

7. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: October 27th
- b. Potential Future Topics: Discussion with VTrans representative from the Rail and Aviation Bureau.

8. Adjourn

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