

**Mount Ascutney Regional
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Notes of September 28, 2022

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

Attendance

TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Diane Foulds, Windsor; Eric & Barbara Bye, at-large

Others present: Otis Munroe, MARC; Amanda Holland, VTrans; Christine Howe, SEVT

Kristi Morris opened the unofficial meeting at 6:10 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

All present members of the TAC and guests introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the Agenda

The Ride Windsor County Guide topic was moved to the end of the agenda. The August minutes approval was moved to the October meeting due to lack of a quorum.

3. Transit Update

Christine provided an update on the current state of transit in the Region. Christine began by introducing the Windsor microtransit pilot set to launch in January 2023. Microtransit is a form of on-demand service where clients don't need to book trips in advance and there are no eligibility requirements. This will be a brand-new service serving the entire town of Windsor and the I-91 exit 9 park and ride. In the lead up to the launch, the core group will be collecting data and public feedback and setting the final details of the service including hours of operation. Diane asked for clarification on the vehicles. Supply chain issues notwithstanding, the service will use new Ford Transit vans with a capacity of 8-10 passengers without wheelchairs. The service will start with a single vehicle but a second vehicle can be added if demand warrants it. Infrastructure is not yet in place for electric vehicles but should be in the next couple years. Diane asked if Hartland will be included in the service area and whether multiunit housing providers in Windsor have been included. For now the service is only for the town of Windsor due to constraints of the pilot and transit provider boundaries. One of the property management companies is represented on the core team. Kristi asked for clarification on the service area. Diane asked about connections to Claremont, West Lebanon, and Dartmouth. Christine mentioned that the Windsor service can connect to the Upper Valley routes. There is also a twice a month shopping trip to Claremont. Christine will double check on where the pickup location is and whether there's an opportunity to connect with the Windsor microtransit service.

Christine also gave an overview of the current state of ridership for Southeast Vermont Transit's/The MOOver (SEVT) fixed routes. Ridership has generally rebounded to pre-COVID levels and two routes in Brattleboro are seeing record ridership. Staffing continues to be a challenge but the situation is steadily improving.

Another round of microtransit studies will be funded this year and conversations are ongoing to determine locations. The Rte 30 Corridor Study has been completed and will be moving on to its next stages.

4. Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Otis gave an update on the Regional Transportation Plan adoption process and an overview of the Active Transportation Plan. Diane had reviewed the ATP and will be forwarding along her written revisions to the TAC. Diane also offered to reach out to contacts at Vital Communities about attending the October TAC meeting. There was a conversation around deadlines and potentially tying the ATP into the upcoming TPI bicycle planning task. It was decided to bring in a guest

and focus on updating the ATP with language around e-bikes, commuting, and sharing the road at the October TAC meeting.

5. VPSP2 Review of Selected Bridges

Otis shared that two bridges in the Region were selected to move forward towards inclusion into the Capital Program, the McDonald's bridge on VT-11 in Springfield and the US-5 bridge in Windsor. Amanda added that the current list is the starting point and there is the potential that more bridges will be added if funding allows, but there is a lot of uncertainty with costs.

No TAC members had questions or comments on the selected bridges at the meeting. Comments will be accepted through Friday, October 14, 2022.

6. Updates and Announcements

Otis shared information on the Vermont Diesel Emissions Reduction Financial Assistance Program and informed TAC members of the upcoming Emergency Management Roundtable meeting on mutual aid agreements on Monday, October 24 at 12:00 PM at the MARC offices.

Wayne requested that the RPC check with towns and TAC members who have not been attending as regularly.

7. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: October 26, 2022.
- b. Topic: Active Transportation Plan e-bike updates.

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

8. Ride Windsor County Guide Update

Otis reviewed the original Ride Windsor County project. The website and maps will be updated soon so now would be the time to propose any changes or additions.

9. Adjourn

There was no motion to adjourn as there was not a quorum. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.