

1 Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization
2 Regular Meeting Minutes
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4 Date: September 20, 2006
5 Time: 7:00 p.m.
6 Place: CCMPO Offices; 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206; South Burlington, VT 05403
7 Present: Andy Montroll, Burlington Marc Landry, Colchester
8 Jeff Carr, Essex (7:15) Dale Arango, Essex Junction
9 Andrea Morgante, Hinesburg (7:25) Rick Moulton, Huntington
10 Bob Penniman, Jericho (Chair) Virginia Clarke, Richmond
11 Jim Dudley, Shelburne Jim Condos, South Burlington
12 Marc Maheux, Underhill Tom Buckley, Westford
13 George Gerecke, Williston Mike O'Brien, Winooski (Vice-Chair)
14 Polly McMurtry, VTrans
15 Ex-Officio: Chris Jolly, FHWA
16 Others: Karen Akins, Safe Routes to Schools Project Manager
17 Chapin Spencer, Local Motion
18 Dick Hosking, VTrans Rail Director
19 Deb Sachs, Way to Go Week
20 Staff: Scott Johnstone, Executive Director Peter Keating, Sr. Trans. Planner
21 Christine Forde, Sr. Trans. Planner Dave Roberts, Sr. Trans. Planner
22 Susan Smichenko, Sr. Trans. Planner Daryl Benoit, Trans. Planner
23 Bernadette Ferenc, Exec. Assistant
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25 The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Chair.
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27 1. Changes to the Agenda. There were none.
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29 2. Public Comment Period. There were none.
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31 3. Action on the Consent Agenda. There was one item for a minor TIP amendment for inter-
32 regional bus service. GEORGE GERECKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE
33 CONSENT AGENDA. VIRGINIA CLARKE SECONDED. JIM CONDOS MADE A
34 MOTION TO TAKE THIS OFF THE CONSENT AGENDA AND PUT IT ON THE
35 REGULAR AGENDA, TOM BUCKLEY SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED
36 UNANIMOUSLY. The Chair used his prerogative to take this up now. Jim Condos said this
37 gives no information except to spend money and he just wanted to know what it is. Scott
38 Johnstone said this is for the inter-regional bus service and they're adding a new bus to one of
39 the link routes. JIM CONDOS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO
40 THE TIP. JIM DUDLEY SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
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42 4. Approval of Minutes. GEORGE GERECKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE
43 MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2006 WITH CORRECTIONS, IF ANY. JIM DUDLEY SECONDED
44 AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
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46 5. Executive Director's Report. Scott Johnstone noted that he sent the report electronically
47 today. He highlighted several items:

- 48 • Resource Systems Group (RSG) applied for a FHWA grant to develop a new transportation
49 modeling program that does micro simulation for our region and they were awarded one of

1 three grants in the country and we're very excited to see how this will help us with our
2 model.

- 3 • There is stormwater money available through earmarks that will provide approximately
4 \$600,000 in each of the next three fiscal years. It is a competitive grant program and
5 applications and rules are on our website. When asked why VTrans was administering it, it
6 was noted that the stormwater must be transportation related. After the initial meeting the
7 application deadline was moved back to the end of October. When asked if this was related
8 to ANR stormwater grants, it was noted that "Better Back Roads" is not available to
9 Chittenden County because we already have this earmark. Members asked staff to get a
10 memo out to the communities, especially the smaller ones, to explain what this is.
- 11 • We have most of the details worked out for our Annual Meeting. We're going to kick off the
12 Futures Initiative with the first event since we were able to secure Dr. Dennis Meadows, an
13 author of several books, to be our keynote speaker. The UVM Transportation Center and
14 CATMA are co-hosting it with us. It will be held on October 18th at the Atrium at the UVM
15 College of Medicine, which will hold up to 200 people. We will have a broad invitation list.
- 16 • Scott noted that Jim Dudley asked us to distribute copies of a walking and cycling map of
17 Shelburne prepared by a Shelburne resident, Steven Antonozi. Jim Dudley thought members
18 may want to do something like this in their communities. Steven can be reached at 985-0770
19 or by email stevenrocco@verizon.net with any questions on the process. Mr. Antonozi was
20 able to do this in about six months using Microsoft Publisher because he likes to walk and
21 cycle and there were no maps available. He got feedback from the Selectboard and path
22 committee as he went along. The map includes places of interest in the town including state
23 parks, restaurants, shops, etc. and distances to destinations north and south of Shelburne. Jim
24 Dudley feels it's a very useful tool to both new residents and visitors.

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26 6. Way to Go Week Results. Bob Penniman apologized to both Deb Sachs and Karen Akins for
27 having to postpone their presentations from the July meeting. Deb Sachs reported on the 2006
28 Way to Go Week project. She thanked CCMPO for being a strong supporter. Staff supported
29 the effort all the way, including the website. It started out as Curb Your Car Day about 10 years
30 ago with the Lake Champlain Committee. This year we got kids involved through the Safe
31 Routes to Schools project. Partners included Local Motion, CCTA, CATMA, Lake Champlain
32 Committee, 10% Challenge and CCMPO. Businesses that helped support this effort in both print
33 and media included American Lung Association, Sports & Fitness Edge, *Seven Days*, Green
34 Mountain Coffee, Star 92.9 and Chittenden Bank. The CCMPO had a \$10,000 budget and they
35 raised another \$9,000 in contributions (cash or products) from businesses. She described the
36 prizes donated and noted the IPOD was especially popular. A new program this year was the
37 Workplace Commuter Challenge to get businesses to compete against each other. They were
38 broken into five categories based on number of employees. They scheduled tabling events at
39 businesses to spread the word. Winners of the Workplace Challenge were: UVM, Verizon,
40 VEIC, Trudell Consulting Engineers and American Lung Association. The week was kicked off
41 with the May 5th event on Church Street. The inter-active website showed registrants what they
42 saved in miles and CO₂ by what alternative they used that week. This was followed up in *Seven*
43 *Days* to let the community at large know what happened. She recommended that in the future
44 we should have someone in each business to get trained and help promote it in their business.
45 Members urged them to work with the high schools in the area to get some of the kids out of
46 their cars. MPO has increased the funding in the UPWP for FY07 and we'll use a team approach
47 to the effort.
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1 7. Safe Routes to Schools. Karen Akins reported on the Safe Routes to Schools two-year pilot
2 project that she was hired to coordinate for the CCMPO. This was done in anticipation of the
3 federal program that just got funded in SAFETEA-LU. In 2002 Chapin Spencer, Peter Keating
4 and others went to a pro-walk conference, which prompted the MPO to develop a pilot program.
5 Three schools in Chittenden County were chosen for the pilot program: CP Smith School in
6 Burlington; Hinesburg Community School and Camel's Hump Middle School. She described
7 how they proceeded with education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement. In the fall
8 they organized participation in the International Walk to School Day and in the spring Way to
9 Go Week. Under education they held in-school bike safety sessions and weekend bike fairs to
10 teach students and parents. CP Smith School statistics show that 20% of the student population
11 had been walking, but with the special events, over 60% of the kids walked. One of the very
12 successful programs was the walking school bus where they walk through the neighborhoods
13 picking up kids as they go along. Benefits of the program included the improved sense of
14 community among students and families at school, and stronger relationships between students.
15 Issues include: impacts on the bus system; liability for school and parents; and turn over of key
16 school personnel. Ms. Akins will be issuing a final report in the next few weeks. She then
17 answered questions from board members. Peter Keating noted the FY07 SR2S program is a
18 new federal program with \$1M available for infrastructure beginning in FY07 and it's 100%
19 federal dollars. Seven schools in Chittenden County received funding (there are 33 schools
20 statewide and every region has at least one school). Karen Akins will be working with 3 regions
21 this year. Andrea Morgante feels we need to build on the walking and biking and have folks use
22 more school buses, instead of dropping kids off. Karen said Way to Go Week was the only point
23 where they rewarded kids who took the bus vs. cars. Discussion continued. Karen noted that the
24 CCMPO board was very far sighted in funding the pilot program.

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26 Bob Penniman took the chair's prerogative to switch agenda items and moved the Rail
27 Collaboration Opportunities next since Dick Hosking was in the audience.

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29 9. Rail Collaboration Opportunities. Scott Johnstone reported that there is quite a bit going on.
30 The state is going to work closely with GRIP (Gateway Rural Improvement Project) on
31 construction of projects along the Western Corridor: upgrading rails to 286 standards, Rutland
32 railyard and OMYA spur. Scott has been in discussions with GRIP to have better cooperation.
33 We've also been letting them know how important the Essex and northern routes are to the state
34 rail system. We think the investment on the Essex line is \$1.5M matched by New England
35 Central RR. We're trying to work on an MOU with GRIP to spell out where we can work
36 together, and where we agree to disagree. The Western Corridor project has kicked off. Our
37 UPWP includes funding for a study from southern Vermont below Bennington up to Highgate.
38 We'll play the lead role with all RPCs and VTrans and probably GRIP. The key to that study is
39 to figure out how to use the rail line and highway as one pipe. All five regions are willing to
40 participate in the process. Scott noted that GRIP stands for "Gateway Rural Improvement
41 Project and was created by the regional development authority and is a public/private
42 partnership. Chris Jolly said they're trying to get some of the \$30M earmark. Lengthy
43 discussion ensued. \$30M has a strong focus on ABRB"E".

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45 Burlington railyard has been discussed and it's clear that there is not much interest in doing
46 much with this. Vermont Railway has a long term lease to 2086 with VTrans and we don't see a
47 whole lot of movement on that. Andy Montroll doesn't want to see the Burlington railyard issue
48 dropped because there are economic development and housing opportunities that are being
49 wasted. Bob Penniman noted that Burlington needs to get behind it.

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2 Dick Hosking said regarding service to Montreal, they have been working behind the scenes with
3 the State of New York and the Province of Quebec. The closed train concept is being looked at
4 because right now there are delays when Customs officers get on the trains.

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6 8. Draft Bylaw and Committee Structure. Scott Johnstone noted that the Strategic Planning
7 committee wanted to present some basic concepts to the board to be sure we're on the right wave
8 length. They propose five major committees (Executive; Regional Initiatives; Long Term
9 Planning; Short Term/Work Planning; and Transportation Project Implementation that would
10 have only board members sitting on them. The subcommittees or work groups would include
11 board members, TAC and other community members. The items in the ovals are intended to be
12 issue areas to be addressed by people already on the committee. The TAC would be a group of
13 technical people who would be willing to delve into technical issues along all these areas. Is this
14 committee on the right track? Jeff Carr said one thing that would be different is that the four
15 super committees would be included in the bylaws but the subcommittees would not because
16 they'd be shifting. Virginia Clarke said serving on a major committee would help to educate
17 board members. Jim Condos feels we are on the right track and that the TAC needs to be a
18 technical committee rather than a mini board. The TAC would probably be small with the
19 technical experts we need. When asked how this would impact staff, Scott said we would
20 envision fewer board and TAC meetings. We do all these things anyway and we'd just shuffle
21 them around. Jim Dudley feels the board may be used more effectively with the new system.
22 There was a brief discussion about where the special interest groups currently on the TAC would
23 fit in and how we'd deal with public outreach/public involvement. Scott noted that we did the
24 committee structure first because that may affect the bylaws. There is some formatting and
25 updating work on the bylaws that needs to be done. The voting issue has come up again and the
26 committee is gathering information on how we would develop the whole numeric system. This
27 was brought on by a request from Milton because they are now over 10,000 population in the
28 mid-decade estimate. We want to do it in a thoughtful way.

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30 10. Traffic Signal Pre-Emption Standards. Susan Smichenko reported that it's taken 2.5 years
31 to get to this point. When Route 7 was being worked on it was discovered that two different
32 types of signals would be used in South Burlington and Shelburne. VTrans wanted Chittenden
33 County to develop a regional policy that they could potentially use statewide. The TAC
34 reviewed this and recommended approval. MIKE O'BRIEN MADE A MOTION THAT WE
35 ADOPT THE REGIONAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL PRE-EMPTION STANDARD. JEFF CARR
36 SECONDED. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to remove the words "...the urbanized
37 areas of...: in the last paragraph. This change would reword the statement to read – "The
38 CCMPO recommends implementation of a near-term regional traffic signal pre-emption standard
39 in ~~(the urbanized areas of)~~ Chittenden County to promote migration to a common technology
40 platform." Susan noted that a report will be distributed to all communities that will include this
41 policy statement.

42 43 11. Committee Reports.

- 44 • Executive Committee draft minutes from August 2 and September 6, 2006 meetings were
45 included in the meeting packet.
- 46 • Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). A report of the TAC September 5th meeting was
47 included in the meeting packet.
- 48 • Strategic Planning Committee. We dealt with their work earlier.

- 1 • Public Transportation Committee: Tom Buckley said they brought a item about public
2 transportation to the board and the committee has taken it up again. The Executive
3 Committee will be seeing the new policy shortly.
- 4 • Finance Committee. Jeff Carr reported that they have completed a review of benefits and
5 salary ranges and the auditors have completed their work on FY06.
- 6 • CCRPC. No report
- 7 • Regional Plan Review Committee. No report.
- 8 • 2030 MTP Advisory Committee. The committee held a public meeting in Burlington on
9 September 7th and reviewed the first two chapters of the MTP. They will meet again in
10 December.

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12 12. Members Items:

- 13 • Christine Forde distributed copies of the FY07-10 TIP. The TIP summary flyers will be
14 printed soon.
- 15 • Andrea Morgante asked about the appeal on the circ case and where the money comes from.
16 Scott Johnstone said they have a legal budget. The EIS is continuing and that's what we're
17 involved in.

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19 JEFF CARR MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:32 P.M. MIKE O'BRIEN SECONDED
20 AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21
22 Respectfully submitted,

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26 Bernadette Ferenc
27 Executive Assistant