

1 Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization
2 Regular Meeting & Public Forum
3 Minutes
4

5 Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2008
6 Time: 7:00 p.m.
7 Place: CCMPO Offices, 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206; So. Burlington, VT 05403
8 Present: Jeff McDonald, Charlotte Marc Landry, Colchester (Vice-Chair)
9 Jeff Carr, Essex (Chair) Dale Arango, Essex Junction
10 Rick Moulton, Huntington Bob Penniman, Jericho
11 Andy Legg, Milton Alternate Mary Houle, Richmond
12 Bob Gugerty, St. George Steve Owen, Underhill
13 George Gerecke, Williston Mike O'Brien, Winooski
14 Amy Bell, VTrans
15 Ex-Officio: Chris Jolly, FHWA Justin Dextrateur, CCRPC
16 Others: Neale Lunderville, VTrans Secretary Tim Fluck, CCRPC Deputy Director
17 Matthew Langham, VTrans Jim Donovan, Charlotte Alternate
18 Beth Kuhn, Champlain Initiative Jane Helmstetter, AHS
19 Staff: Scott Johnstone, Exec. Director Peter Keating, Sr. Trans. Planner
20 Christine Forde, Sr. Trans. Planner David Roberts, Sr. Trans. Planner
21 Eleni Churchill, Sr. Trans. Planner Daryl Benoit, Trans. Planner/IT
22 Bryan Davis, Trans. Planner Jason Charest, Trans. Engineer
23 Bernadette Ferenc, Exec. Asst.
24

25 The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the chair, Jeff Carr.
26

27 1. Changes to the Agenda. There were none at this time, but they did make changes later.
28

29 2. Public Comment Period. There were none.
30

31 3. Action of the consent agenda. There were no consent agenda items.
32

33 4. Approval of Minutes. MARY HOULE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
34 OF NOVEMBER 28, 2007. MARC LANDRY SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED
35 UNANIMOUSLY.
36

37 5. Executive Director's Report. This was sent electronically last week. Several members noted
38 they hadn't received it so Scott will review his distribution list. Scott Johnstone did report that
39 Andrea Morgante was in the emergency room today after falling from a second story window. It
40 appears she is okay except for a broken elbow that we're aware of. The chair wanted to be sure
41 we send her our best wishes.
42

43 6. VTrans Update. Secretary Neale Lunderville thanked members for inviting him. He noted
44 that per the bylaws he actually sits on the board, but Amy Bell very capably represents the
45 Agency. He wanted to talk about where we stand with the agency budget, which will be released
46 to the legislature next week. Last time he was here he talked about the Road to Affordability.
47 It's a multi-year project and they've had a lot of legislative buy-in. Their bridge and culvert
48 money went up 82%. There is more reliance on project prioritization process. They made very
49 good progress on the preventative maintenance supported in last year's legislature. In the period

1 2003-2006 they have seen projects go from 50 to 82% on budget and from 42 to 65% in on-time
2 performance on projects. By improving those statistics it releases money to do additional
3 projects. The budget for FY09 will be a difficult one. The transportation fund has continued to
4 under perform. They will submit a budget that will mirror the Road to Affordability from last
5 year. The bridges and culvert budget will go up again. There will be more money for paving
6 and leveling which communities asked for. Bridges are divided into four categories and all have
7 increased funding. Some areas did go down, such as roadway enhancements, bike/ped and a
8 couple of others. They will submit a budget next Tuesday and then the legislature will take
9 testimony. He noted that the House Transportation Committee has been out reviewing bridges
10 all over the state to see the extent of the need. They are not looking to increase taxes to get more
11 money, but will live with what we have. They have a \$420M budget at VTrans. They feel that
12 we have to eliminate the “want to haves” vs. the “need to haves.” (They will eliminate
13 ornamental lighting, park benches and undergrounding utilities.)
14

15 Sec. Lunderville then entertained questions.

- 16 • When Mary Houle asked if the gas tax was a percentage, Sec. Lunderville said no, it’s a set
17 amount per gallon.
- 18 • When Mary Houle questioned where one might find the road rules for bicycle riders, Amy
19 Bell said the Vermont Driver’s Manual contains bike/ped rules; and other organizations such
20 as Local Motion also publish literature.
- 21 • Marc Landry got the message that things are tight, but he heard that jet fuel tax was put in the
22 general fund, instead of the transportation fund. Sec. Lunderville said that was correct, but
23 they have since retrieved that money. The vendors had been sending the tax to the wrong
24 department.
- 25 • Jeff McDonald wondered if there were any other surprises like the South Burlington
26 interstate culvert that end up costing a few million dollars. Sec. Lunderville said there are
27 many in the state on the critical culvert list and he will be happy to share that with the
28 CCMPO. Culverts don’t seem to get the attention that bridges do. Part of the Agency’s
29 responsibility is to bring these items to the MPO’s attention and deal with it in their budget.
30 It was noted that our TIP does contain culverts but the Exit 14 culvert was on the out year
31 list.
- 32 • Rick Moulton asked about the \$30M earmark for SAFETEA-LU and he wanted to be sure
33 that it will be allocated. Sec. Lunderville said we have a use for every single dollar. Because
34 it’s an earmark it has a different time constraint to spend it. He feels it should be used
35 quickly to get better value out of those dollars. We need to do better with rail in the state.
36 Next week they will give the legislature a five-year look at rail. He said in the Western
37 Corridor there are many problems and it would cost upwards of \$200-250M to take care of
38 them. There is no dedicated federal rail funding each year. It only comes when we have an
39 earmark. Bob Penniman said his observation on bridges and maintenance – the Minneapolis
40 bridge collapse report came out that said it was not a maintenance issue, but a design flaw.
41 He said from the towns’ perspectives we are fortunate to have ratings for culverts from the
42 MPO and bridge ratings from the state.
- 43 • Mary Houle noted that she had suggested that Vermont Local Roads set up a bridge
44 maintenance workshop and they hope to develop one.
- 45 • Justin Dextrateur questioned whether there is a plan to study bridges that have been
46 reclassified for weight after rehab. Sec. Lunderville said bridge structures like Minneapolis
47 will be looked at. There are two in Vermont around Rockingham. Most bridges are really
48 over-designed and the feds have noted the uniqueness of the Minneapolis bridge.

- 1 • George Gerecke raised the question about the circ and when the EIS will be finalized. Sec.
2 Lunderville said his goal is to have it completed by the summer. They have a lot of
3 comments to respond to and they are working with their partners, such as EPA, Army Corps,
4 etc. to complete that.
- 5 • Peter Keating said when the Governor addressed the legislature he talked about park and ride
6 lots. Is there going to be an increase in funding? Sec. Lunderville said there will be an
7 increase in municipal park and ride lots and eventually with the state park and rides.
- 8 Jeff Carr thanked the Secretary for coming. Sec. Lunderville promised that he won't take
9 another year to come back.

10
11 MIKE O'BRIEN MADE A MOTION, DULY SECONDED, TO CHANGE THE AGENDA TO
12 MOVE THE FY09 ANNUAL WORK PLAN PUBLIC FORUM TO ITEM 9 AND MOVE UP
13 THE FY08 MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENT; AND FY07 AUDIT REPORT ACCEPTANCE AS 7
14 AND 8. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15
16 7. FY 2008 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment. Scott Johnstone explained that each year we look at
17 our progress on the budget and make any necessary adjustments. The biggest change is that we
18 reduced the budget by \$87,500 in federal funds for the modeling effort. It was going to be used
19 for a survey, which we were going to do alone. However, a partnership formed to have UTC,
20 FHWA and VTrans all put money together to get more and better data. Now, we'll get the same
21 product and won't have to manage the project. We had CCRPC give us a new breakdown for
22 their tasks to reflect spending, but the total dollar amount remained the same. Scott noted that
23 some of our staff were not on board when we developed this work program so we adjusted it to
24 reflect where they've been spending their time. The Finance and Executive Committees have
25 reviewed these changes and recommend approval. BOB PENNIMAN MADE A MOTION TO
26 APPROVE THE MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENT TO THE FY08 BUDGET AS PRESENTED.
27 GEORGE GERECKE SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

28
29 8. FY07 Audit Report Acceptance. Scott Johnstone said there is really good news in that we
30 received a clean audit. We will recommend that the Finance Committee meet with our auditors
31 next year without staff, so they can have a frank discussion. MARC LANDRY MADE A
32 MOTION THAT THIS BOARD ACCEPT THE AUDIT REPORT FOR FY07. BOB
33 PENNIMAN SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

34
35 9. FY09 Annual Work Plan – Public Input Forum. Scott Johnstone briefly described what the
36 MPO work plan is. It's funded with 80% federal dollars; 10% state dollars and 10% local. He
37 noted it covers a wide variety of tasks but they have to be transportation and planning related.
38 These are ideas to use starting in July 2008 through June 2009. We have about \$2M a year to
39 work with in Chittenden County. He described various tasks we try to do each year. In the
40 public forum we try to hear what ideas folks have. We'll take comments until January 25th and
41 then we'll review them. We cannot guarantee that each idea will be funded, but we can promise
42 that we'll respond to each idea. Jeff Carr asked members of the public to state their names and
43 either their place of residence or affiliation.

44
45 Beth Kuhn is here in two capacities. The first is as a Shelburne resident. She doesn't know if
46 this is appropriate for the work plan, but they're sort of trying to catch up to the 21st century,
47 trying to decide whether bike/pedestrian paths are important amenities. They collected
48 signatures from folks along the proposed path route and submitted them to the Town. The
49 selectboard's response is, well we know those along the paths want them, but does everyone

1 else? She thought perhaps if there is an annual report or audit from Chittenden County
2 communities that shows what's happening in each town for walkability - how towns are doing on
3 bike paths, walkable sidewalks on streets, etc. She would like to see information shared among
4 communities. 2. On the professional side she works for the Champlain Initiative at the United
5 Way and they've joined their colleagues at Fletcher Allen Hospital in reinvigorating a
6 movement called "Get Moving" recently changed to "Get Moving and Get Healthy." They're
7 looking to get planners together to talk about health of the community and she feels the
8 transportation piece is important. Penrose Jackson works with this at FAH and she suggested the
9 word be brought to the MPO. Mary Houle said that VLCT has a health component and they can
10 educate town employees, who can then filter the information back. Regarding the path issue,
11 perhaps the community should make a policy in their town plan that developers must include a
12 path in each new development and then construct it.

13
14 Jane Helmstetter is the Field Director for the Agency of Human Services in Chittenden County.
15 She spoke on behalf of the Regional Advisory Council who met here earlier tonight. One of the
16 things that keeps coming up is the lack of bus system in the County. The Agency of Human
17 Services moved from the North Avenue location (with DMV) to two locations - economic
18 services is now at 101 Cherry Street and their walk-in traffic has doubled because they're on the
19 bus line. The lack of frequency continues to be an issue for those living outside. The other
20 office moved temporarily into the old Rossignol building on Industrial Avenue in Williston.
21 Family services and the local health department offices are there as well. There are folks that
22 need to get there and it takes about two hours from Burlington. With their staff downtown, they
23 are working with CATMA to look at ways of reducing their footprint so they don't have to have
24 so many spaces.

25
26 There were no others speakers. MARY HOULE MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC
27 FORUM. MARC LANDRY SECONDED. Scott Johnstone noted that January 25th is the
28 deadline for comments and ideas. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

29
30 10. Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- 31 a. Major TIP Amendments. Christine Forde noted that we need to warn two amendments for a
32 public hearing. The reason they are major amendments if that they are essentially new
33 projects for the TIP. 1) US 7 Paving in Burlington for construction to re-seal and repair
34 concrete pavement joints and minor paving from the South Burlington town line
35 (approximately Swift Street) to Hadley Road. 2) Exit 15 Safety Project. This project is on
36 the TIP, but with no funding. This will add \$160,000 for scoping and design and will come
37 out of the MPO's fiscal constraint. Mike O'Brien said they have done some work over there
38 for design and alternatives and he wondered if this was redundant. Christine Forde said
39 they'll take the work already done and package it in a way to finalize the scoping and move
40 to design. Mike O'Brien noted this is a safety project - a major accident waiting to happen.
41 He understands that safety money is out there and that they tend to move these projects up.
42 Matthew Langham said it's a different pot of safety funds from SAFETEA-LU. This project
43 will be in construction for next year. Mike O'Brien said it really is a major accident waiting
44 to happen and needs to be pushed forward as soon as possible. JEFF McDONALD MADE
45 A MOTION TO WARN A PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 19, 2008. MARY HOULE
46 SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 47 b. Minor TIP amendments. Christine Forde noted that these would normally have been on the
48 consent agenda but we decided to put all amendments together. MARC LANDRY MADE A

1 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINOR TIP AMENDMENTS. GEORGE GERECKE
2 SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
3

4 11. Committee Reports.

- 5 a. Executive Committee. Jeff Carr reported that the MPO and RPC held a joint Executive
6 Committee meeting last week. They agreed to meet more frequently and will meet again in
7 February to discuss relocation issue. The meeting package included meeting notes from
8 December 5, 2007 and draft minutes from the January 4, 2008 meeting.
9 b. Transportation Advisory Committee. George Gerecke noted that the TAC report is in the
10 meeting packet. There was a long discussion on rail issues. Another thing they talked about
11 was the CCRPC Significant Regional Impact (SRI) issue. The RPC asked the TAC for input
12 and the TAC appointed a committee to work with staff over the next month to have a
13 recommendation for the March TAC meeting. Members were asked to communicate with
14 their RPC representative to discuss this important issue.
15 c. Public transportation Committee. Peter Keating noted they'll meet next month.
16 d. Finance committee. The mid-year adjustment and audit were under this committee.
17 e. CCRPC. Justin Dextrateur asked if the full board will receive the minutes of the joint
18 executive committee meeting. Bernie noted they generally don't get them, but we could mail
19 them out.
20

21 12. Members' Items:

- 22 a. Jeff McDonald wanted to address an issue of access management. The town has been trying
23 to control curb cuts on Route 7. The Charlotte Planning Commission allows only one access
24 to a parcel. There is a proposed developer who informed them that the state has given
25 approval for a curb cut. Jeff spoke to VTrans and discovered that they had indeed approved a
26 curb cut on a non-existent lot. He asked that the MPO review this and see whether this is
27 indeed against the goals of VTrans and make sure that towns are brought in to the process
28 earlier. Scott Johnstone suggested our staff meet with Amy Bell, District 5 and Tim French
29 in ROW Division to see if communities that have access management policies could be
30 notified of requests for curb cuts.
31 b. Rick Moulton said he's our representative on the Governor's Rail Council, which met earlier
32 today. They have encouraged VTrans to go to work with House and Senate Transportation
33 committees to work on a DMU (Diesel Multiple Unit – or self propelled rail car) or we might
34 lose Amtrak.
35 c. Scott Johnstone noted that our meetings will now be on the internet so you can review the
36 meeting on streaming video where you can go to each item on the agenda, instead of having
37 to view the entire meeting. We want feedback to see if this is a good part of our public
38 involvement. Daryl Benoit noted that the link is already available from our website.
39

40 MARY HOULE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:25 P.M. JEFF McDONALD
41 SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
42

43 Respectfully submitted,
44

45
46
47 Bernadette Ferenc, Executive Assistant