

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

5 Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2009  
6 Time: 7:00 p.m.  
7 Place: CCMPO Offices, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202; Winooski, VT 05404-2109  
8 Present: Andy Montroll, Burlington Jeff McDonald, Charlotte  
9 Marc Landry, Colchester (Vice-Chair) Max Levy, Essex Alternate (7:25)  
10 Dale Arango, Essex Junction Rick Moulton, Huntington  
11 Bob Penniman, Jericho Andy Legg, Milton Alternate  
12 Phil Gingrow, St. George Denis Gravelin, South Burlington  
13 Steve Owen, Underhill Richard Elmore, Westford  
14 George Gerecke, Williston Mike O'Brien, Winooski  
15 Amy Bell, VTrans  
16 Ex-Officio: Chris Jolly, FHWA Leslie Pelch, CCRPC  
17 Others: Matthew Langham, VTrans Dave Crawford, Essex Jct. Village Manager  
18 Charlie Baker, CCRPC Exec. Dir. Tom Buckley, Chair Public Trans. Comm.  
19 Staff: Michele Boomhower, Exec. Director Peter Keating, Sr. Trans. Planner  
20 Dave Roberts, Sr. Trans. Planner Daryl Benoit, Trans. Planner/IT Web  
21 Bryan Davis, Trans. Planner Jason Charest, Transportation Engineer  
22 Bernadette Ferenc, Exec. Assistant  
23

24 The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Vice-Chair, Marc Landry. He introduced and  
25 welcomed Phil Gingrow, the new MPO representative from St. George.  
26

27 1. Changes to the agenda. There were none.  
28

29 2. Public Comment Period – for items not on the agenda. There were none.  
30

31 3. Action on the Consent Agenda. There were two items on the Consent Agenda: Minor TIP  
32 amendment for CCTA and a minor TIP amendment for Williston VT 2A path. GEORGE GERECKE  
33 MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY JEFF MCDONALD TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.  
34 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
35

36 4. Approval of Minutes. DENIS GRAVELIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF  
37 APRIL 15, 2009 WITH CORRECTIONS IF ANY, SECONDED BY STEVE OWEN. Bob Penniman  
38 questioned line 42, page 2 where it states “They have a problem with the tracks being used as paths...”  
39 He said NECR had told us that they do share ROW in other areas of the country and would support it  
40 here. After a brief discussion it was agreed to clarify line 42 on page 2, by changing the word “they” to  
41 “Essex Junction.” Amy Bell asked for clarification on page 4, line 31 where John Zicconi said he was  
42 trying to get people to “not” have stimulus blinders on. VOTE: MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE  
43 THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED WITH ABSENTIONS FROM RICK MOULTON, JEFF  
44 McDONALD, PHIL GINGROW AND ANDY LEGG.  
45

46 5. Executive Director’s Update.

- 47 • Michele Boomhower said the big news is that we’ve moved and she welcomed everyone to the new  
48 facility. We still have some minor fit up issues that need completed and there will be external  
49 construction going on for the next couple of months. She noted that Larry Williams of Redstone has  
50 been wonderful through this and we did get one month free rent because of the internal construction  
51 still happening. She explained our problems with obtaining internet and telephone service. Mike  
52 O’Brien, on behalf of the City of Winooski, welcomed the CCMPO & CCRPC and the new jobs  
53 coming to the City.

- 1 • Michele noted that the ED report contains some excerpts from the state Transportation Bill that we'll
- 2 be covering later.
- 3 • There is also some information about CCTA and some survey work they're doing.
- 4 • Peter Keating and his consultants have been working on the MTP doing scenario and financial
- 5 planning.
- 6 • We'll hear some about the Western Vermont Corridor under UPWP. There are several public
- 7 meetings planned to present the draft report and the Chittenden County meeting will be held during
- 8 the TAC meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 9 • Michele noted that staff have been able to carry on with normal business even without the phone or
- 10 internet, with staff using their personal cell phones.

11  
12 6. FY2010 Unified Planning Work Program.  
13 Public Hearing. BOB PENNIMAN MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:20  
14 P.M. DENIS GRAVELIN SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. There  
15 were no members of the public present. Michele Boomhower noted that the Western Corridor project  
16 needs to be adjusted with an extension of the project completion date to September 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be  
17 about \$12,000 carried over in earmark funds, but no additional funding. This will allow us to incorporate  
18 comments into the Draft Final Report, post that report and allow a public comment period after which a  
19 final document will be prepared. This report is important to justify applications for freight and transit  
20 discretionary funding available through ARRA. BOB PENNIMAN MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE  
21 THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:21 P.M. GEORGE GERECKE SECONDED AND THE MOTION  
22 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

23  
24 BOB PENNIMAN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY DENIS GRAVELIN, TO APPROVE THE  
25 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR FY2010 AS PRESENTED. A brief discussion ensued  
26 about whether we should incorporate the carryover in the adoption or address it in the mid-year  
27 adjustment in December 2009. ANDY MONTROLL MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE  
28 ORIGINAL MOTION TO ADD THE CARRYOVER FUNDING FOR THE WESTERN CORRIDOR  
29 PROJECT TO THE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET NOW. BOB PENNIMAN SECONDED.  
30 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO AMEND THE FY2010 WORK PROGRAM AND  
31 BUDGET.

32 VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND  
33 BUDGET AS AMENDED:

34 Bolton	- absent	Burlington (4)	- yes	Charlotte	- yes
35 Colchester (2)	- yes	Essex Junction	- yes	Essex Town	- yes
36 Hinesburg	- absent	Huntington	- yes	Jericho	- yes
37 Milton	- yes	Richmond	- absent	St. George	- abstained
38 Shelburne	- absent	So. Burlington (2)	- yes	Underhill	- yes
39 Westford	- yes	Williston	- yes	Winooski	- yes
40 VTrans	- yes				

41  
42 THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 19 OF 24 VOTES AND 13 OF 18 COMMUNITIES.

43  
44 7. Warn for Public Hearing on Major Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment. Bob  
45 Penniman said this is a high priority project because this bridge on Route 15 has been out for several  
46 years. VTrans has requested funding from the Congressional delegation. Jericho is willing to take over  
47 the bridge after it's repaired, but it belongs to VTrans. He read language from VTrans request to the  
48 Congressional delegation – "Jericho STP FTBR( ) project is intended to reestablish this pedestrian link  
49 adjacent to VT 15 in the location of the former bridge, safely away from vehicular traffic. The former  
50 bridge collapsed 3 years ago forcing bicycles and pedestrians onto the adjacent, busy and narrow, Route  
51 15 highway bridge. The project is expected to cost \$0.5 million dollars". Michele noted that the \$45,000  
52 is funding that is already available to cover PE and the funding for ROW and construction will not be  
53 placed on the TIP because those dollars are not approved yet. Chris Jolly said with these earmarks at the

1 Congressional level they don't want to fund the demonstration projects unless they're on the TIP or STIP.  
2 Federal regs require it have a funding source, but they also allow for demonstration projects. MIKE  
3 O'BRIEN MADE A MOTION TO WARN A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE JUNE MEETING FOR  
4 THE JERICHO FOOTBRIDGE. ANDY MONTROLL SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED  
5 UNANIMOUSLY.  
6

7 8. Endorsement of the Essex to Burlington Rail Upgrade Project. Michele prefaced this by noting that  
8 Dave Crawford gave a very nice presentation at our last meeting and there was consensus among board  
9 members to revisit this and perhaps endorse this as presented. Dave Crawford said last month it was  
10 suggested that they broaden the base of information and support on this project. They visited twice with  
11 the Northwest RPC and received a letter of support. He visited with the mayor of Burlington who  
12 supports it being worked on. They met with the mayor of Winooski and other officials yesterday and  
13 received a letter of support from the city council for this project. They've approached Colchester about a  
14 meeting as well. Dave said this is a project they feel should move forward. They are presenting it to the  
15 infrastructure committee of the Rail Council tomorrow and on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to the full group. The legislature  
16 was not able to come up with money for the project this summer and they're hoping that with the support  
17 they've put forward, and with Rail Advisory Council support, they can go to VTrans and the  
18 Administration to get funding from the Jeffords Earmark and be in construction managed by NECR.  
19 Dave said they have included maps of the corridor on the bottom of their letter. He said their hope is the  
20 rail will be improved so that in the future it'll support commuter rail. The freight business will also  
21 benefit because the tracks will allow them to carry full 286,000 pounds rather than partial loads. This  
22 project will put people back to work from NECR who have been laid and will create additional  
23 construction jobs.  
24

25 When Rich Elmore asked about multi-use path, Dave said that Essex Junction is very much in favor of  
26 sharing the ROW in the rail corridor but the railroad feels it's unsafe. They would like to make it safe by  
27 adding fences and walls and would first put in gravel base and eventually pave it. These improvements  
28 are suggested to make the corridor safe for pedestrians, who use the railroad tracks all through the  
29 Village, but this is not the prime ingredient. NECR supports the idea but doesn't want to supply funding,  
30 but Canadian National owns the ROW. They hope to acquire ROW and when money is available, to fund  
31 it. When asked if this would go all the way to Burlington, Dave said they'd be willing to support that but  
32 obviously they're interested in the Essex Junction portion. Bob noted that in previous reports it has been  
33 recommended using railroad ROW for paths up to Fanny Allen and beyond and Rail America said they  
34 had experience with using that ROW with safety improvements.  
35

36 BOB PENNIMAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE MPO SUPPORT THE PROJECT IN WHOLE,  
37 AND SUPPORT THE VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION AND NEW ENGLAND CENTRAL  
38 RAILROAD IN PURSUING ALL MEANS OF FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT, INCLUDING  
39 FUNDING THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY & RELIEF ACT AND THROUGH THE  
40 JEFFORDS FEDERAL EARMARK FOR THE WESTERN CORRIDOR. JEFF McDONALD  
41 SECONDED. Chris Jolly said there is a statement in the letter from Essex Junction that the project could  
42 be constructed this summer by NECR, but he noted that from FHWA's perspective, if the funding is  
43 ready to go, they would have to put this project out to competitive bid and not just have NECR construct  
44 it. Dave said his "bringing jobs to the area" was that NECR people would supervise the project, similar to  
45 the tunnel project. They're ready to start this summer and complete it next year. We're not breaking new  
46 ground, we're saying go forward, get the specs done and have them approved, get it bid and let it happen.  
47 Amy Bell said as we heard John Zicconi say last month, they support the rail corridor improvements but  
48 do not support using earmark funds and she will have to vote against the motion.  
49

50 Rich Elmore asked if Essex Junction is going to CN do this for Essex Junction, wouldn't we just make the  
51 request all the way to Burlington for the whole length? Would we have to amend this motion to  
52 coordinate with Essex Junction to get this request made to the railroad? Bob said NECR is the only  
53 operator willing to step up and provide the whole 20% match. He would not cloud the motion on the  
54 table with the multi-use path. Rich is asking to just get the permission from CN for the shared use path

1 along the whole route rather than just in Essex Junction. Mike O'Brien said Winooski supports the effort  
2 of upgrading the rail and that's what they discussed with Charlie Hunter. The whole thing about using the  
3 rail ROW between Essex and Burlington is important. Twelve years ago they talked about a pedestrian  
4 bridge because they have a hundred people using the "blue bridge" every day. He said we do need to  
5 include that whole length but it doesn't need to be in the motion. After additional discussion, all agreed  
6 to support the request for the multi-use path but leave motion as is. Mike O'Brien said we need to make  
7 it clear to NECR that we're looking for long-term is Essex Junction to Burlington. Dave Crawford said  
8 they had proposed a motion enlarging on multi-use path, but we moved the staff recommendation. Dave  
9 Crawford noted to Amy that they've had ongoing conversations with VTrans that started with a statement  
10 of "bring us the 20% and we'll take a look at this." They're hopeful when they present it to VTrans with  
11 Rail Council endorsement and with changing times since the legislature, they'll find there is money for  
12 the rail project. Amy said VTrans supports the improvements and intends to seek ARRA Discretionary  
13 funds, but not through earmarks. Dave said they are in a different place because the earmark dollars have  
14 sat there. George Gerecke likes the motion as is because it covers both sources of funding. VOTE:  
15 MOTION CARRIED WITH VTRANS VOTING NO. Marc Landry asked Dave to email this to Al  
16 Voegele to be put on the Colchester Selectboard agenda for next Tuesday.

17  
18 9. Update on Vermont State Transportation Legislation. Michele Boomhower has not had a chance to  
19 review the whole bill. She has put some excerpts into the Executive Director's report, which she  
20 reviewed. The item of most interest is the Burlington International Airport pilot project; creative  
21 financing. Brian Searles had asked MPO to come in with Jeff Nick and Paul Connors to address the  
22 House and Senate Transportation Committees to form a public/private partnership to bring a new  
23 interstate exit at Hinesburg Road. We were asked to support the effort to bring developers together and  
24 report back to the legislature on how the non-federal share could be leveraged without local or state  
25 dollars. This was embraced by Senate Transportation and then House Transportation came to this area to  
26 review the project site. They're looking for June kick-off meeting. Final review of our study of Exit 12B  
27 will be available about that time. . Amy Bell cautioned that the Governor has not signed the  
28 Transportation Bill and with the legislature coming back to Montpelier it could be amended.

29  
30 10. Committee Reports.

- 31 a. Executive Committee. Draft minutes of May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting are in the packet.  
32 b. Transportation Advisory Committee. George Gerecke noted the May meeting was cancelled because  
33 there was no pressing business.  
34 c. Public Transportation Committee. Tom Buckley said they did have a meeting this week. One of the  
35 topics that has come up in this committee is park and ride lots and the relationship to public  
36 transportation. The UPWP has an item to update the Park & Ride Plan and the Public Transportation  
37 Committee would like to oversee the project. Peter Keating said there is more interest in park and  
38 rides. We will look at locations we reviewed before, look at adjoining regions and come up with new  
39 ideas and new recommendations. The Agency has been supporting park and rides, but they've run  
40 into a glitch with expanding the Richmond park and ride so they want us to wait until we have a new  
41 plan. Staff is putting together a scope to put this out to bid. Tom Buckley said the committee has  
42 been talking about public transportation coordination in the northwest portion of the state. GMTA  
43 has been working with CCTA. Those two boards have been discussing forming a regional  
44 transportation authority. There is an actual bill H.457 that lays out a plan for the governance of a  
45 regional transportation authority. It's enabling legislation whereby any two counties could form a  
46 regional authority. It came to their committee this month and they'll review it this summer and bring  
47 a recommendation to the CCMPO board in the fall. When this committee was formed it was in the  
48 wake of trying to come up with alternative funding sources. Denis Gravelin wondered how this  
49 related to the BRC. Michele noted she'll make a presentation at the next board meeting.  
50 d. Finance Committee. Marc Landry noted the Finance Committee will serve as bylaw change  
51 committee with a Milton representative – Andy Legg agreed to serve. Michele said the committee  
52 will get together over the next month or so to consider whether there should be interim adjustments.

1 e. CCRPC. Leslie Pelch thanked the MPO for passing the UPWP and working with them. They are  
2 scheduled to adopt their work program next week. The Western Corridor project is just an example  
3 of something they've worked on with us.  
4

5 11. Members' Items. There were none.  
6

7 12. Other Business.

8 a. Michele Boomhower congratulated Burlington, South Burlington and Williston for enhancement  
9 grant awards. There will be another round of enhancement grants with ARRA and the deadline has  
10 been extended for applications. There may be another round of enhancement grants this fall totaling  
11 \$3.8M.

12 b. Marc Landry noted that after five years, Dave Roberts completed his MBA. Members gave Dave a  
13 round of applause.

14 c. Peter Keating said another announcement is that Way to Go Week happened earlier this month.  
15 We're massaging the data, but it looks like there's been a 20% increase. An awards ceremony will be  
16 held June 5<sup>th</sup> at ECHO. The Merchants Bank will pay for a bike rack for the winning company.

17 d. Amy Bell said the project list for phase 2 of ARRA is on their website. Michele said there isn't much  
18 on there for Chittenden County. Amy Bell noted there is less red tape with formula funds than with  
19 ARRA funds.  
20

21 JEFF McDONALD MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY BOB PENNIMAN, TO ADJOURN AT 8:30  
22 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
23

24 Respectfully submitted,  
25  
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27  
28

29 Bernadette Ferenc  
30 Executive Assistant  
31