

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
2 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES
3

4 DATE: Tuesday May 3, 2005
5 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
6 PLACE: CCMPO Offices, 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 102, South Burlington, VT
7 Present: George Gerecke, Chair, Williston
8 Polly McMurtry, VTrans
9 Jeanne K. Wilson, Hinesburg
10 Jane Marvin, Senior Representative
11 Dan Bradley, Burlington
12 Meredith Shuft, Institutions Representative
13 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
14 Jeff Arango, Essex Junction
15 Matt Langham, VTrans
16 Dennis Lutz, Essex
17 Andy Legg, Milton
18 Dean Pierce, Shelburne
19 Meredith Burkett, CCTA
20 Lew Wetzel, CCRPC
21 Cyndi Humphrey, Jericho
22 Gary Estus, Westford
23 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
24 Steve Palmer, Winooski
25 Chris Jolly, FHWA
26 Ed Wildman, Huntington
27 MPO Staff: Peter Keating, Senior Planner
28 Susan Smichenko, Senior Planner
29 Daryl Benoit, Transportation Planner
30 Christine Forde, Senior Planner
31 Dave Roberts, Senior Planner
32 Paul Craven
33 Others: Gina Campoli, VTrans
34 Harold Garabedian, VT ANR
35 Paul Wishinski, VT ANR
36

37 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began the meeting by calling on
38 members and guests to introduce themselves.
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40 Paul Craven provided the TAC a brief legislative update on the transportation capital bill
41 mentioning the small difference in cost between the House and Senate versions and discrepancies
42 related to the Champlain Parkway and CCTA maintenance funds. Paul noted that TAC member
43 Sonny Audette had been appointed to the conference committee to settle differences between the
44 two versions. A summer study committee will be established to examine rail issues.
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46 **1. Consent Agenda**

47 No items this month
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49 **2. Approval of Minutes**

50 The minutes of April 5, 2005 were approved without changes.
51

3. Public Comments

No members of the public were present.

4. Air Quality Presentation

Christine Forde introduced Gina Campoli of VTrans and Harold Garabedian of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). Gina noted that their presentation was the same one the CCMPO Board received in March then turned to Harold for the presentation. Harold began by stating that this was an overview – a broad perspective of the major air quality issues confronting the state. He listed three “problems:” the criteria air pollutants identified in the federal Clean Air Act, air toxics, and the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. He went on first to encourage use of the ANR Air Pollution Control Division’s web site, then noted the locations of testing stations on the ANR monitoring network (three of which are in Chittenden County). Harold explained that the basis of the Clean Air Act was to protect human health from six contaminants – Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter (PM), and Ozone – and showed how Vermont had progressed from non-attainment to attainment for three of these contaminants from 1977 to today. Though the state is currently in attainment for all of the criteria pollutants, we are getting close to threshold levels for Ozone and PM. Harold went on to describe how Ozone forms and identified the sources for selected contaminants. The implications of falling into non-attainment were of interest to several TAC members and Harold, Gina, Polly McMurtry, Chris Jolly, and Christine Forde all described some of the new planning and analysis requirements the state and CCMPO would fall under. Avoiding non-attainment/preserving attainment status is of primary concern to VTrans and ANR. Harold then moved on to air toxics and illustrated this problem with a graph showing Benzene levels in Vermont compared with established health risk levels. Benzene is currently not regulated by federal rule and its level in our air exceeds recognized health standards. Another toxic Harold mentioned is smoke from diesel engines and he described the state’s recent efforts to legislate standards for it. Greenhouse gases, especially Carbon Dioxide, was the final item addressed – how it’s generated, what it does in the atmosphere, and emission trends. Harold summarized the presentation with the following points: Vermont has a long history in controlling air pollution; there has been a general improvement in the state’s air quality over time (however our Ozone and PM levels are close to federal thresholds); reductions in air toxins is becoming a larger control issue; and the transportation sector plays a significant emissions role in greenhouse gases, criteria pollutants and air toxics. Considerable discussion followed Harold’s presentation and topics addressed included transport of pollutants from outside the state and region, local implications of the memorandum on air quality between VTrans and ANR, the role a relatively inexpensive project such as signal optimization could play in air quality, and the analysis/modeling implications related to non-attainment status.

5. Sidewalk Program Recommendations

Peter Keating reported that the review committee (Jane Marvin, Sonny Audette, Stan, Hamlet, Amy Bell and Peter Keating) met Monday, May 2. Applications were received from Colchester, Williston, Essex, and Burlington. Following discussions the committee felt further information was needed from the applicants before they were comfortable making a recommendation. Staff has sent the applicants some questions and when answered, the committee would reevaluate and get a recommendation to the TAC before the June meeting.

6. Project Status Update

Christine Forde explained the background of this CCMPO Board, TAC, and VTrans committee that discusses primarily the status of projects. Christine mentioned the weekly status reports sent by VTrans and distributed by CCMPO staff to municipalities. She asked TAC members to get her comments on how they found the format and whether this should be modified in some way.

1 **7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

2 Christine Forde reported that she was tracking down the latest project status information as she puts
3 together the FY06 TIP and that a presentation on the draft TIP would occur at the June TAC
4 meeting. Susan Smichenko reported that the US RT 2 Corridor scoping report was soon to get
5 underway. She also noted that the CCMPO had signed an agreement with Local Transportation
6 Facilities on our signal optimization program. Dave Roberts reported that the ortho-imagery project
7 is nearly done with all the products except for the color infrared delivered. He also mentioned the
8 second session of infrastructure management training to take place later in the month. Further
9 Circumferential Highway EIS workshops are also planned for May to deal with indirect/cumulative
10 impacts. Peter Keating reminded members that this was Way to Go Week and encouraged TAC
11 members to participate by finding transportation alternatives for some of their trip-making. He also
12 distributed copies on the final MTP and a Safe Routes to School newsletter, and mentioned the
13 availability of Enhancement Grant applications for the coming round.
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15 **8. CCMPO April Board Meeting Report**

16 Peter reported that the Board approved the TIP amendment to add I-89 paving, approved Jericho's
17 request to recommend a segment of Browns Trace Road be added to the Federal Aid System (FAS),
18 and warned a public hearing for the FY06 UPWP. Dave added that there was considerable
19 discussion about the FAS request and that we may be reexamining the entire region in this regard.
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21 **9. Chairman's/Members' Items**

22 Lew Wetzel said that the CCRPC was planning to adopt a resolution making the MTP the
23 transportation element of the CCRPC's Regional Plan. Following discussion at the RPC, it was
24 agreed that this was the proper way to address the MTP's role in the Regional Plan.
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27 The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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29 Respectfully submitted,
30 Peter Keating