

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

4 DATE: Tuesday June 7, 2005
5 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
6 PLACE: CCMPO Offices, 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206, 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 Aaron Frank, CCTA
20 Lew Wetzel, CCRPC
21 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
22 Steve Palmer, Winooski
23 Ed Wildman, Huntington
24 Sonny Audette, South Burlington
25 Stan Hamlet, Underhill
26 Bill McCormick, Intercity Bus Representative
27 MPO Staff: Susan Smichenko, Senior Planner
28 Daryl Benoit, Transportation Planner
29 Christine Forde, Senior Planner
30 Dave Roberts, Senior Planner
31 Paul Craven, Project Manager
32 Bill Knight, Executive Director
33

34 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
35

36 **1. Consent Agenda**

37 The list of FY04-06 TIP amendments was approved unanimously.
38

39 **2. Approval of Minutes**

40 The minutes of May 3, 2005 were approved without changes.
41

42 **3. Public Comments**

43 No members of the public were present.
44

45 **4. Sidewalk Program Recommendations**

46 Christine Forde reported that the sidewalk review committee (Peter Keating, Stan Hamlet, Sonny
47 Audette, Jane Marvin and Amy Bell) reviewed four projects for the CCMPO sidewalk program and
48 recommended funding the projects in Williston, Essex and Colchester. Burlington's project was not
49 considered because it did not fit the criteria for the program. DAN BRADLEY MADE A MOTION
50 THAT THE CCMPO APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE WILLISTON, ESSEX AND
51 COLCHESTER PROJECTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY AARON FRANK AND
52 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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2 5. FY06 Transportation Improvement Program

3 Christine Forde gave a short presentation on the TIP and how it is developed by CCMPO staff with
4 input from the TIP Subcommittee, VTrans, Burlington International Airport and Chittenden County
5 communities. She indicated that the TIP must be approved this year since a new TIP was not
6 approved for FY05, and described how the TIP fits into the STIP and that they are both fiscally
7 constrained. She highlighted a number of projects where schedules and funding changes have
8 occurred. In addition to explaining the draft TIP which was included in the TAC package, she
9 distributed a handout which outlined proposed changes to the TAC Review Draft as of June 7, 2005
10 and other details of the distribution of funds in the proposed TIP. There was discussion on a
11 number of items where changes have occurred. Lew Wetzel inquired why the Richmond Exit 11
12 project has been delayed – who determined that it was no longer a priority for VTrans? Polly
13 McMurtry explained that the major reason for the delay on this and other projects was lack of
14 resources, both money and staff. Polly also mentioned that the legislature mandated that VTrans
15 develop a prioritization system for roadway projects to be completed this summer. Regarding
16 communication with VTrans on projects in the TIP, Bill Knight discussed the quarterly project
17 meetings that have been held with VTrans to stay up-to-date on project status. He also reiterated
18 that the TIP provides CCMPO's priorities for projects in Chittenden County.

19

20 Sonny Audette gave some background on the Airport Drive project. He said that although there are
21 no funds for the project shown in the body of the TIP, it needs to be listed there to be listed in the
22 State's Capital Program. Another highlight of the TIP discussion was the Burlington/Essex Rail
23 project. VTrans does not agree that the funds associated with this project should be used to
24 purchase the right-of-way for the Burlington/Essex line. Bill Knight and Sonny Audette gave some
25 background on how the funds were transferred from the Federal Transit Administration to the
26 Federal Railroad Administration during the passage of the omnibus bill last year in Congress, and
27 all earmarks from the B/E project are now part of ABRBE (Albany-Bennington-Rutland-
28 Burlington-Essex). Steve Palmer asked if the crossings would have to be maintained by VTrans if
29 they purchased the ROW and Bill said yes. Sonny asked about the Hinesburg Road culvert at
30 Potash Brook. It is not in the TIP and scoping has not yet been initiated for the project. Christine
31 asked Aaron Frank about the funding for the preventative maintenance line item for CCTA – Aaron
32 indicated that he would get back to her.

33

34 There was extensive discussion on the line item for funding the Chittenden County sidewalk
35 program. CCMPO proposed \$500,000 per year, and VTrans has modified that amount to \$100,000
36 for FY05, \$250,000 for FY06, \$100,000 for FY07 and no funding in FY08. Dennis Lutz asked
37 VTrans to explain why they are opposed to continued funding for this project, particularly since the
38 bike/ped program at VTrans is not thriving. Polly explained that it is a philosophical difference –
39 VTrans believes that funding for sidewalks is available through the Enhancements Program and
40 Chittenden County would have an unfair advantage with a separate program. Bryan Osborne feels
41 that this position is in conflict with the MOU signed between ANR and VTrans since it does not
42 encourage the commitment to growth centers and improved air quality as it should. Bill
43 McCormick mentioned that safety should be considered as a supporting argument for continued
44 funding. Dennis made the recommendation that the MPO provide a strong argument supporting the
45 sidewalk program citing the emphasis on sidewalks in the MTP, air quality issues, safety, the urban
46 environment in Chittenden County, and the availability of public transit. Dennis then suggested that
47 the TAC take action and approve the TIP contingent on keeping the money in for the B/E railroad
48 ROW and \$250,000 per year for the sidewalk program. Final discussion focused on the delay to the
49 Charlotte-Route 7 project. Dean Bloch questioned the slippage on the project schedule, and asked
50 the MPO to keep an eye on the project. Sonny explained that there has been confusion on the
51 Charlotte project for the past 5 years and that has not helped the project. BILL MCCORMICK

1 MADE A MOTION THAT THE TAC APPROVE THE DRAFT TIP WITH THE TWO ITEMS
2 INCLUDED FOR THE B/E ROW AND THE SIDEWALK PROGRAM. THE MOTION WAS
3 SECONDED BY JANE MARVIN AND APPROVED BY ALL EXCEPT DEAN BLOCH WHO
4 VOTED TO OPPOSE AND POLLY MCMURTRY WHO ABSTAINED.

6. Signal Optimization RFP

7 Susan Smichenko gave a short presentation on the current project for signal optimization in
8 Chittenden County. She explained that the process required the MPO to sign a Cooperative
9 Agreement with VTrans and the project will be managed through the LTF program. She indicated
10 that the signals for this project are in Burlington on North Avenue (9 intersections) and on Route
11 127 in Colchester (2 intersections). She asked for volunteers for the selection review committee,
12 and Dan Bradley indicated that Burlington will be represented on the committee. Al Neveau of
13 VTrans will participate as the LTF project manager and Bruce Nyquist of VTrans will assist in
14 reviewing the proposals.

7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports

17 Daryl Benoit mentioned that the MPO had sent their official comments on the State Rail Plan to
18 VTrans. Dave Roberts reported that the ortho-imagery project is complete, and that participating
19 municipalities should review the photos and let him know if anything is missing. He also discussed
20 the infrastructure management software which is being revised and should be completed in the next
21 few weeks. Dave also gave an update on the Circ EIS including the new schedule which indicates
22 an estimated completion date for the study in Spring 2006. Dave gave a brief update on the status
23 of the model. He reported that the Truck Trip Analyzer software which was supposed to provide
24 the freight component of the model will not be ready for our use, so RSG is working on another
25 methodology to incorporate truck trips in the model. He also indicated that the PM peak hour
26 model has been calibrated and the AM peak hour model will be calibrated by the end of June, and
27 that CCMPO's model will be used in the Circ EIS. Christine Forde reported that the South
28 Burlington to Williston Bike/Ped Connection scoping study will be underway soon. She also
29 mentioned that she is working on a prioritization system for both scoping and the TIP. Dennis Lutz
30 asked that the question regarding which scoping projects will be started this year be answered so
31 that he could determine whether Essex should plan for their projects moving forward. Susan
32 Smichenko reported that the US Route 2 Corridor Study will have a kick-off meeting on June 13,
33 2005. She also noted that a kick-off meeting has been scheduled for the Exit 17 meeting in
34 Colchester on June 21, 2005 and that a coordination meeting in Milton has been scheduled with the
35 Town, their economic development consultant and the MPO on June 21.

8. CCMPO May Board Meeting Report

38 Bill Knight reported that the Board approved the UPWP at the May Board meeting. A presentation
39 on the Strategic Plan Assessment Phase was made by Paula Cope. The operating procedures for the
40 Public Transportation Committee were approved by the Board with some minor modifications.
41 Dawn Terrill explained the TIP amendment to add funds for I-89 paving. Polly McMurtry made a
42 presentation on the status of Act 250 permits in the Exit 12 area in Williston.

9. Chairman's/Members' Items

45 Lew Wetzel reported that the CCRPC adopted the MTP as the transportation element of the
46 CCRPC's Regional Plan.

48 The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

50 Respectfully submitted,
51 Susan T. Smichenko