

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

4 DATE: Tuesday September 6, 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 Andy Legg, Milton
17 Dean Pierce, Shelburne
18 Aaron Frank, CCTA
19 Lew Wetzel, CCRPC
20 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
21 Dennis Lutz, Essex
22 Ed Wildman, Huntington
23 Sonny Audette, South Burlington
24 Stan Hamlet, Underhill
25 Bill McCormick, Inter City Bus Representative
26 Gary Estus, Westford
27 MPO Staff: Susan Smichenko, Senior Planner
28 Christine Forde, Senior Planner
29 Peter Keating, Senior Planner
30 Bill Knight, Executive Director
31

32 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
33

34 **1. Consent Agenda**

35 There were no items this month.
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37 **2. Approval of Minutes**

38 The minutes of August 2, 2005 were approved without changes.
39

40 **3. Public Comments**

41 No members of the public were present.
42

43 **4. Project Prioritization**

44 Christine Forde reported that VTrans had requested we add the federally approved earmarked
45 projects to the list prioritized last month. These included Church Street and Waterfront
46 improvements in Burlington, Champlain Water District and Vermont Local Roads stormwater
47 programs, covered bridge improvements in Charlotte, VT RT 15 corridor improvements in Jericho
48 Village, and a South Burlington US2/I-89 project. Applying the same prioritization system as
49 presented last month, Christine included the earmarked projects in with those presented at the last
50 meeting and described how each fared within the larger project list. There was some confusion
51 about the VTrans request with some TAC members wondering why federal earmarked projects, as

1 federal priorities, should be included with the other projects. Some also suggested project scoping
2 should be part of the prioritization process. Bryan Osborne noted that the stormwater projects
3 scored low within this prioritization process due to their non-transportation functions yet were
4 needed projects and should be considered higher priorities. Following further discussion, BRYAN
5 OSBORNE MADE A MOTION RECOMMENDING THE MPO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
6 WRITE TO SENATORS LEAHY AND JEFFORDS RECOMMENDING THEY WORK WITH
7 VTRANS SECRETARY TERRILL TO 1) EXEMPT FROM PRIORITIZATION THE PROJECTS
8 THAT DO NOT INVOLVE VTRANS FUNDS, AND 2) IDENTIFY WAYS TO STREAMLINE
9 THE USE OF THE UNIQUE, NON-TRANSPORTATION, STORMWATER FUNDS THROUGH
10 A SINGLE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE (I.E. NOT BOTH ANR AND VTRANS). DENNIS
11 LUTZ SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT. Following more
12 discussion BRYAN OSBORNE MADE A MOTION THE TAC RECOMMEND THE PRIORITY
13 LIST OFFERED BY STAFF TO THE CCMPO BOARD WITH THE ADDITION OF THE vt rt
14 116 CULVERT PROJECT ADDED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST. SONNY AUDETE
15 SECONDED AND THE MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENT. Further discussion ensued
16 that included MOU implications between the CCMPO and VTrans stemming from the prioritization
17 work, the other prioritization work recently started, and how scoping should factor into
18 prioritization. Dennis Lutz requested staff provide a list of scoping underway and planned, and the
19 status of each project proposed.

20

21 **5. 2030 MTP**

22 Peter Keating reported that efforts had recently begun on the next version of the long range
23 transportation plan. The next MTP will largely follow the format and content of the recently
24 approved 2025 plan and not be a complete revision. The plan's land use will be based on the
25 Regional Planning Commission's Regional Plan which is underway and should produce the needed
26 land use data for our analysis in the next six months to a year. The availability of this information
27 from the RPC is a major factor in the schedule to develop the next MTP which Peter predicts will
28 take approximately two years. The next plan will also be primarily a staff, rather than consultant,
29 effort. Only the analysis of fiscal resources, some public outreach, and the public attitudes survey
30 will include consultant assistance to complete. Like the last plan an advisory committee will be
31 appointed to help guide the process. The CCMPO Executive Committee is discussing the role and
32 make-up of this committee and appointments to it will likely occur over the coming months. Peter
33 concluded by noting that the recently passed transportation reauthorization law – SAFETEA-LU –
34 had some implications for our long range plan including a stronger emphasis on including resource
35 agencies on the process, addressing environmental mitigation from transportation, and using the
36 web and other electronic means as ways to communicate MTP related information.

37

38 **6. Rail Issues**

39 Bill Knight briefed the TAC on recent meetings with New England Central and Rail America staff.
40 For background information Bill mentioned that the CCMPO had recommended the state purchase
41 the Winooski Branch ROW and that the old rail earmark associated with this project had been
42 transferred from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to the Federal Railroad Administration
43 (FRA). He also reported that the former project identified as Albany/Bennington/Rutland/
44 Burlington (ABRB) is now referred to as ABRBE with the addition of Essex Junction. The
45 meetings with the railroads revealed that they wish to upgrade the Winooski Branch's classification
46 to allow for faster train speeds, are willing to consider a shared use path in parts of the rail ROW,
47 and interested in establishing a trans-load facility. Bill and Sonny Audette also reported on the
48 summer study committee examining setting up a rail authority that would assume rail
49 responsibilities from VTrans.

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51 **7. Enhancement and Transportation For Livable Communities (TLC) Update**

1 Peter Keating reported that four Enhancement grant and three TLC applications had been received
2 and needed to be evaluated and priorities recommended to the CCMPO Board. Sonny Audette,
3 Jane Marvin, Stan Hamlet and Lew Wetzel volunteered to serve on a review committee for this
4 effort.

6 **8. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

7 Peter Keating mentioned that the Safe Routes to School project is entering its second year again
8 focusing on the three schools selected last year in Richmond, Hinesburg and Burlington. He also
9 reported that the Transportation Demand Management Plan was nearing completion and a
10 presentation to the TAC would be forthcoming. Susan Smichenko reported that the US Route 2
11 Corridor Study RFQ committee would be meeting to discuss qualifications this week, that the ITS
12 Strategic Plan draft was recently delivered by IBI Group, and that she was discussing signal
13 preemption equipment with IBI. Christine Forde will have a status of scoping projects ready for the
14 next TAC meeting. She also discussed the recent meeting of the prioritization committee and air
15 quality discussions. Peter Keating mentioned that the local concerns meeting for the re-scoping of
16 the Williston Park and Ride would take place this Wednesday evening in Williston. Dennis Lutz
17 expressed his appreciation to CCMPO and CCRPC for their efforts to produce the infrastructure
18 management software and for intern help in collecting infrastructure data.

20 **9. CCMPO August Board Meeting Report**

21 Peter Keating reported that Board heard a presentation on the status of the Circumferential
22 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), held a TIP Public hearing and approved the price increase
23 on the Winooski Riverwalk project, and approved the project prioritization list recommended by the
24 TAC.

26 **10. Chairman's/Members' Items**

27 Polly McMurtry informed the TAC of the CIRC EIS public workshops to take place later in the
28 month to discuss the screening of project alternatives.

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

33 Respectfully submitted,
34 Peter Keating