

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

4 DATE: Tuesday February 7, 2006
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 Dan Bradley, Burlington
9 Meredith Shuft, Institutions Representative
10 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
11 Andy Legg, Milton
12 Bernie Chagnon, Shelburne
13 Aaron Frank, CCTA
14 Stan Hamlet, Underhill
15 Bill McCormick, Inter City Bus Representative
16 Mike Coates, Business Representative
17 Jeff Arango, Essex Junction
18 Jeanne K. Wilson, Vice-Chair, Hinesburg
19 Richard Watts, Environmental Representative
20 Chris Jolly, FHWA
21 Andy Legg, Milton
22 MPO Staff: Susan Smichenko, Senior Planner
23 Christine Forde, Senior Planner
24 Peter Keating, Senior Planner
25 Scott Johnstone, Executive Director
26 Dave Roberts, Senior Planner
27 Daryl Benoit, Transportation Planner
28 Others: Dan Grahovac, VTrans
29

30 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
31

32 **1. Consent Agenda**

33 There were no items this month. George Gerecke noted some agenda changes – moving up the
34 UPWP item and adding a TIP amendment to follow item #4 – the MTP survey.
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36 **2. Approval of Minutes**

37 The minutes of December 6, 2005 were approved without changes.
38

39 **3. Public Comments**

40 No members of the public were present. Chairman Gerecke asked for a round of introductions for
41 the benefit of guests and new members.
42

43 **4. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

44 Scott Johnstone briefed the TAC on the UPWP development process noting a new approach the
45 CCMPO would like to take this year. With the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) the MPO's
46 guiding document and the UPWP and TIP based on the Plan, reworking the UPWP format to
47 demonstrate how it ties back to the MTP goals seems appropriate. As a way to transition to this
48 new format staff may do two versions of the UPWP this year. Scott also noted that a new UPWP
49 subcommittee had been set up with slightly different membership than in years past and this
50 committee held its first meeting on Monday. This committee will also report directly to the Board
51 but the draft UPWP will still be reviewed by the TAC. The next Board meeting on February 15th

1 would primarily be a public forum to get ideas for inclusion in the work program. CCTA and the
2 CCRPC would make presentations explaining what projects they plan to undertake with the
3 planning funds passed through to them. Scott concluded with a request to the TAC for work
4 program items or related comments.
5

6 **5. MTP Public Opinion Survey Proposal Evaluation**

7 Peter Keating reported that as the CCMPO starts its update for the MTP we will again do a public
8 opinion survey of county residents on their attitudes toward transportation related issues. This
9 survey would largely replicate one first done in 2000 as part of the last MTP. Nine proposals had
10 been received for this work and a review committee convened to evaluate each. Following two
11 meetings, much discussion and reference checks, the committee recommended the MPO hire
12 National Research Center (NRC) for this work. Following brief discussion, BRYAN OSBORNE
13 MADE A MOTION THAT THE CCMPO CONTRACT WITH NRC FOR THE MTP PUBLIC
14 OPINION SURVEY AND CONSIDER ORC MACRO AS A BACK-UP SHOULD FINALIZING
15 AN AGREEMENT WITH NRC NOT SUCCEED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY
16 JEANNE WILSON AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
17

18 **6. FY06 TIP Amendment**

19 Christine Forde handed out a memo describing two minor TIP amendments that had been requested
20 by VTrans. The first is to add \$1,391,000 in federal funds for paving 1-289 (existing segments of
21 the Circumferential Highway). This project is funded with additional money and will therefore not
22 affect the fiscal constraint level. The second amendment is to move \$469,752 from FY05 to 06 for
23 the Winooski Riverwalk project. This will move those funds not obligated last year into this
24 making them available for the work undertaken this year. Following brief discussion, DAN
25 BRADLEY MADE A MOTION APPROVING THE TIP AMENDMENTS AS
26 RECOMMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MIKE COATES AND PASSED
27 UNANIMOUSLY.
28

29 **7. Variable Message Sign (VMS) Plans**

30 Dan Grahovac of VTrans described this statewide work as a plan to decide where dynamic (or
31 variable) message signs might be sited along the major highways around the state. The project to
32 site these signs was prompted by a federal earmark for sign deployment. He started by going over
33 the objectives of the project then briefly described each, including: the methodology for sign siting,
34 a review of current Intelligent Transportation System plans, the various types of technologies these
35 signs use, a deployment plan, and the schedule to complete this work. A number of comments and
36 questions followed the presentation, including: Who has jurisdiction over sign content and how are
37 the messages generated and sent; Are there liability concerns with the sign's use; Are emergency
38 services or Homeland Security involved/interested in this; other corridors such as VT Routes 15 and
39 2A should be considered for this deployment. Dan estimated that we could expect to see sign
40 deployment to begin within the next two years.
41

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

43 Dave Roberts reported on the upcoming CIRC EIS design workshops and the recent transportation
44 model training. He also noted that the CCRPC plans to work with interested towns on the asset
45 management software in the coming year. If towns were interested they could contact Brad Rawson
46 at the RPC. Bryan Osborne noted that the software was more accurately an asset inventory and that
47 this item should be further discussed on a future TAC agenda. Susan Smichenko talked about the
48 three US RT 2 Corridor project meetings noting approximately 80 to 90 total attendees. She noted
49 that meeting comments were posted on the project web site. Chris Jolly inquired about business
50 community involvement and it was suggested that GBIC get involved in the project. Richard Watts
51 thought that this project did a good job of getting the public involved at an early stage. Peter

1 reported on the Safe Routes to School project noting the program training coming up March 27th in
2 Richmond. He also mentioned the TDM Plan completion and that a two page plan summary was
3 under review and would come to the TAC next month. Along with George Gerecke, Peter
4 summarized the alternatives presentation for the Williston Park and Ride at Monday's town
5 Selectboard meeting.
6

7 **9. CCMPO December and January Board Meeting Report**

8 Peter Keating reported that the Board heard a capital budget presentation from VTrans Secretary
9 Terrill, discussed the UPWP development process, received a CIRC EIS update, adopted a public
10 transportation policy, and appointed a committee to review the latest draft of the CCRPC's Regional
11 Plan. Mike Coates asked if there was any news related to the cost for the CIRC EIS project. Staff
12 had not heard anything new on this since the last TAC meeting. Bryan Osborne asked that if the
13 EIS concluded with a new alignment, what would happen to the right-of-way already purchased.
14 Chris Jolly felt confident that FHWA would not seek the money back Chris agreed to look into this
15 further. Mike Coates asked about the status of rail and Daryl gave an update.
16

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

18 Peter Keating reported that Enhancement Grant awards had recently been announced and three of
19 four Chittenden County applicants had received partial funding for their projects: Richmond's
20 Village Streetscape Plan, Burlington's Depot Street improvement plan, and the Richmond Land
21 Trust's purchase of scenic easements. Not funded was the Vermont Farm Bureau's application for
22 East Monitor Barn restoration.
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25 The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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27 Respectfully submitted,
28 Peter Keating
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