

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

4 DATE: Wednesday July 5, 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 Bill McCormick, Inter City Bus Representative  
9 Matt Langham, VTrans  
10 Jane Marvin, Seniors Representative  
11 Jeanne K. Wilson, Vice-Chair Hinesburg  
12 Lew Wetzel, CCRPC  
13 Jeff Arango, Essex Junction  
14 Chris Jolly, FHWA  
15 Aaron Frank, CCTA  
16 Dan Bradley, Burlington  
17 Stan Hamlet, Underhill  
18 Gary Estus, Westford  
19 Dean Bloch, Charlotte  
20 Bernie Gagnon, Shelburne  
21 Sonny Audette, South Burlington  
22 MPO Staff: Susan Smichenko, Senior Planner  
23 Christine Forde, Senior Planner  
24 Peter Keating, Senior Planner  
25 Dave Roberts, Senior Planner  
26 Daryl Benoit, Transportation Planner  
27

28 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.  
29

30 **1. Consent Agenda**

31 There were no items this month.  
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33 **2. Approval of Minutes**

34 The minutes of June 6, 2006 were approved with one spelling change.  
35

36 **3. Public Comments**

37 No members of the public were present.  
38

39 **4. Rail Project Update**

40 Daryl Benoit displayed the web based database and mapping features developed under a  
41 Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) task. VTrans asked the MPO and the other RPCs to  
42 develop an inventory of land parcels along railroad lines. The MPO version includes land parcel  
43 information, zoning categories and natural resource constraints, with the information available  
44 interactively from the CCMPO's web site. The state intends to use this information through the  
45 Regional Development Corporations to market land for rail related uses. Sonny Audette said that  
46 the Rail Council had asked VTrans to undertake this work in order to identify rail sidings and to  
47 prevent them, if possible, from being developed into non-rail related uses. Though this was not  
48 identified in the task VTrans asked the MPO and RPCs to do, it might be added as railroad parcel  
49 work was included again in next year's TPI work program.  
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51

## 5. VT RT 15 Corridor Consultant Selection

Susan Smichenko reported that an RFP went out in April for a consultant for the Route 15 Corridor Study. A selection committee with representation from CCMPO, Essex, Essex Junction, CCTA, CCRPC, VTrans and CATMA reviewed the proposals of three consultant teams: BFJ Planning, Wilbur Smith Associates and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. The committee consensus favored BFJ and they were subsequently interviewed on June 21, 2006. Susan mentioned that a number of studies have been undertaken on the Route 15 corridor between Winooski and Essex. An important objective of this proposed corridor study will be to synthesize the land-use activities and transportation visions of the four municipalities and the institutions along the corridor into a comprehensive plan with clear strategies for improvements and implementation. The BFJ team includes Resource Systems Group (RSG) and TransSystems. The anticipated budget for the two-year schedule is \$150,000. SONNY AUDETTE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY LEW WETZEL, TO HIRE BFJ FOR THE CORRIDOR STUDY. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 6. Regional Traffic Signal Pre-Emption Standard

Susan Smichenko stated the traffic signal pre-emption technology already deployed in Chittenden County is regarded as a successful application of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – designed to meet a specific need of the communities served. Signal pre-emption expedites the movement of fire, emergency medical services, and police vehicles through signalized intersections along congested corridors, reducing emergency response times. She noted however, that as new equipment is installed, it was becoming clear that a consistent standard was needed to insure future compatibility across the region should a code-capable technology ever be implemented. Currently, all signal pre-emption equipment in the County is un-encoded, and therefore the open industry standard for this equipment has been acceptable. However, there is concern that future needs in the County will necessitate a code-capable technology which requires the adoption of a common regional standard. Pending investments by CCTA to initiate transit signal priority in the County has also made this issue more critical. An ITS subcommittee, working with consultant IBI Group, developed a draft policy statement on a recommended approach citing specific equipment from Tomar Electronics as the desired standard. Lew Wetzel suggested the word “compatible” be inserted before “equivalent” in the third paragraph from the end. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, JANE MARVIN MADE A MOTION THE TAC RECOMMEND THE BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY, WITH THE SUGGESTED REVISION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY AARON FRANK AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

## 7. Asset Management System

Dave Roberts continued the discussion started at last month’s TAC meeting where it was suggested the asset management software be enhanced to deal with stormwater related issues. Dave had met with Brad Rawson and Scott Johnstone to discuss how to proceed with this requested change. It was decided that the MPO would survey the member municipalities via email to identify just what the stormwater issues are. The CCRPC will continue with their focus on a stormwater education program. When the survey’s complete, Dave will get back to the TAC.

## 8. Transportation Survey

Peter Keating presented selected results from the recently completed public opinion survey conducted as part of the MTP update. He noted that in addition to gathering public opinion, we wanted to compare results from the 2000 survey and note any changes. The survey methodology was described – one part was a random solicitation, mail-back survey, of 2000 Chittenden County households and the other to 138 employers asking them to have their employees fill out the survey on-line. Peter presented some of the selected demographic information culled from the survey before describing the survey format in some detail. Responses to the categories under

1 transportation behavior and transportation incentives were highlighted and the rating of  
2 transportation priorities was compared with the results from 2000. The same top three priorities  
3 were repeated in both surveys - system preservation, improved safety, and improved  
4 bicycle/pedestrian facilities. The survey also encouraged written comments and Peter noted the  
5 most often cited issues – specific safety concerns, Circumferential Highway (most saying “build it”)  
6 and the bus system (most saying “expand it.”) The survey will be finalized and presented to the  
7 Board in July, presented to the public, and its findings considered in the next MTP.

#### 9 **9. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

10 Peter Keating noted the recent VTrans Safe Routes to Schools awards to seven Chittenden County  
11 schools and that an RFQ seeking a program coordinator had gone out. Enhancement Grant  
12 applications were due in August at VTrans and the CCMPO needs TAC volunteers to evaluate them  
13 and to make priority recommendations. Sonny Audette, Jane Marvin, and Stan Hamlet agreed to  
14 assist in this evaluation. Dave Roberts reported that VTrans had a new project manager for the  
15 Circumferential Highway project – Ken Robie, replacing Rich Ranaldo – and that new EIS  
16 meetings were being scheduled. Polly McMurtry mentioned that Dick Hosking was appointed Rail  
17 manager at VTrans. Susan Smichenko gave an update on the US RT 2 corridor study noting  
18 upcoming meetings and the latest report, seeking comments, available on the web. Christine Forde  
19 reported that the VT RT 116 culvert project was underway and data were being collected. She also  
20 mentioned the TIP public hearing and gave an update on the prioritization project from last month’s  
21 TAC meeting that was subsequently discussed at the Board meeting. Daryl Benoit spoke about  
22 traffic count activity and noted that a report on the operations of the Winooski rotary would be out  
23 later in the week.

#### 24 **10. CCMPO June Board Meeting Report**

25 Peter Keating mentioned approval of the UPWP, warning a TIP public hearing, prioritization  
26 discussion, and sidewalk grant approvals. George Gerecke added the election of CCMPO officers  
27 and the naming of the MTP Advisory Committee membership roster.

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30 The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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32 Respectfully submitted,  
33 Peter Keating