

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

4 DATE: Tuesday, September 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 Polly McMurtry, VTrans
11 Jane Marvin, Seniors Representative
12 Jeanne K. Wilson, Vice-Chair Hinesburg
13 Jeff Arango, Essex Junction
14 Chris Jolly, FHWA
15 Aaron Frank, CCTA
16 Gary Estus, Westford
17 Steve Palmer, Winooski
18 Bernie Gagnon, Shelburne
19 Sonny Audette, South Burlington
20 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
21 Dennis Lutz, Essex
22 Andy Legg, Milton
23 Richard Watts, Environmental Representative
24 Mike Coates, Business Representative
25 Meredith Schuft, Institutions Representative
26 MPO Staff: Susan Smichenko, Senior Planner
27 Christine Forde, Senior Planner
28 Peter Keating, Senior Planner
29 Dave Roberts, Senior Planner
30 Scott Johnstone, Executive Director
31 Others: Al Neveau, VTrans
32

33 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
34

35 **1. Consent Agenda**

36 The TAC approved a minor TIP amendment adding \$50,000 in CMAQ funds for more CCTA inter-regional
37 bus service.
38

39 **2. Approval of Minutes**

40 The minutes of July 5, 2006 were approved without changes.
41

42 **3. Public Comments**

43 No members of the public were present.
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45 **4. VTrans Capital Budget Presentation**

46 Matt Langham explained that this item is one of the ways VTrans seeks input on their upcoming FY08
47 budget. He handed out two charts, one showing historical capital appropriations from FY03 through FY07
48 by broad categories – Town Highways, Bridges, Paving, New Roadways, Aviation, Rail, Public
49 Transportation, and Other (park and rides, bike/ped, rest areas, etc.). The other chart showed the relative
50 shares of the categories in FY07. Matt asked the TAC if these proportions seem appropriate and if the TAC
51 felt transportation needs seem adequately addressed. He noted the effects of earmarked projects in
52 SAFETEA-LU increasing overall funding in FY07 and over the next three years. Dennis Lutz recommended
53 that VTrans continue using state funds for state projects and avoid diverting money to matching earmarked
54 projects. The TAC felt that funding deficiencies still exist in all of the categories. Mike Coates noted that
55 switching freight from road to rail could lower maintenance costs for roads. He directed VTrans to a
56 Middlebury study looking at the Middlebury/Burlington corridor where this effect had been quantified.

1 Richard Watts pointed out that revenue shortfalls from the gas tax are worsening and this will only
2 exacerbate problems over time.
3

4 **5. Way To Go! Commuter Challenge Consultant Selection**

5 Peter Keating began by noting that the TAC did not need to take action on this item. A RFQ went out in late
6 June and two sets of qualifications were received. The evaluation committee did not feel that either
7 adequately addressed the needs required of a project manager and asked the RFQ, revised to emphasize
8 marketing skills, be reissued. This was done in early August and one set of qualifications – a combination of
9 the first two – came in. The evaluation committee decided to take a different approach and to look for ways
10 to separate the various tasks and assign them to various parties. The CCMPO staff could manage much of
11 the work and the marketing tasks and business outreach work could be hired out. Staff has already discussed
12 business outreach with the Alliance for Climate Action as recommended by the evaluation committee. More
13 on the Way To Go! Project will be forthcoming as the project team is assembled.
14

15 **6. Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Program**

16 Peter Keating reported that TLC grant applications were due this coming Friday and that TAC volunteers
17 were needed to help in the evaluation process. Polly McMurtry, Mike Coates and Christine Forde
18 volunteered. George Gerecke agreed to help as well if he were available but that travel would see him out of
19 the area in the coming weeks.
20

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

22 Christine Forde noted that printed copies of the TIP were distributed earlier and that a TIP flyer was in
23 process. She also gave status reports on the following scoping projects: VT RT 116 culvert in South
24 Burlington, Hinesburg Park and Ride, VT RT 15/Education Drive in Essex Junction, Sand Hill Road/VT RT
25 15 intersection in Essex, VT RT 15 bikepath, Muddy Brook Crossing bikepath, and the Queen City Park
26 Road bridge in Burlington. She also mentioned that a new RFQ was being prepared for scoping services and
27 that this would soon be issued. George Gerecke reported that the Williston Park and Ride report is awaiting
28 the release of a VT RT 2A signal study that was expected to be completed soon. Susan Smichenko reported
29 on the I-89 Exit 15 safety improvement project, the US RT 2 Corridor study, the VT RT 15 Corridor study
30 and the VTrans Strategic Highway Safety Plan. A general discussion of High Accident Locations (HAL)
31 followed. Dave Roberts reported on the CIRC EIS noting that the short list of alternatives was near
32 completion. November meetings were planned and the report was expected to be completed next year. TAC
33 discussion on the project ensued. Scott Johnstone gave an update on the Strategic Plan Committee's work
34 focusing on committee structure. Peter Keating confirmed that Local Motion had been hired to run the Safe
35 Routes to School program in seven Chittenden County schools. He also mentioned the upcoming
36 Metropolitan Transportation Plan public meeting in Burlington.
37

38 **8. CCMPO July Board Meeting Report**

39 Peter Keating mentioned approval of the TIP and project prioritization, and the MTP survey presentation.
40 Scott Johnstone reported that the equity issue was still a Board concern in project prioritization and that the
41 Board wanted to look into this further.
42

43 **9. Chairman's/Members' Items**

44 Polly McMurtry let TAC members know of upcoming planning workshops in Williston and Essex on new
45 town centers. She also mentioned that she had final design plans for Dennis Lutz and Susan Smichenko to
46 look over. Sonny Audette reported on looming financial problems with the state's transportation fund and is
47 seeking input on how to address this.
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49 The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.
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51 Respectfully submitted,
52 Peter Keating