

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
2 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
3 MINUTES
4

5 DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2006
6 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
7 PLACE: CCMPO Offices, 30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206, South Burlington, VT
8 Present: George Gerecke, Chair, Williston
9 Bill McCormick, Inter City Bus Representative
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 Gary Estus, Westford
16 Andy Legg, Milton
17 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
18 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
19 Dan Bradley, Burlington
20 Murray Benner, SSTA
21 Stan Hamlet, Underhill
22 Mike Coates, Business Representative
23 Meredith Schuft, Institutions Representative
24 Sonny Audette, South Burlington
25 Aaron Martin, Essex
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: Pam Mathews, Local Motion
32

33 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Aaron Martin, filling in for Dennis
34 Lutz, was introduced and the other TAC members introduced themselves
35

36 **1. Consent Agenda**

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

40 The minutes of October 3, 2006 were approved without change s.
41

42 **3. Public Comments**

43 No members of the public were present.
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45 **4. Town of Hinesburg/VTrans Discussions on VT RT 116**

46 Scott Johnstone explained that these discussions were relevant for other towns and helped clarify
47 who has control over what aspects of road designs in town centers. Jeanne Wilson then provided
48 some background information, describing the issues, the town's views and the VTrans perspective.
49 She noted that were three separate projects in the Village area that were all moving toward
50 implementation at the same time – two safety projects (traffic signal installation at Charlotte Road
51 and Silver Street intersection redesign) and an Enhancement grant project to build sidewalk on the

1 west side of VT RT 116. The essence of the dispute between the town and VTrans was the shoulder
2 width of the state highway through the Village, the state wanting five feet and the town four. Both
3 agreed to the eleven foot travel lane width. The town requested a meeting with the agency secretary
4 to discuss issues and from that meeting there was a commitment from VTrans to re-evaluate the
5 project. Following a letter from the town Selectboard to VTrans, the state ceded to the town's
6 wishes on shoulder width. Scott felt that other towns could learn from this experience and in future
7 get through such problems more quickly. Andy Legg reported that the Vermont League of Cities
8 and Towns was looking a context sensitive design issues such as those that confronted Hinesburg.
9 Bryan Osborne suggested that VTrans should push decision-making further down the VTrans chain
10 of command in order to expedite these decisions. Scott also mentioned that VTrans concerns were
11 related to liability should they agree to narrower shoulder widths. Matt Langham said that the
12 agency as a tendency to fall back to AASHTO standards if there are any doubts.

13 14 **5. FY 08 UPWP Committee Formation**

15 Peter Keating reported that the Board had approved the UPWP Committee charter at their
16 November meeting. This charter describes the work program development process as well as the
17 committee's representation. Scott Johnstone noted that there were five slots on the committee
18 allocated to TAC members and he was looking for volunteers. Mike Coates, Jane Marvin, Meredith
19 Schuft and Sonny Audette volunteered and Matt Langham agreed to be the VTrans representative.

20 21 **6. CCMPO Strategic Plan**

22 George Gerecke described the meeting that some TAC members had with the Strategic Plan
23 committee where only one Board member, Virginia Clarke, attended. George felt that the TAC is
24 considered an afterthought in Board deliberations and that there was a general lack of awareness of
25 what the TAC does among Board members. He also felt that the TAC did not have sufficient input
26 into the Strategic Plan discussions related to committee restructuring and wants to make sure a TAC
27 voice is heard. He felt a job description for TAC members was needed. Scott noted that opinions
28 of the TAC vary among Board members. He also said that staff would be looking again at
29 committee roles and offering ideas to the Board, TAC, and other interested parties. There appeared
30 to be a consensus that TAC member roles needed more precise definition. Staff agreed to get the
31 TAC bylaws to the members and it was noted that these were available from the CCMPO web site.

32 33 **7. Google Earth Demonstration**

34 Dave Roberts linked a laptop computer to Google Earth to demonstrate that program's abilities and
35 applications in transportation planning and visualization. The demonstration included zooming
36 down to the CCMPO office location giving an indication of the high resolution of Google Earth's
37 imagery for our area – courtesy of the CCMPO's recent orthoimagery project. He also showed a
38 feature flying the path of the existing and planned segments of the Circumferential Highway
39 alignment. Showing some of the program's other capabilities, he moved to the Bay Area of
40 California where traffic data has been integrated with the software, and demonstrated the 3D
41 function with buildings in Manhattan. Travel directions are also part of the program as was shown if
42 planning a trip from Burlington to Montpelier.

43 44 **8. Scoping Consultants Evaluation**

45 Peter Keating reported that proposals from firms to perform on-call project development work over
46 the coming three years were due this Friday. Staff sought TAC volunteers to review these proposals
47 and bring recommendations back to the TAC. Stan Hamlet, VTrans (Matt or Polly) agreed to help.
48 George Gerecke also agreed if the review period took place after the start of the New Year.

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

2 Peter Keating reported that on the 2030 MTP the CCRPC had recently approved housing and
3 employment forecasts that will be a critical component of our transportation model to be used for
4 MTP analyses. An RFP for the financial element of the MTP had also been issued. Dave Roberts
5 spoke about ancient roads and \$5K grants to help municipalities work on that task. Susan
6 Smichenko gave updates on the US RT 2 and VT RT 15 Corridor studies. The former is nearing
7 completion with a draft expected in the next week. There will be another stakeholders meeting for
8 the RT 15 study on January 8th. Scott mentioned that there are three separate modal policy plans
9 that VTrans is seeking comments on – rail, bike-ped, and public transportation. He also noted the
10 recent release of the Champlain Parkway EIS and that the Circumferential Highway EIS was
11 expected in March/April. There will be workshops on that project in January. In response to a
12 question about the Williston Park and Ride, Scott said that the Williston Grid Streets study, which
13 could influence a location decision, was complete and in-house. He planned to reconvene a meeting
14 of that project’s stakeholders soon. He also reported that stormwater grant applications exceeded
15 the amount of funding allotted to them. Scott is on the VTrans committee evaluating those
16 applications.

17

18 **10. CCMPO November Board Meeting Report**

19 George Gerecke mentioned the VTrans presentation on their Public Transportation Policy Plan, the
20 Board’s approval of the TAC recommendations on Enhancement application priorities, acceptance
21 of the financial audit, and approval of the UPWP Committee charter.

22

23 **11. Chairman’s/Members’ Items**

24 Polly McMurtry announced her coming retirement from VTrans and that this would be her last TAC
25 meeting. She said that she had working with the TAC and that in the near term Matt Langham
26 would be filling in for her. Members thanked her for her service.

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28 The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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30 Respectfully submitted,

31 Peter Keating