

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

5 DATE: Wednesday, March 7, 2007

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 Amy Bell, VTrans

11 Matt Langham, VTrans

12 Jane Marvin, Seniors Representative

13 Jeanne K. Wilson, Vice-Chair Hinesburg

14 Chris Jolly, FHWA

15 Gary Estus, Westford

16 Stan Hamlet, Underhill

17 Mike Coates, Business Representative

18 Meredith Schuft, Institutions Representative

19 Dennis Lutz, Essex

20 Bryan Osborne, Colchester

21 Bernie Gagnon, Shelburne

22 Aaron Frank, CCTA

23 Richard Watts, Environmental Representative

24 Dean Bloch, Charlotte

25 Andy Legg, Milton

26 Murray Benner, SSTA

27 MPO Staff: Susan Smichenko, Senior Planner

28 Christine Forde, Senior Planner

29 Peter Keating, Senior Planner

30 Michelle Mraz, Staff Planner

31 Eleni Churchill, Senior Planner

32 Daryl Benoit, Staff Planner

33 Dave Roberts, Senior Planner

34 Scott Johnstone, Executive Director

35 Others: Dan Senecal-Albrecht, CCRPC Staff

36 Garret Mott, CCRPC Chair
37

38 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A round of introductions was made
39 for the benefit of a new staff member, Eleni Churchill.
40

41 **1. Consent Agenda**

42 Three minor FY07 TIP amendments were unanimously approved. A new agenda item was added to
43 the deliberative agenda to discuss project prioritization. This was slated to come up after item #6.
44

45 **2. Approval of Minutes**

46 The minutes of February 6, 2007 were approved without changes.
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48 **3. Public Comments**

49 No members of the public were present.
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1 **4. Rail Issues**

2 Mike Coates reported on several aspects of the state's rail system that have been under discussion at
3 the Vermont Rail Council recently. Mike, along with TAC members Bill McCormick and Sonny
4 Audette, are members of the council. The Council is advisory only and does not have a critical role
5 in decision-making. Mike covered a number of topics and subsequent discussion covered even
6 more. Topics included: 286 rail standards implementation, track clearance issues, through state
7 freight traffic, track curve super elevation and freight train wear, Colorado vs. RDC rail car issues,
8 Amtrak ticketing and customer service problems, Amtrak speeds, poor Amtrak marketing, financial
9 help from other states benefiting from Vermont rail services, the Western Corridor, trucking
10 industry driver shortages, freight vs. passenger service issues, rail related RFPs from VTrans and
11 the CCMPO, the Middlebury rail spur, and the sale of New England Central's parent company. In
12 response to a question on what the Chittenden County region could do in support of rail, Mike
13 replied to support passenger rail on the Western side of the state and freight rail improvements
14 throughout the state.

15 16 **5. UPWP Update**

17 Scott Johnstone reported that a number of task ideas for next year's UPWP had been generated
18 through our public forum in January as well as subsequent emails, letters and from members of the
19 UPWP committee. He was now seeking further ideas from the TAC – areas where perhaps we
20 should increase or decrease our focus or new areas altogether. The budget for the upcoming year
21 was likely to be slightly down from this year but there was room to consider new projects. No
22 budget assumptions in terms of funding for particular tasks had been developed yet. A discussion
23 on the merits of project scoping followed before more specific ideas came forward. Dennis Lutz
24 suggested that enhanced modeling analyses could be used to better determine project priorities.
25 Richard Watts mentioned that issues around the ageing population needed to be looked at. He and
26 Dennis also brought up the recurring issue of alternative funding for public transportation. Dean
27 Bloch recommended that advancing development of more park and rides should be considered
28 which led to a discussion of the Williston park and ride status. Dennis also noted the importance of
29 continuing signal optimization work on the major road corridors and suggested there be a line item
30 in the TIP to assist VTrans in this regard. A discussion of project earmarks followed and Scot
31 concluded that a draft UPWP would come to the TAC in April for their review.

32 33 **6. Municipal Leasing of Private Land**

34 Dave Roberts wanted this on the agenda as it has come up in the context of Huntington planning a
35 park and ride facility. They don't have town owned land and are curious to know if others have
36 leased private land for public purposes like this. Amy Bell said that South Burlington leased land
37 for a shared use path from UVM and the Burlington Country Club. It was also mentioned that
38 CCTA had leased land for parking related to the Link Express bus services. If there were other
39 examples, Dave requested they be forwarded to him.

40 41 **6A. Project Prioritization**

42 Christine Forde handed out two documents related to project prioritization: A cover memo to the
43 TAC and a scoring spreadsheet with some sample projects. She also distributed town specific
44 project score sheets to the appropriate town TAC representatives present. Christine is seeking TAC
45 member review of the preliminary scores she has allotted to the projects. Following town feedback
46 she will bring the score sheets back to the TAC in April for comment and potentially approval.

47 48 **7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

49 Christine reported that we had received the TIP fiscal constraint letter from VTrans and that the TIP
50 subcommittee needed to be reformed to help develop the FY08 version. George Gerecke and Sonny
51 Audette agreed to serve. Peter Keating distributed brochures for the upcoming Way to Go! Week in

1 May and encouraged members to participate. He also gave a brief status report on the MTP update.
2 Scott reported on an innovative financing workshop coming up in June. Michelle Mraz spoke about
3 plans for a pedestrian/bike summit in May and plans to update the regional Ped/Bike plan. Susan
4 Smichenko reported on the status of the US RT 2 corridor study and Eleni the VT RT 15 corridor.
5 Daryl Benoit mentioned that MPO comments had gone to the consultant working with South
6 Burlington on the Dorset Street corridor study.

7

8 **8. Chairman's/Members' Items**

9 Dennis Lutz asked for a report on the status of scoping, identifying which projects are underway
10 and what's on the candidate list. Christine will get this information out.

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12 The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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14 Respectfully submitted,

15 Peter Keating