

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

4 DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2008
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, Intercity Transit Representative
9 Dennis Lutz, Essex
10 Bernie Gagnon, Shelburne
11 Jeff Arango, Essex Junction
12 Aaron Frank, CCTA
13 Chris Jolly, FHWA
14 Paul Craven, Rail Representative
15 Dean Bloch, Charlotte
16 Jane Marvin, Senior Representative
17 Meredith Schuft, Institutions Representative
18 Ed Wildman, Huntington
19 Bryan Osborne, Colchester
20 Murray Benner, SSTA
21 Jeanne K. Wilson, Hinesburg
22 MPO Staff: Peter Keating, Senior Planner
23 Bryan Davis, Staff Planner
24 Jason Charest, Transportation Engineer
25 Eleni Churchill, Senior Planner
26 Dave Roberts, Senior Planner
27 Daryl Benoit, Transportation Planner
28

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

31 **1. Consent Agenda**

32 No items this month.
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34 **2. Approval of Minutes**

35 The minutes of January 7, 2008 were approved without changes.
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37 **3. Public Comments**

38 No members of the public were present.
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40 **4. Enhancements Program Evaluation Criteria**

41 Peter Keating referred to the memo in the meeting packet describing the proposed evaluation criterion
42 change. The MPO had been evaluating and prioritizing Enhancement applications for over a decade. The
43 criteria used in this evaluation have been unchanged for eight years while the State has revised theirs over
44 time. The original intent of the MPO was to have our criteria closely track VTrans with the expectation that
45 our priorities would then closely track the State's. To get ours more in line with VTrans,' staff proposed
46 rewording one criterion from: "*The project, if implemented, will enhance a designated growth center.*" To:
47 "*The project, if implemented, will benefit a Designated Downtown Development District, Designated Village*
48 *Center, Designated New Town Center Development District, or Designated Growth Center.*" JANE
49 MARVIN MADE A MOTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE CHANGE. THE MOTION
50 WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS LUTZ AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
51

52 **5. CCMPO Model Update**

53 Dave Roberts presentation primarily focused on recent model development at the CCMPO, but he began
54 with an overview and history of the MPO's model development and use. His model primer described the
55 basic model element and how the model works: Trip generation, trip distribution, mode split, and network
56 assignment. Each step in the process was illustrated with a sample trip from one Transportation Analysis
57 Zone (TAZ) to another. Dave also went over the scope of work for model improvements. An RFP with the
58 scope of work went out two weeks ago and was due February 21st. The work scope will lead to several

1 model enhancements: From a peak hour to a daily model with improved air quality analyses, include
2 more recent detailed survey information on trip making behavior, adjust the land use module, include traffic
3 microsimulation recommendations, include a truck model, go through a peer review process, and include on-
4 call support. Dave described in more detail how microsimulation software works and other transportation
5 models under development, including UrbanSim and TRANSIMS. He concluded by asking for volunteers to
6 help review the model proposals and noted that the project would include training for those interested.
7 Model update work would take about one year to complete.
8

9 **6. Chittenden County & the Foreseeable Freight Trend**

10 Daryl Benoit gave the TAC this presentation he'd previously shared with the Board last November. He
11 started with a description of the state's rail infrastructure noting its limitations and external links. He noted
12 that state and Chittenden County forecasts predict significant increases in freight tonnage from truck and rail
13 over the next 20 to 30 years. Daryl next gave a primer on international maritime freight transport that
14 included container size standardization, implications of the Port of Halifax Nova Scotia expansion, container
15 ship size increases, New York/New Jersey harbor deepening, Panama Canal expansion, and Suez vs. Panama
16 Canal issues. He concluded with an assessment of the freight implications from a slowing US economy.
17

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

19 Dave Roberts gave updates on the Milton Town Core study, the I-89 Exit 12 Park and ride, the innovative
20 finance blue ribbon commission, the Circ EIS, and Severance Corners improvements in Colchester. Christine
21 Forde reported on the Richmond Bridge Street Bridge, Queen City Park bridge, VT RT 15/Sand Hill Road
22 intersection, Ethan Allen/VT RT 15 intersection in Essex, the VT RT 2A/James Brown Drive in Williston,
23 the I-89 Exit 12B siting study, the Staples' Third Lane project, and the US RT 2/North Williston Road
24 intersection high accident location. Bryan Davis reported on the status of the public participation plan
25 update, the small communities initiative, and our helping launch a car sharing program in Burlington. An
26 open house for this program will take place next Wednesday at Union Station. He also gave an update on the
27 Pedestrian Bicycle Plan and noted Daryl's progress on Way to Go! web enhancements. Eleni Churchill
28 reported that the final VT RT 15 stakeholders group meeting would take place on February 14th. She also
29 reported on the status of the Western Corridor study, I-89 Exit 15 safety improvements, and the Burlington
30 Shelburne Street rotary safety project. Jason Charest reported on the traffic impact analysis of the Harbor
31 Road/Falls Road/US RT 7 intersection in Shelburne and the safety recommendations to the Leroy
32 Drive/Marshall Avenue intersection in Williston. Peter Keating spoke about helping the CCRPC develop
33 transportation related substantial regional impact criteria and recent developments to expand the Richmond
34 Park and Ride facility. Daryl Benoit reported that all of last summer's traffic count data were now available
35 on our web site.
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37 **8. CCMPO January Board Meeting Report**

38 George Gerecke reported that this meeting featured a presentation from VTrans Secretary Neil Lunderville, a
39 public forum on next year's work program, and approvals of a mid-year MPO budget adjustment and TIP
40 amendments.
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42 **9. Chairman's/Members' Items**

43 Peter reported that one of the four Enhancement Grant applications from Chittenden County received an
44 award – Hinesburg's sidewalk project on VT RT 116. Applications from Williston and Richmond were
45 unsuccessful.
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47 The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
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49 Respectfully submitted,
50 Peter Keating