

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

4 DATE: Tuesday, July 7, 2009  
5 TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
6 PLACE: CCMPO Offices, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, VT  
7 Present:  
8 George Gerecke, TAC Chair, Williston  
9 Jeanne K. Wilson, Hinesburg  
10 Ed Wildman, Huntington  
11 Amy Bell, VTrans  
12 Dan Bradley, Burlington  
13 Robin Pierce, Essex Junction  
14 Mike Coates, Business Representative  
15 Matthew Langham, VTrans  
16 Gary Estus, Westford  
17 Seth Jensen, Jericho  
18 Meredith Birkett, CCTA  
19 Andy Legg, Milton  
20 Steve Palmer, Winooski  
21 Sonny Audette, South Burlington  
22 MPO Staff: Jason Charest, Transportation Engineer  
23 Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner  
24 Bryan Davis, Transportation Planner  
25 Peter Keating, Senior Transportation Planner  
26 Dave Roberts, Senior Transportation Planner  
27 Janet Botula, Admin/Communications Assistant  
28 Others: Charlie Baker, CCRPC  
29 Dan Senecal-Albrecht, CCRPC  
30

31 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The agenda was amended to include a  
32 change to the FY08 and FY10 TIP. It was determined that it would be discussed as Item 6a.  
33

34 **1. Consent Agenda**

35 No items were on the Consent Agenda  
36

37 **2. Approval of Minutes**

38 A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2009 BY DAN BRADLEY  
39 AND SECONDED BY ED WILDMAN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.  
40

41 **3. Public Comments**

42 Charlie Baker made the announcement that the CCRPC is working together with the CCMPO to look at  
43 projects within Chittenden County that may qualify for federal funds through FEMA's Pre-Disaster  
44 Mitigation program that will be available for the 2011 construction season. He wanted to let the  
45 municipalities know that a letter of intent must be submitted by August 3<sup>rd</sup> and that applications will be  
46 due on November 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the RPC and MPO will be doing the contract administration to  
47 take some of the administrative burden off of the towns. Dan Senecal-Albrecht added that he will contact  
48 road managers and town administrators to discuss possible projects. It was noted that applications will  
49 benefit from documentation of expenses over several years related to the proposed project and that a  
50 benefit/cost analysis will be required. The grant program requires a 25% match from the municipality.  
51

52 **4. FY2010 Sidewalk Grant Recommendations**

53 Peter Keating stated that in this fifth round of sidewalk grants \$374,000 in federal funds are available for  
54 engineering/design and construction grants (the annual \$250,000 plus the \$124,000 balance from an

1 unused Milton sidewalk grant from FY06). Seven applications and \$933,701 in total requests were  
2 evaluated. Burlington was the highest scorer and there was a three way tie for second place – one of  
3 which, Shelburne will be funded through the Enhancement program. The committee recommended full  
4 funding to Burlington for Cliff Street (\$146,400) and Jericho for VT RT 15, Riverside (\$100,741) and  
5 partial funding recommended to Colchester for I-89 Exit 16 area (\$126,859).

6 Peter stated that he would like the TAC to approve the committee's recommendation and that money will  
7 be available on October 1. He thanked those who had assisted with the evaluation of the projects: Jane  
8 Marvin, Bryan Davis, Bruce Hoar and Amy Bell. He mentioned that the same evaluation criteria have  
9 now been used for five years and that there has been some discussion to revise them. He will have  
10 suggested revisions ready for the TAC and Board in September.

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12 A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION WAS  
13 MADE BY SONNY AUDETTE AND SECONDED BY JEANNE WILSON.

14  
15 Andy Legg questioned if equity between those being funded played a role in the selection process. Peter  
16 affirmed that geographical distribution has been looked at in the past but it has not played an  
17 overwhelming role in the decision making process. In past years when scores have been closer it had been  
18 considered but it didn't factor into the process as much this year. Andy then went into a short history of a  
19 project for which Sidewalk funds had been awarded to Milton. As other sources of funding were also  
20 awarded to the project and bids came in low, Milton met with VTrans and it was determined that the  
21 Sidewalk grant funds would be returned to the program. Milton had understood that it would be likely  
22 that they would be awarded these monies when they submitted a future Sidewalk Grant proposal. He  
23 stated that Michele Boomhower had also implied that possibility. Andy further stated that, although  
24 Milton submitted a good grant proposal, the \$124,000 (at least) did not come back to Milton and that the  
25 town was not pleased with how things had played out. Peter stated that the selection committee had not  
26 taken such considerations into their deliberations. Andy replied that Peter had been at the Selectboard  
27 meeting when this was discussed and that Milton plans to bring this issue to the MPO Board.

28  
29 THE MOTION PASSED WITH MILTON VOTING NO.

### 30 31 **5. Technical Assistance Consultant Selection**

32 Dave Roberts explained that the CCMPO performs a variety of technical assistance projects for member  
33 communities upon request. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was distributed in May to renew the list  
34 of consultants available to fulfill technical assistance requests and do a limited amount of scoping work in  
35 certain circumstances. Eleven responses were received with the intent of selecting five consultants. A  
36 review committee consisting of CCMPO staff and two TAC members, Bernie Gagnon and Bruce Hoar,  
37 met to review the submittals on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The selection committee recommended the CCMPO enter into  
38 technical assistance contracts with the following five firms: DuBois & King, Lamoureux & Dickinson,  
39 Resource Systems Group, Stantec and VHB/Pioneer.

40  
41 A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TAC SELECTION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WAS  
42 MADE BY AMY BELL AND SECONDED BY JEANNE WILSON. THE MOTION PASSED  
43 UNANIMOUSLY.

### 44 45 **6a. FY 2008 AND FY2010 Transportation Improvement Program**

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47 Christine Forde requested that several changes be made to the FY08 and FY10 TIP: Adding two new I-89  
48 bridge maintenance projects (South Burlington-Winooski) and one in Richmond, plus ARRA funding for  
49 Lake Road paving in Milton, the Mt. Philo Road sidewalk in Shelburne, South Burlington bike path  
50 repaving, and a VT15 Sidewalk project in Essex.

51

1 A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE FY08 AND  
2 FY10 TIP BY DAN BRADLEY AND SECONDED BY SONNY AUDETTE. THE MOTION PASSED  
3 UNANIMOUSLY.  
4

#### 5 **6. FY2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program**

6 Christine stated that FY2010-2013 TIP has been warned for public hearing on July 15<sup>th</sup> and that this item  
7 details some changes to the draft TIP since the June 2, 2009 TAC meeting. No action is required and the  
8 material is informational. The Public Hearing Draft TIP is available on the CCMPO website  
9 (<http://www.cmppo.org/TIP>). She said that the railroad project is still included in the TIP although  
10 VTrans opposes its inclusion. A long discussion ensued over the rail issue with some attempts at  
11 clarifying the difference between committed versus obligated funding. Mike Coates expressed his  
12 displeasure over AOT opposing the project at the last Rail Council meeting. He felt that VTrans should  
13 explain its position of missing this opportunity to improve the rail system to the 286 Standard from  
14 Burlington to the border, putting people to work and turning their back on the \$1 million match from  
15 NECR. He thought that the TAC should express its dissatisfaction about AOT's action. Christine  
16 reminded the group that the TIP has to be approved by the Governor or his designee - the Secretary of  
17 Transportation. She said that it would be a policy question by the Board as to whether we would want to  
18 give up the whole list for one project. Mike stated that the Governor's position was still unknown. Matt  
19 Langham clarified that VTrans has not said that it didn't support the project. It has stated that it does not  
20 support the use of Western Corridor monies to fund the project. Amy Bell emphasized that there is a fluid  
21 list of rail projects, it's Rob Ide's responsibility, as VTrans Rail Manager, to manage the statewide rail  
22 system and that many people would like a piece of the Jefford's earmark. Mr. Ide will be at the July  
23 CCMPO Board meeting. Robin Pierce suggested that Chittenden County should receive 20 percent of the  
24 funding but Amy stated that VTrans doesn't do anything based on a geographical distribution of funding.  
25 George Gerecke expressed his frustration with the State getting locked into long term agreements that  
26 seem to prevent other communities from using money when matching funds are available. Mike Coates  
27 again mentioned \$1 million in available match that we may have to turn down. Christine then spoke  
28 about the CCTA funding mentioning the amount of STP funds to be transferred to FTA for proposed  
29 CCTA projects. That transfer amount has not yet been agreed to. Thus the words "pending award of  
30 funds to CCTA" has been added in the remarks section for several projects. Sonny mentioned that transit  
31 was being cut by \$100,000 in the State budget.  
32

#### 33 **7. Status of Projects and Subcommittee Reports**

34 Christine reported on the many public meetings that were coming up in July including: July 13<sup>th</sup> at the  
35 Essex Selectboard meeting to discuss VT15 at Ethan Allen signal, July 16<sup>th</sup> in South Burlington to inform  
36 the public about the status of Exit 12B, July 20<sup>th</sup> in Huntington to kick-off two bridge projects and, July  
37 21<sup>st</sup> in Shelburne to discuss the Bay Road bridge. She will also be meeting with Essex to discuss the  
38 Gentes Road Bridge but no date has been set. Sonny asked about the upgrade of VT15 in the TIP.  
39 Christine stated that construction should start some time next summer.  
40

41 Dave Roberts reported that there still has not been much progress on the CIRC. He said that the State is  
42 still working with the Army Corps on wetlands issues. It is still unknown if the preferred alternative will  
43 change to deal with the wetlands. Mike Munson has been hired to look at traffic impact fees in  
44 Colchester. Dave has also been working with adjacent RPC's to look at issues that might impact the  
45 MTP.  
46

47 Jason Charest reported that there will be safety audits done in Hinesburg and Richmond on July 22 as part  
48 of the High Risk Rural Roads program. There will also be a corridor review in August for Richmond as  
49 part of a separate project. He also mentioned that the request for dynamic striping project in Underhill  
50 has been sent to FHWA. Jason is also giving some technical assistance to South Burlington in the  
51 Orchard School neighborhood. He is also working on a signal optimization project on Essex Way.  
52

1 Bryan Davis stated that the third Road Manager's meeting will take place on July 14<sup>th</sup> in Colchester at 10  
2 am. He said that the second round of the TAG program projects has been approved by the Board and that  
3 contracts are going out. He mentioned his involvement with the Burlington Safe Street Collaborative  
4 which is fostering respect by all parties using the roadways as well as attending a planning meeting for the  
5 Burlington Bike Fest, another program which promotes walking and biking. He is also coordinating  
6 meetings with Local Motion and local Recreation and Bike Path committees to discuss the 2008 Regional  
7 Ped/Bike Plan. He also mentioned the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation and an upcoming  
8 meeting that Michele will be going to in Washington to discuss this further with our legislators. Bryan is  
9 also looking into Twitter and Facebook as possible ways of reaching out to the public.

10  
11 Peter Keating stated that work on the MTP has slowed down a little during the summer. We have been  
12 working through modeling issues related to analyzing the scenarios that came from last fall's workshops.  
13 He also mentioned that the MTP Financial Plan is progressing in three parts. The first involves  
14 estimating the amount of dollars available over the 50 year planning horizon. The second part estimates  
15 how much it will cost to maintain the current system. We are waiting for feedback from VTrans and  
16 CCTA on these reports and will then use the information in the MTP analysis and to determine future  
17 projects. In the next few months there will be a public meeting to discuss the various scenarios and set up  
18 a public voting process on the scenarios. He expects that the preferred scenario will be selected in early  
19 fall. Following that decision point, we will more closely examine transportation projects to fit the  
20 selected scenario. He also noted that it looks as if it will be tight to make the January deadline. Peter  
21 mentioned that the Park and Ride Plan will be updated in this fiscal year. A committee will be set up to  
22 oversee that project.

#### 23 24 **8. CCMPO May Board Meeting Report**

25 The Board endorsed some of the Blue Ribbon Commission Innovative Finance report recommendations,  
26 held a public hearing on a major TIP amendment for the Jericho bridge repair, warned a public hearing  
27 for the FY2010-2013 TIP on July 15<sup>th</sup>, approved Round 2 of the TAG grants, and re-elected the same  
28 officers for the Board, only replacing Rick Moulton of Huntington with Steve Owen of Underhill on the  
29 Executive Committee.

#### 30 31 **9. Chairman/s/Member's Items**

32 Peter announced that there would not be a TAC meeting in August.

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34 The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

35 Respectfully submitted,

36  
37 Janet Botula  
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