

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

4 DATE: Tuesday, November 3, 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 Ed Wildman, Huntington

10 Amy Bell, VTrans

11 Robin Pierce, Essex Junction

12 Matthew Langham, VTrans

13 Seth Jensen, Jericho

14 Mickey Palmer, Colchester

15 Bryan Osborne, Colchester

16 Bernie Gagnon, Shelburne

17 Meredith Schuft, CATMA

18 Dennis Lutz, Essex

19 Dan Bradley, Burlington

20 Andy Legg, Milton

21 Mike Coates, Business

22 Steve Palmer, Winooski

23 Chris Jolly, FHWA

24 MPO Staff: Jason Charest, Transportation Engineer

25 Christine Forde, Senior Transportation Planner

26 Peter Keating, Senior Transportation Planner

27 Dave Roberts, Senior Transportation Planner

28 Eleni Churchill, Senior Transportation Planner

29 Janet Botula, Admin/Communications Assistant

30 Michele Boomhower, Executive Director

31 Bryan Davis, Transportation Planner

32 Daryl Benoit, Transportation Planner  
33

34 Chair George Gerecke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.  
35

36 **Changes to the Agenda**

37 Peter Keating requested that Agenda items 4 and 5 be switched, as Amy Bell would be late to the meeting  
38 and wanted to part of the discussion for item 4.  
39

40 **1. Consent Agenda**

41 No items were on the Consent Agenda.  
42

43 **2. Approval of Minutes**

44 A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2009 BY MIKE COATES  
45 AND SECONDED BY ED WILDMAN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.  
46

47 **3. Public Comments**

48 No members of the public were present.  
49

50 **5. Town Highway Bridge Program**

51 Christine Forde distributed a revised list of the 2009 Chittenden County Town Highway Bridge Priorities  
52 proposed for VTrans' Project Candidate List and then reviewed the scoring process with TAC members.  
53 She briefly went over the criteria and explained the scoring of the top ranked eight bridges. These  
54 included in ranked order: Bridges 32 and 30 on Camels Hump Road, and Bridge 10 on Main Road in

1 Huntington, Colchester Bridge 14 on Pond Road, Jericho Bridge 15 on Browns Trace, Huntington Bridge  
2 8 on Main Road, Shelburne Bridge 7 on Bay Road and Charlotte Bridge 31 on Dorset Street. She noted  
3 that the MPO would be able to submit up to eight projects and that means that the last one, Huntington  
4 Bridge 28 on Moody Road will not be submitted. Ed Wildman confirmed that it was the least critical of  
5 the town's bridges.

6  
7 There was frustration expressed over the length of time it often takes for projects on the VTrans  
8 Candidate List to get to construction. A discussion followed about the benefits of early scoping to  
9 determine alternatives, cost estimates etc. so that plans can be ready should funding become available or  
10 the situation requires more immediate action. It was determined that projects do not have to be on the  
11 Candidate List for scoping to take place, but for any construction, they must be on that list. Bryan  
12 Osborne questioned if less expensive bridge projects, even if over 20 feet in length, could be moved into  
13 the Bridge and Culvert program as those seem to move more quickly. Matt Langham and Chris Jolly  
14 agreed that this could not happen because of Federal eligibility requirements, however further discussion  
15 revealed that STP funds could be used for this purpose although due to the lack of STP funding, a transfer  
16 to the Bridge Program was not likely.

17  
18 Dennis Lutz suggested that if the local share were to increase from 20% to 50%, perhaps more bridges  
19 could be built, and the wealth could be spread around a little more. He acknowledged that some  
20 communities might not like the idea. Matt thought the idea was one that VTrans could look at but that the  
21 Legislature would have to buy off on the idea as well. Dennis suggested that the percentage could vary  
22 and that a project might move more quickly if a higher percentage were to be offered by the municipality.  
23 There was discussion that towns with little money for a higher percentage match would be at a  
24 disadvantage. Michele Boomhower thought that it might be a good idea to look at policy restructuring in  
25 regards to how projects are managed

26  
27 There was a discussion about project ranking and how to let VTrans know if a project that is relatively  
28 highly ranked is not a priority for that community. Dennis suggested that a letter be written to the MPO to  
29 that effect and that it would work its way through the system.

30  
31 A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGE PRIORITIZATION LIST  
32 BY BRYAN OSBORNE AND SECONDED BY DENNIS LUTZ. THE MOTION PASSED  
33 UNANIMOUSLY WITH VTRANS ABSTAINING.

34  
35 Because Amy Bell had not arrived, the TAC skipped to Item 6, the MTP

### 36 37 **6. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update**

38 Peter Keating stated that the MTP is a long-range transportation plan that is required to be updated every  
39 five years. The update to the current plan began about 18 months ago and is using a technique called  
40 Scenario Planning to cast a wider view into the future and look out to 2060. He explained that the 2025  
41 plan is being used as a template but that the new MTP will also be looking at adjoining counties to  
42 determine how activity in their areas affect Chittenden County. He briefly discussed the financial element  
43 as well as issues relative to the various land use scenarios and modeling. He explained that working  
44 through issues related to modifying the transportation model to make it more sensitive to land use  
45 differences and non-auto trips has led to substantial delays. The various scenarios and their impacts must  
46 still go before the public with results of the analysis, the MPO Board, the RPC and eventually through a  
47 public voting process. Completion by the January 2010 deadline is looking unlikely and a new project  
48 completion schedule was included in the meeting packet. In the meantime, the current plan must be  
49 readopted with SAFETEA-LU required elements. This will involve adding a Natural Resources section,  
50 consultations with natural resources interest groups, and a new financial element. The amended version  
51 must go to the Board for a public hearing in January. The readopting of our existing plan will buy time to  
52 continue with the 2060 MTP giving us adequate time to go through the necessary public involvement  
53 process. Completion of the 2060 MTP may take until the end of 2010. Part of the analysis for the new

1 plan is to create a transportation network to pair with the land use scenarios. Dave Roberts distributed a  
2 listing of known, planned projects by municipality. He requested that municipalities review the list and  
3 let him know about any new projects or ones that might have been missed so that they can be included in  
4 the modeling. His list also included cost estimates for the projects and requested any new information, if  
5 it was available, so that the data could be made as current as possible. Dennis had a question about transit  
6 projects. In his case, he knows that the Susie Wilson corridor will require more transit routes due to  
7 increased density and questioned whether that type of transit improvement is factored in. Dave said that  
8 they have met with CCTA throughout the process and have factored in some of the data, but that any new  
9 information such as that would be helpful. Several others mentioned projects including Amy Bell who  
10 brought up the Richmond Park and Ride expansion and hopes that it will be added.

#### 11 12 **4. Sidewalk Program Evaluation Criteria**

13 Peter Keating explained that, based on feedback received from the TAC and the Executive committee,  
14 staff had revised the criteria yet again. Both Criteria 9 dealing with geographic distribution and Criteria  
15 10, dealing with demonstrating the ability to execute contracts within one year of award, had been  
16 eliminated. The weighted value of Criteria 8 (project readiness) had been increased from 3 up to 4.  
17 Another change was the note in Criteria 4 that amenities, while encouraged, would not be eligible for  
18 reimbursement under this program. Peter asked for comments. Bryan Osborne recommended that the  
19 narrative for Criteria 6 be revised to replace “available” with “current or future” public bus service.

20  
21 A long discussion then followed about the amenities issue and whether the MPO has the authority to  
22 require, as a condition, that a municipality build something that does not qualify for reimbursement. Amy  
23 Bell mentioned that she had met with Sue Scribner about this issue. The Transportation Enhancement  
24 Policy implies that if an amenity is a functional component, costs for these items *may* be eligible. It’s all  
25 on a case-by-case basis as the project progresses through the system and she gave the example that  
26 lighting may be eligible but not historic lighting fixtures.

27  
28 Michele stated that it goes back to the MPO’s authority. She felt that, if the TAC and the Board concur  
29 that it’s important for sidewalks to have amenities (even if the towns may have to pay for on their own),  
30 we should have the ability to decide on our criteria. Municipalities are part of the process of developing  
31 the criteria.

32  
33 A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRYAN OSBORNE AND SECONDED BY ANDY LEGG TO STRIKE  
34 CRITERIA 4. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 1 OPPOSED AND VTRANS ABSTAINING.

35  
36 Andy questioned the reasoning behind the striking of Criteria 9 (geographic distribution) by the Executive  
37 Committee. Andy liked the criteria and felt that the political component should be noted. Michele  
38 thought it was based on the scarcity of resources. After further discussion he thought that it might be  
39 worth it to run through past applications to see how the new weighting factors play out as they may skew  
40 the scores. Seth Jensen was disappointed to see Criteria 9 removed and suggested, as an alternative, a  
41 similar weighting factor for projects in designated town centers.

42  
43 Amy brought up the issue of funds carrying over. After her discussion with Sue Scribner, it should be  
44 considered a non-issue. The MPO in its TIP gets \$250,000 a year to award to new projects. As soon as  
45 those projects are awarded and cooperative agreements in place, they receive a project number and go  
46 into Sue’s budget and compete for funds with all other projects. Amy feels this is good news for the  
47 CCMPO. She said that there has yet to be a project that has been ready to go, that has not progressed due  
48 to lack of funds. After further discussion it was suggested that Criteria 8 should only be weighted 3 and  
49 not 4 as the staff revision recommends.

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51 A MOTION WAS MADE TO CHANGE THE WORDING IN THE NARRATIVE FOR CRITERIA 6  
52 BY INSERTING “CURRENT AND FUTURE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION” BY BRYAN  
53 OSBORNE AND SECONDED BY STEVE PALMER. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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2  
3 ANOTHER MOTION WAS MADE WAS MADE BY ANDY LEGG AND SECONDED BY BERNIE  
4 GAGNON TO REINSTATE CRITERIA 9 AND CHANGE THE WEIGHTING ON CRITERIA 8  
5 BACK TO THE ORIGINAL WEIGHTING OF 3. THE MOTION PASSED WITH 7 AYES, 3 NAYS  
6 AND VTRANS ABSTAINING.  
7

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

9 Christine Forde distributed the new TIP flyers and mentioned that more were available. She has been  
10 working on scoping for four bridge projects: two in Huntington, one in Essex and one in Shelburne. She  
11 mentioned an upcoming public meeting for Essex on November 19 and in Huntington on December 7.  
12

13 Eleni Churchill reported that the last steering committee meeting for the Western Corridor Study is  
14 scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> during which the revised plan will be reviewed and hopefully all members  
15 will agree to release it for public comment. She also mentioned that the RFP for Burlington's Colchester  
16 Avenue Corridor Study has been completed and will go out to bid fairly soon. She reported that  
17 Burlington's Waterfront South Access Study is moving forward and that a notice to proceed to RSG will  
18 go out by the end of this week. A report will be coming out next week in response to a request for  
19 technical assistance from Colchester for Exit 17 and there will be a public work session next week for the  
20 Pearl Street Multi-modal study that is part of an Essex Junction TAG effort.  
21

22 Dave Roberts reported on the status of the CIRC EIS stating that the state and FHWA continue working  
23 with the Army Corps of Engineers on an alignment change in the vicinity of Mountain View Road to  
24 avoid a forested wetland area. The Final EIS will be available by the end of the year according to the  
25 latest updates. The record of decision for the project is expected by next June. The MPO will forward  
26 a CIRC EIS newsletter the state expects to send out in the next week or so.  
27

28 Jason Charest reported that staff [completed](#) a build-out analysis for the [Town of Hinesburg pertaining to](#)  
29 [possible development in the vicinity of the VT-116/CVU Road/Shelburne Falls Road intersection](#). The  
30 [draft report was sent to the Town for their review and use](#). He also mentioned that he is meeting with  
31 Hinesburg, Richmond and VTrans on November 5 to go over the draft reports from this summer's safety  
32 audits. The audits were conducted as a part of the High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) program. He gave  
33 a quick update on the dynamic striping project in Underhill. An Automated Traffic Recorder (ATR) has  
34 been set out and it appears that a small percentage of cars are slowing down in response to the striping.  
35

36 Bryan Davis reported that the next Road Managers meeting will be in Winooski on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The  
37 American Truck Equipment Company will be speaking about winter maintenance. Another event on  
38 November 10<sup>th</sup> will take place at the Davis Center where John Kaplan will discuss his findings from a trip  
39 to Europe where he looked at Bike and Pedestrian Facilities. The MPO is preparing the annual  
40 Community Reports for each town, which will be distributed later in the month. Bryan also reported that  
41 the Bike-Ped Committee met recently to discuss ways to prioritize projects and move them forward. He  
42 also announced that the MPO will be planning a Bike/Ped Summit for next spring. Diane Meyerhoff of  
43 Third Sector Associates is working on an evaluation of our outreach efforts based on the Public  
44 Involvement Plan.  
45

46 Peter Keating reported that the Park and Ride Plan update subcommittee met last week. The first report  
47 from the consultant regarding existing facilities is due at the end of December. This study will include a  
48 wider view of facilities and include adjacent regions. The next meeting is scheduled for the first week in  
49 January. Amy asked whether the study will tie into the Park and Ride grant program and Peter indicated it  
50 would. He wants the plan to be as comprehensive as possible.  
51

52 Michele reported that the Board representatives and alternates will be meeting for a retreat on December  
53 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be focusing on Back to Basics and be discussing the memorandum of understanding that

1 the MPO has with VTrans. There are several new board members so this will be an opportunity to get  
2 everyone to understand all MPO activities. She also mentioned that a resolution to endorse the findings  
3 of the Blue Ribbon Committee will be voted on by the Board at its next meeting. In regards to creative  
4 financing, she stated that Mike Munson is undertaking an analysis of revenue generating mechanisms for  
5 getting private sector investment for the proposed interchange Exit 12B. She is working with RSG on  
6 interchange justification revisions analyzing the functionality of placing the interchange at that location  
7 prior to getting to the EIS, to make sure there are no fatal flaws. She also reported that \$10,000 in private  
8 sector money has been raised from the airport and developers for this effort. Michele announced that  
9 Transportation Board hearings will be held around state and that one will take place in Milton on  
10 Thursday. This will give those in attendance a chance to comment on Agency of Transportation  
11 strategies.

12

13 **8. CCMPO May Board Meeting Report**

14 George Gerecke reported that there had been approval of consent agenda items, culverts and signs, Peter's  
15 MTP update and a presentation by the Champlain Initiative as well as proposed legislation to create a  
16 Statewide Transit Authority by Chris Cole.

17

18 Andy Legg mentioned that the Road Managers meetings provide a great opportunity for each town's road  
19 foreman to learn and share and he encouraged attendance at these meetings.

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21 The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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23 Respectfully submitted,

24

25 Janet Botula

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