

# TransActions



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**In This Issue** you'll find photos from the Route 2 Corridor Study Meeting.



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**A belated thank you** to Leslie Bonnette for providing photos for the March-April issue of TransActions.

## **A Message from the Executive Director**

The CCMPO work plan for the coming year is beginning to take shape. With the passage of SAFETEA LU, we will receive additional funds to provide a wider array of planning services to our communities.



With 300 ideas submitted, a draft work plan was developed. It contains many new ventures as well as continued support for the work that has been important in the past - technical assistance, scoping, and traffic data.

The new ventures are wide reaching and will ultimately improve our quality of life:

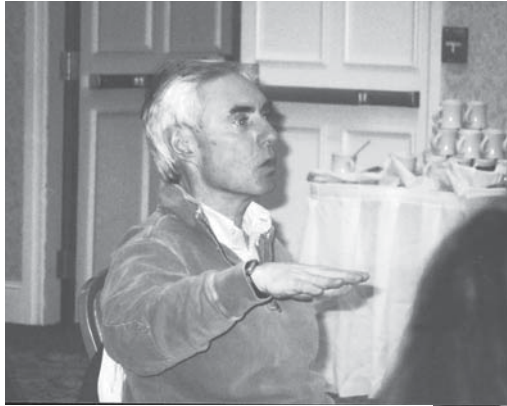
- To improve congestion in the short term;
- To enhance the movement of people through transit, bicycle, or on foot;
- To provide funds for a new transportation management association;
- To minimize vehicle air quality impacts through increased efficiency;
- To increase safety through a new comprehensive program;
- To launch a Futures Initiative to better understand the challenges in the next 20-50 years that will influence energy, land use, economic, and environmental policy in order to better plan our transportation system to accommodate these changes;
- To find new, innovative ways to pay for transportation projects;
- To improve project monitoring from planning to design;
- To implement a new web-based project management system; and
- To work with surrounding regions to extend the transportation model, coordinate bike and pedestrian facilities, and identify corridors for further study.

This work plan will be modified as we continue our discussion with updates posted on our website at [www.ccmpto.org](http://www.ccmpto.org). A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 21st at 7:00 p.m. It will then be time to turn ideas into action and plans into our future.

As always, please do let us know what you think!

Scott Johnstone, 660-4071 x15, [sjohnstone@ccmpo.org](mailto:sjohnstone@ccmpo.org)

## Route 2 Corridor Study Public Meeting



On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 50 people attended a working session for the Route 2 Corridor Study. The meeting featured a presentation by study consultants and breakout groups.



The groups focused on four issues: community character, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and highway/traffic. Notes from the meeting are posted at [www.ccmpto.org/US2](http://www.ccmpto.org/US2).



## Safe Routes to School Training a Success!

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, fifty-one people gathered in Richmond for the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) training. SR2S was organized to encourage walking and biking to school to address negative health and transportation habits of families. Obesity-related illnesses in Vermont result in estimated medical expenditures of \$141 million annually.

The March training included topics such as "Setting the Context: Safety, Health, and Transportation" and "How Vermont Communities are Making it Happen." SR2S's stakeholders include the CCMPO, American Heart Association, Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition, Vermont Forum

on Sprawl, Vermont Departments of Education and Health, Champlain Initiative of the United Way, Local Motion, VTrans, and the Burlington Department of Public Works.



*Participants at the Safe Routes to School training in Richmond.*

For more information, contact Karen Akins, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, at 802.793.1481 or [www.ccmpto.org/SR2S](http://www.ccmpto.org/SR2S).



## Chittenden County Residents: Transportation Survey Coming Your Way!

A random sample of 2,000 Chittenden County households have received a mailed survey from the CCMPO. The survey results will allow policy makers to better understand residents' priorities for transportation investments into the future.

The survey is the kickoff of the CCMPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update. The current survey will be compared to one undertaken five years ago to determine changes in transportation concerns and trends. Other survey findings may result in changes to policy and project recommendations.

Information will be garnered from completed surveys to provide a statistically valid assessment of the views of county residents. Each confidential survey should take only 15 minutes to complete.

Please help by participating, your responses will remain anonymous. The CCMPO has contracted with an independent firm, the National Research Center to perform the survey and the follow-up analysis. For more information about the survey and MTP, call Peter Keating at 802.660.4071 x14 or email [pkeating@ccmpo.org](mailto:pkeating@ccmpo.org).

**In the 2000 Public Opinion Survey, the highest rated transportation issue was "preserving existing structures." Residents ranked four concerns under preservation, including fixing bridges, repaving roads, upgrading sidewalks, and repainting road lines.**

## Interview with Marc Maheux - Underhill Representative

**Q: What is your interest in transportation issues?**

A: I'm the Chair of the Underhill Selectboard and previously served as the CCMPO alternate from my town. When the CCMPO Representative resigned, I took his place. My main interest is in the maintenance of roads, bridges, and culverts. We need additional funds for maintenance from the Legislature.

**Q: What regional transportation issues do you see affecting Underhill?**

A: I've lived here practically all my life. I've seen a quiet ghost town transformed into a continuous line of traffic on Route 15 at 6:00 am. This is significant because it's not like we're living in the city. We're not used to that volume of traffic. A fifteen minute trip now takes half an hour.

**Q: What brought you to Underhill?**

A: My father worked for IBM and we moved from Poughkeepsie, NY (though I was born in Concord, NH) to Underhill when I was in elementary school.

**Q: Tell us about your volunteer jobs in town.**

A. In addition to the Selectboard, I serve on the Jericho Underhill Water District board where I am currently the system operator (in that position for 30 years)

and was a volunteer with the Underhill Jericho Fire Department for over twelve years.

**Q: What do you do for employment?**

A: I'm self-employed with a heating and refrigeration business.



*Marc lives in Underhill with his wife, Jane. He has two grown daughters.*

# Transportation Improvement Program in Development

Each year, the CCMPO approves a transportation spending plan, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a list of projects expected to be constructed in Chittenden County over the next four years using Federal transportation funds. The TIP represents the region's transportation priorities.



*Regional TIP projects include bridge inspection and bicycle/pedestrian paths.*

Development of the TIP occurs over a several month period with the cooperation of the communities, Vermont Agency of Transportation, Chittenden County Transportation Authority, and Burlington International Airport. A Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for July 19th. In June, check the website for the draft TIP ([www.ccmpto.org](http://www.ccmpto.org)).



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[www.ccmpto.org](http://www.ccmpto.org)  
[info@ccmpto.org](mailto:info@ccmpto.org)

802.660.4071  
30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206  
South Burlington, VT 05403-6825

*Communities working together  
to meet Chittenden County's  
transportation needs*

**Chittenden County  
Metropolitan Planning  
Organization**

