

Two Rivers-Ottauquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday March 13, 2014

Bradford Academy Bldg, Bradford, VT, 9:30am – 11:00am

Agenda

1. Introductions.
2. Approval of January 9 Minutes.
3. **I-91 NB + SB bridge over US 5 replacement** – *Jennifer Fitch, VTrans*
Jennifer is a project manager working on this I-91 twin bridge replacement and will give an overview of the project construction which will take place in 2015.
4. **FY'16 Project Prioritization** – *Rita*
Go over draft spreadsheet, discussion and approval.
5. **I-89 Sign Updates** – *Rita*
We have a rare opportunity to weigh in on VTrans supplementary guide signs on I-89 from Exit 1, 2 and possibly 3.
6. **High Risk Rural Roads** – *Rita*
Rita will present this year's top 3 selected high risk locations and corridors.
7. Other business?
 - 2014 bridge projects – Rochester/Middlebury/Warren
 - Next TAC meeting – Chair and Vice Chair positions up for grabs!

Future meeting topics? Next meeting on Thursday May 8 – location TBD.

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday January 9, 2014

Hartford Town Office, WRJ, VT, 9:30am – 11:00am

Meeting Summary

Attended: Bill Hall, Bethel; Bob Moyer, Braintree; Jon Mackinnon, Strafford; Nancy Jones, Bradford; Michael Brands, Woodstock; Kent Gilman, Sharon; Matt Osborn, Hartford; Frank Roderick, Corinth; Rich Menge, Hartford; Bob Stacey, Hartland; Dee Montie, Brookfield; Kari Dolan, DEC; Milly Archer, VLCT; Jackie Cassino, VTrans; Sam Holcomb, Pete Fellows and Rita Seto, TRORC.

Regrets: Rod Maclay, Strafford; Bill Morgan, Randolph; Rose Hemond, Royalton; Phil Dechert, Norwich; David Atkinson, Braintree; Neil Lamson, Pomfret; Jay Barrett, Fairlee; Jeff Goodrich, Norwich; Aaron Brown, Vital Communities; Jack Johnson, Chelsea; Phil Page, Bradford; Sam Van Dam, Thetford; Van Chesnut, Advance Transit; George Deblon, Pittsfield; Neil Fulton, Norwich; Norman Martin, Bridgewater; Paul Haskell, Sharon.

1. **Introductions** – Dee called meeting to order at 9:31am. Group made introductions.
2. **Approval of November 14 Minutes** – Motion by Kent, 2nd Nancy. Minutes approved.
3. **Town Erosion / Stormwater Planning** – *Kari Dolan, DEC*
Kari discussed the Lake Champlain Plan that was developed years ago to manage Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) but had been recently revoked by EPA due to lack of action to improve water quality. DEC is tasked with coming up with a new Plan with more specific implementation strategies, not just for Lake Champlain basin but to be addressing basins statewide – which includes the Connecticut River. If not approved by EPA, EPA will be setting new rules for Vermont to comply with that may be too stringent so DEC's working on developing strategies. Majority of stormwater runoffs are from non-point sources which cover multiple industries (ag, forests, developed lands, roads, etc.). One strategy targeting roads is a general stormwater permit for state and local roads. It's still vague on how it will be implemented and what exactly will be required. General public comments are due on the draft Plan by January 17, 2014.
4. **Title VI and Public Participation Plan** – *Rita*
Rita discussed that Title VI is part of the Civil Rights Act that addresses non discrimination in planning processes. Since the RPCs are recipients of State and Federal grants, we're subjected to those rules and regulations – which include Title VI. TRORC has developed a draft Public Participation Plan that outlines how TRORC actively provides notification of all planning processes to the public, that meeting locations are open / accessible to all public (low-moderate income, peoples with disabilities, people with limited English, etc.). The plan also outlines the process if a complaint is made against TRORC. A draft plan is available for viewing, and will be adopted by the Commission at the end of the month.
5. **Town Road and Bridge Standards** – *Rita*
The RPCs are assisting VTrans in checking with towns who haven't signed 2013 codes and standards and providing status update. Rita's checked with all towns, and nearly all towns have signed codes and standards. VTrans is also missing info on the Certificate of Compliance that needs to be re-signed each year. Typically the District comes to each town in March and signs highway mileage map, and codes and standards. Milly Archer from VLCT also reminded folks of how codes and standards are part of the

Emergency Relief Assistance Fund mitigation elements – which plays into the town share during a federally declared disaster. The 4 ERAF elements to get a town 50% share (12.5%) include: NFIP participation, FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted LEOP (local emergency operations plan – aka BEOP), and adopted 2013 Town Road and Bridge Standards. Rita noted when she presented the new ERAF rules earlier in the year; she had a matrix of towns and which elements were fulfilled. She will update that matrix and send to towns.

6. **Complete Streets reporting** – *Rita*

With the Complete Streets law signed in July 2011, VTrans is looking to document State and town projects that were implemented in the last year. Most town sidewalk/paving projects are through VTrans and are already documented whether they considered Complete Streets elements. Rita’s collecting info on town projects – typically major paving projects that are not under VTrans contract. Examples included Christian St in Hartford (it was repaved without widening shoulders due to geological restraints) or Wild Hill Rd in West Fairlee which had major repaving and widened shoulders to accommodate pedestrians/cyclists.

7. **FY’16 project prioritization + District Leveling** – *Rita*

Rita is working on the prioritization projects list and will send out drafts in the next week. We have until March to adopt and submit to VTrans. Bike ped and park and ride projects were removed from ranking this year. Most projects are in Design + Engineering or Front of the Book phase (meaning, just waiting for funding to come through and bid contracts). District leveling – Rita mailed hardcopy of map of identified segments to towns. We have 11 segments to prioritize (4 high, 4 medium, 3 low). After some discussion, TAC came to consensus on segment priorities (highs – VT110 Chelsea, US5 Newbury, VT12 Brookfield, VT106 Woodstock; med – VT14 Royalton, VT12 Randolph, VT100 Stockbridge, US5 Thetford; low – US302 Topsham, VT12 Barnard, US5 Fairlee).

8. **Other Business**

- HUD Transportation Chapter – Rita announced that the draft has been approved by HUD. Copies can be found on the EC Vermont website.

Future Meeting Topics

- FY’16 Project Prioritization

Meeting adjourned 11:06 am

Next meeting on Thursday March 13, 2014 – 9:30am – 11am. Bradford Academy Bldg.