

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday July 10, 2014

Bethel Town Hall, Bethel, VT, 9:30am – 11:00am

Meeting Summary

Attended: Bill Hall, Bethel; Frank Roderick, Corinth; Rich Menge, Hartford; Nancy Jones, Bradford; Bob Moyer, Braintree; Aaron Brown, Vital Communities; Bob Stacey, Hartland; Bill Morgan, Randolph; Rod Maclay, Strafford; Dee Montie, Brookfield; Jackie Cassino VTrans; Kevin Geiger and Rita Seto, TRORC.

Regrets: Phil Dechert, Norwich; Michael Brands, Woodstock; Kent Gilman, Sharon; Jon Mackinnon, Strafford; Rose Hemond, Royalton; Matt Osborn, Hartford; Phil Page, Bradford; Sam Van Dam, Thetford; Van Chesnut, Advance Transit; George Deblon, Pittsfield; Neil Fulton, Norwich; Paul Haskell, Sharon.

1. **Introductions** – Rod called meeting to order at 9:35am. Group made introductions.
2. **Approval of May 8 Minutes** – Motion by Dee, 2nd Bob S. Minutes approved.
3. **“Strong Communities, Better Connections” Agency of Commerce + Community Development-VTrans Grant Program** – *Jackie Cassino, VTrans*
Jackie talked about a new grant partnership between ACCD and VTrans which encourages better alignment of policies between agencies and helps support FHWA Livability principles. This grant is to promote implementation projects working with land use and transportation. SCBC is doing a pilot launch August 2014 and is looking for 2 communities to pilot to start Fall 2014. Total annual grant funding will be \$200,000 aiming to work with 3-5 communities each year lasting 24 months. A 10% local cash match is required. 4 types of eligible action-oriented project scopes: Activity Center Plans, Non-motorized Transportation + Land Use Plans, Innovative Transportation + Land Use Guidelines + Policies, and Transportation Infrastructure Funding. RPCs will be asked to help towns with applications funding out of the TPI program. Call Rita if you are interested in being a pilot community.
4. **VTrans Mapping Ancient Roads Reminder** – *Jackie Cassino, VTrans*
Jackie reminded the group of the letter sent to Towns by Johnathan Croft for the Ancient Roads deadline for next July 1, 2015. Towns have until then to address any class 1, 2, 3, 4, ancient roads, and legal trails road changes to VTrans. This is to update the Town Highway Mileage maps and that changes really should be in by Feb. 10, 2015 in time for the July 1 Legislative deadline. If your town is in process but may not meet the Feb deadline, please contact Johnathan Croft Johnathan.Croft@state.vt.us to give him a heads up.
5. **Town Capital Improvement Plans** – *Kevin Geiger, TRORC*
Kevin presented on how Towns can create Capital Improvement Plans if they don't have one already. It's an extension of a Town Plan and helps the Town financially plan ahead for managing their utilities, facilities as well as transportation equipment. This will help with questions at Town Meeting of “why did you do it that way? Why does it cost that much? Why are you asking for that amount?” and a vetting process will help formalize the Capital Plan. TRORC has developed a spreadsheet template as part of the HUD grant efforts and can help towns create one. The spreadsheet encourages a 10 yr program vs. a 5 yr program. Rita mentioned as part of the FY15 TPI work plan, a new task is to help at least 1 town with creating a CIP. Bill Hall recommended integrating past town payment history into the spreadsheet which can support “oh we've always been reserving this amount” and that the Town can afford the future yearly payments.

6. FY15 Transportation Planning Initiative Work Plan – Rita

Rita presented a 1 page summary of the proposed FY15 transportation work plan with VTrans and talked about the 5 general categories (administration/management, public participation + coordination, long range planning, short range planning and project + program development).

7. Other business?

- **2014 VTrans Bike Ped** application submissions: Town of Hartford submitted an implementation application for US5 sidewalk under I-91 bridges, Town of Rochester submitted a feasibility study for village sidewalk and focusing on priority sidewalk segment, and Town of Bradford submitted a feasibility study for N Pleasant St sidewalk.
- **RT4 Intercity Bus Service** – Rita browsed to the Vermont Translines website to show the new Route 4 bus service that began last month. The group looked at the schedule and had comments of ease of booking a trip. Comments included why the service started so late 10:30am at Rutland, that the 2hr window for the return trip isn't enough time for people going to DHMC for appointments, and that it misses the Amtrak connection in WRJ by an hour.

Meeting adjourned 10:55 am

Next meeting on **Thursday September 18, 2014 – 9:30am – 11am. Location TBD**