



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday January 14, 2021

Zoom Conference Call 9:30AM – 11:00AM

Meeting Summary

Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present	Town	Representative	Present
Barnard	Jerry Fredrickson	X	Hancock	Monica Collins	X	Royalton	Victoria Paquin	
Bethel	Bill Hall	X	Hartford	Hannah Tyler Matt Osborn	X	Sharon	Deb Jones	X
Bradford	Nancy Jones Phil Page	X	Hartland	Dave Ormiston	X	Stockbridge	-	
Braintree	Bob Moyer	X	Newbury	Bob Beaulieu		Strafford	Jon Mackinnon	
Bridgewater	Jeff Sailer		Norwich	Larry Wiggins Herb Durfee		Thetford	Tom Yennerell	
Brookfield			Pittsfield	George Deblon		Topsham	Jim Bulger	
Chelsea			Plymouth	-		Tunbridge	Michael Sacca	
Corinth	Joe Blodgett		Pomfret			Vershire	-	
Fairlee	Smith Reed	X	Randolph			West Fairlee	-	
Granville	-		Rochester	Doon Hinderyckx		Woodstock	Neil Leiter	
At-Large Members								
Advance Transit	Van Chesnut			VTrans		Katharine Otto		
Tri-Valley Transit	Jim Moulton Mike Reiderer	X X		VTrans D4 VTrans D7		Chris Bump/Mike Blakslee Shauna Clifford		
Vital Communities	Bethany Fleishman			Vermont Local Roads		Todd Eaton		

Guests: Peter Gregory, TRORC; Jaqui DeMent, VTrans

- 1. Introductions** – Deb called meeting to order 9:31am.
- Additions to Agenda and Public Comments - none
- 3. Approval of Nov. 12 Minutes** – Bill Hall moved to approve. Bob Moyer seconded. Nancy Jones abstained. Unanimous approval for the rest.
- 4. Demonstration Projects in VTrans Highway Right of Way** – Jaqui DeMent, VTrans
Jaqui presented on the new guidance from VTrans for municipalities to consider when preparing for demonstration projects in the state highway right of way. Many towns are trying community initiatives to revitalize their downtown and villages where the state highway runs through. Jaqui presented various pilot projects that have been implemented across the state and reviewed criteria towns should consider before demonstrating, including plenty of lead time for VTrans review on safety and permitting. There are also liability insurance requirements



the town or businesses must provide. Towns with Class 1 town highways have a bit more flexibility. Demonstration project applications are on a rolling basis.

For more information:

AOT Guidance for Demonstration Projects in State Highway ROW:

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/permitting>

ACCD Better Places Placemaking Resources: The Better Places pilot program provides “placemaking” grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 that improve the vitality of state designated downtowns, village centers, new town centers, or neighborhood development areas. Additional resources and funding sources are also listed here.

<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/better-places>

Bethel Better Block Case Study:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/CPR-CaseStudy-BetterBlock-Bethel.pdf>

There is also a **new AARP Placemaking initiative:**

Monthly Vermont Placemaking Meet-ups – Virtual Gatherings Geared to Inspire

Winter Is Here: Explore Light & Warmth Elements

January 29, 2020 from 12 PM – 1PM

Ongoing series on the last Friday of the Month

[Register Here](#)

5. **Tri-Valley Transit’s Upper Valley Community Transportation Center** – Jim Moulton and Mike Reiderer, Tri-Valley Transit (dba Stagecoach)
Jim and Mike presented on a new bus facility in Bradford behind the VTrans Park and Ride lot. Jim walked through the existing conditions for the current bus facility which was inadequate for bus operations and for drivers. Jim reviewed the study process and how the site was selected along with key partners at the federal, state and local levels including the funding stream. The new \$3.4 million bus facility design is to be net-zero emissions including solar and rainwater collection to be used for bus washing. The energy savings will go towards focusing on service operations on the River Route and the Circulator. The site broke ground last month and anticipates to finish construction end of June. TVT plans to have an in-person grand opening if Covid guidelines allow.

See presentation posted on TRORC site:

<https://www.trorc.org/programs/transportation/tac/>



6. Other business

- Comment Period Open “Process for Non – Metropolitan Local Official Participation in the Statewide Transportation Planning Process” – due March 1, 2021
Rita reported VTrans required to solicit public input on their process for local official participation and accepting comments until March.
- District Class 2 paving and Structures grants – Spring
Rita confirmed with District staff that the Class 2 paving and Structures anticipate to resume “normal” grant solicitation schedule this spring.
- VTrans Better Roads FY21 deadline.
Rita reported our region submitted 22 project applications and they should be awarded for start date of July 1, 2021.
- Grants in Aid Year 4 – Rita and Pete are finishing up visiting towns on project scopes. We’re waiting on final grant offers to be finalized – should be this month and will send out final offers and project scopes to towns.
- VTrans Small Scale Bike Ped Grants – due Feb. 19, 2021
Rita reviewed the grant requirements that just got released. VTrans looking for projects that include sidewalks and bike lanes that are ready to go to construction 2021. Projects that require right of way acquisition, permitting, utility, etc... is advised not appropriate. Towns required 50% local match.
<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>

7. Meeting adjourned 10:45am

Next meeting on Thursday March 11, 2021

- Test run through of the new Vermont Project Selection and Prioritization Process

2021 TRORC TAC Meeting Dates:

March 11 / May 13 / July 8 / September 6 / November 11