



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday September 9, 2021

9:30AM – 11:00AM

Bethel Town Hall / Zoom Conference Call

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	X
Bridgewater			Norwich			Thetford	Bryan Gazda	
Brookfield	Kathryn Threlkeld	X	Pittsfield	George Deblon		Topsham	Jim Bulger	
Chelsea	Mary Ellen Parkman		Plymouth			Tunbridge	Michael Sacca	
Corinth	Joe Blodgett		Pomfret			Vershire	-	
Fairlee	Smith Reed Tad Nunez	X	Randolph			West Fairlee	-	
Granville	-		Rochester	Doon Hinderyckx		Woodstock	Neil Leiter	
At-Large Members								
Advance Transit	Van Chesnut			VTrans		Katharine Otto		X
Tri-Valley Transit	Jim Moulton Mike Reiderer			VTrans D4 VTrans D7		Chris Bump/Mike Blakslee Shauna Clifford		
Vital Communities	Aaron Brown			Vermont Local Roads		Todd Eaton		

Guests: Peter Gregory, TRORC; Pete Fellows, TRORC; Zoe Neaderland, VTrans; Marcey Carver, Bradford

- 1. Introductions** – Deb called meeting to order 9:33am.
- 2. Additions to Agenda and Public Comments** – Rita noted some additions to agenda to include VTrans Reducing Repeat Damage Tool after the Freight Plan that Zoe will also present on.
- 3. Approval of May 13 Minutes** – Bill Hall moved to approve. Nancy Jones seconded. Unanimous approval.
- 4. VTrans Freight Plan update** – Zoe Neaderland, VTrans
Zoe reviewed the goals of the freight plan and presented on the trends and issues. Zoe focused on the initiatives and noted certain relevant items while bringing up discussion to TAC



for anything missing. Initiatives included: Freight Planning and Policy, Climate Change and Resiliency, Technological Innovation, Trade Corridors and Economic Development, Highway Operations, Rail Development and Air Freight.

For more information: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight>
Contact Dave.Pelletier@vermont.gov to submit further comments.

Reducing Repeat Damage Tool – Zoe Neaderland, VTrans

Click to see: [ReduceDamageTool](#)

Zoe presented on Reducing Repeat Damage to Roads and Bridges online tool that VTrans developed to meet Act 667 (part of MAP21/FAST Act) – where roads & structures impacted by two or more Governor-declared events on the Federal Aid System (FAS) should be assessed for reducing repeat damage. VTrans entered records of Detailed Damage Inspection Reports (DDIRs) from 2007-2020 (they forgot the VT-19-1 April 15-16, 2019 Tax Day storms which are being currently entered). Results include 35% of repeat damages in TRORC region, with US4 in Hartford with the greatest number of damaged sites near each other in Vermont based on DDIRs between 2007 to 2020, including the only triple damage sites on the National Highway System. This tool will be helpful for towns and VTrans to identify key repeat damage sites and work towards improving structure.

5. Other business

- American Rescue Plan Act – local government allocations
Rita reviewed the ARPA final town allocations (Town and County portions together). Rita also updated TAC on latest US Treasury guidance on eligible categories to spend ARPA on, reminding towns got first set of payments this month, and second set will be next Sept. Rita focusing on the eligible categories on the Clean Water Infrastructure (road ditches):

5: Infrastructure ²⁷	
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater
5.4	Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows
5.5	Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater

²⁷ Definitions for water and sewer Expenditure Categories can be found in the EPA’s handbooks. For “clean water” expenditure category definitions, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/cwdefinitions.pdf>. For “drinking water” expenditure category definitions, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-national-information-management-system-reports>.

CW DEFINITIONS

Line #	Field Name	Definition
Stormwater (Number in each category)		
<i>The total number of CWSRF assistance agreements made for each of the following Stormwater categories during the reporting period. Assistance agreements may be counted in more than one category when they fund more than one category.</i>		
179.1	Grey Infrastructure	This category includes costs associated with the planning, design, and construction of conveying stormwater via pipes, inlets, road side ditches, and other similar mechanisms. This category also includes the costs of activities associated with the planning, design, and construction of treating stormwater with wet ponds, dry ponds, manufactured devices, and other similar means. <i>Note: Projects that used to be reported under the old Urban needs category that meets this definition should be reported here.</i>
179.2	Green Infrastructure	This category includes costs associated with the planning, design, and construction of low impact development and green infrastructure, such as bioretention, constructed wetlands, permeable pavement, rain gardens, green roofs, cisterns, rain barrels, vegetated swales, restoration of riparian buffers and flood plains, etc. <i>Note: Projects that used to be reported under the old Urban needs category that meets this definition should be reported here.</i>

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is the legislation that has actually passed in the Senate, which is the more than \$1 trillion bill (including more than \$500 billion in new spending). This is the legislative text that mostly deals with “traditional infrastructure” such as roads, bridges, highways, broadband.
 - See attached: longer summary (Portman IIJA summary)
 - For a short and sweet summary, here is an NGA link: <https://www.nga.org/news/commentary/senate-passes-bipartisan-infrastructure-package/>
 - NADO’s advocacy consultant, Summit Strategies (they spoke at the board meeting) also wrote up a summary (attached word document).
- VTrans Better Roads – Rita reminded towns the annual grant that typically is announced in the Fall – Cat Bs ditching \$20,000, Cat Ds large culverts >36” - \$60,000. When Rita is visiting towns for the Grants in Aid Year 4 post construction and Year 5 pre-construction site visits, she’ll coordinate with the road foreman and scope out projects need for grant applications.
- Grants in Aid Year 5 – Equipment Grant – just got announced 9/8/21. In 2019, towns in the White River watershed were eligible for equipment grant. This year towns in the Stevens-Wells-Waits-Ompompanoosuc-Upper Connecticut watershed (Norwich, Thetford, Strafford, Fairlee, West Fairlee, Vershire, Corinth, Bradford, Topsham and



Newbury). Towns have until Oct. 8, 2021 to submit their letter of intent to participate to gja@nrpcvt.com.

Meeting adjourned 11:01am

Next meeting on Wednesday November 10, 2021
(due to Veteran's Day being on Thursday Nov. 11, 2021)

2022 TRORC TAC Meeting Dates:
January 6 / March 10 / May 12 / July 14 / September 8 / November 10