Meeting Summary

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.

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**Town** | **Representative** | **Present** | **Town** | **Representative** | **Present** | **Town** | **Representative** | **Present**
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Barnard | Jerry Fredrickson | X | Hancock | Monica Collins | X | Royalton | Victoria Paquin | 
Bethel | Bill Hall | X | Hartford | Hannah Tyler Matt Osbom | X | Sharon | Deb Jones | X
Bradford | Nancy Jones Phil Page | X | Hartland | Dave Ormiston | X | Stockbridge | - |
Braintree | Bob Moyer | X | Newbury | Bob Beaulieu | | Stratford | Jon Mackinnon | X
Bridgewater | | | | | | | | 
Brookfield | Kathryn Threlkeld | X | Pittsfield | George Deblon | | Topsham | Jim Bulger | 
Chelsea | Mary Ellen Parkman | | Plymouth | | | Tunbridge | Michael Sacca | 
Corinth | Joe Blodgett | Pomfret | Veshire | - |
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 | 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
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](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: [ReducedDamageTool](#)

Zoe presented on Reducing Repeat Damage to Roads and Bridges online tool that VTrans developed to meet Act 667 (part of MAP21/FASTAct) – 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):
• 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 gia@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