



APPROVED MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
April 10th, 2023
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Stephan Chait, Chair, Georgianne Mora, Andy Coyne

Members Absent: Susan Hammond

Staff present: Colin Bratton, Matthew Bachler

Guests: Christine Howe (SEVT), Katharine Otto (VTrans)

Meeting convened at 4:02 p.m.

Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes of 2/13/23 was made by Commissioner Mora, seconded by Commissioner Coyne. Minutes from 2/13/23 meeting are approved unanimously.

Update to the Transportation Section of the Windham Regional Plan Discussion: The Committee discussed potential updates and changes to the policies outlined in the current 2014 Windham Regional Transportation Plan. As part of the ongoing update process, the existing transportation plan will be incorporated as a section of the larger Windham Regional Plan. Senior Planner Matthew Bachler, who is overseeing work on the Regional Plan update joined the committee for this discussion.

Significant updates will be made to the plan, both to better reflect changes in the existing circumstances and challenges for the transportation system in the Windham Region since the plan was last updated in 2014, as well as to shorten and incorporate the existing plan as a section of the larger Windham Regional Plan document. The committee's conversation focused on a variety of potential updates and changes. Updates to the emissions and energy usage section were discussed at length, including updates to reflect changes in alternative fuels and technologies since the plan was last updated, in particular the adoption of the 2035 California Electric Vehicle Standards by the State of Vermont, as well as alternatives to electric vehicles such as hydrogen cell power, and autonomous driving vehicles. Also discussed within the energy section was the need for better language connecting improvements to infrastructure for biking and walking and public transit to reductions in transportation emissions.

Staff will begin to draft changes to the existing plan based on recommendations from the Committee and present this draft at our next meeting in May.

Review of Transportation Advisory Committee Outreach Letter. The Committee discussed a draft letter to towns regarding the transition to a Transportation Advisory Committee and expansion of committee membership. The updated Statement of Purpose for the Transportation Advisory Committee was

approved by the Full Commission at the January 31st, 2022 meeting. Over the next several months the committee will begin reaching out to towns and other transportation stakeholders in the region with the expectation of beginning the formal transition process in Fall of 2023.

A draft of the outreach letter was first discussed at the September 2022 meeting. Staff drafted an update to this letter to reflect the approved version of the Transportation Advisory Committee Statement of Purpose as well as reflect the current timeline for the transition process. The Committee reviewed this letter and suggested changes to better explain the Transportation Advisory Committee transition and its purpose, as well as better reflect the relevant opportunities for towns that participation in the committee may provide. Changes discussed include adding a deadline for towns to respond to the initial inquiry as well as the possibility of holding an information webinar for towns in the region to get more information about the process and purpose. Staff will incorporate these suggested changes and begin circulating the letter around the region in late April or early May.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Coyne, seconded by Commissioner Mora. Passes unanimously.

Next Meeting Scheduled: 4:00pm May 8th, 2023.

Meeting adjourned approximately 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colin Bratton, Staff