



APPROVED MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
June 12th, 2023
4:00 p.m.

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

Staff present: Colin Bratton

Guests: Christine Howe (SEVT)

Meeting convened at 4:06 p.m.

Changes to Agenda: Discussion of Summer schedule for next meeting will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes of 4/10/23 was made by Commissioner Coyne, seconded by Commissioner Chait. Minutes from 4/10/23 meeting are approved unanimously.

Update on the Transportation Advisory Committee Expansion Process: Staff provided an update on outreach to towns regarding the Transportation Advisory Committee and the expansion of membership. Targeted outreach will begin to relevant organizations in the region in September. Next steps were discussed to help attract new members, including inviting speakers from VTrans or other organizations working on statewide transportation policy initiatives to present at the WRC transportation committee and inviting residents to attend those presentations. The Committee will receive another update on the process at our October meeting.

State Low Emissions Vehicle Policy. The Committee discussed Vermont state level policies on low and no emissions vehicles relevant to the update to the transportation section of the Windham Regional Plan. Vermont has recently adopted the 2035 California Vehicle Standards, which will require all passenger vehicles and light trucks sold in the state to be low or no emission by 2035. This change will happen gradually, with an increasing percentage of vehicles sold in the state required to be low or no emission every year between 2025 and 2035. The change will not include used vehicles from model years before 2035. Heavy trucks and other similar equipment will also be subject to new regulation; however, the transition will be slower and some gasoline powered heavy trucks will continue to be sold in Vermont post 2035.

In addition to these changes, the State has released plans for infrastructure improvements to support the transition to electric vehicles. The Vermont EV charging plan calls for increasing investment for charging stations on major corridors, including I-91, I-89, VT-9, VT-7, and VT-2, as well as at important destinations in the Green Mountain National Forest, and multi-family housing units. The plan

calls for 42 new level 2 chargers to be funded in 2023, and a similar investment is expected in coming years. Furthermore, Vermont has received \$10 million in Federal Funds for new investments in electric vehicle charging and other needed infrastructure, and new grant programs for towns are expected to be announced in the near future.

Vermont Micro Transit: The Committee discussed Vermont micro transit initiatives relevant to the update to the transportation section of the Windham Regional Plan. Micro transit is an alternative to traditional fixed route public transit service that allows riders to schedule a ride at their convenience, and receive point to point transportation to and from their destination. The Agency of Transportation has invested in 6 ongoing micro transit pilots around the State, including the Montpelier pilot that has been ongoing since 2021. This includes a micro transit service operated by Southeast Vermont Transit in Windsor. Depending on the results of these pilot programs, it is possible there will be a significant expansion of micro transit programs around Vermont, including in the Windham Region.

Summer Schedule: The Committee discussed our schedule over the Summer. The Committee will cancel the July meeting, and tentatively plan to meet on Monday, August 14th, at 4:00pm.

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

Next Meeting Scheduled: 4:00 p.m. Monday August 12th, 2023

Meeting adjourned approximately 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colin Bratton, Staff