



**APPROVED MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
December 11th, 2023
4:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Stephan Chait, Chair, Andy Coyne, Susan Hammond, Georgianne Mora,
Staff present: Colin Bratton
Guests: Rep. Mollie Burke

Meeting convened at 4:06 p.m.

Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: Error at bottom of minutes referencing summer schedule from a previous meeting needs to be corrected. Motion to accept the minutes of 9/11/23 as amended was made by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Chait. Minutes from 9/11/23 meeting as amended are approved unanimously.

Discussion of the update to the Transportation Section of the Windham Regional Plan: The committee reviewed a draft version of the Transportation Section of the Windham Regional Plan. A major point of discussion was the expansion of the policy sections of the plan. This is an important piece of the overall plan and careful consideration of the policies is needed before moving forward in the process. The incorporation of statewide policies is another important addition to the text of the plan, in particular policies outlined in the Comprehensive Energy and Climate Action Plans. Also discussed was the freight section, in particular the increased impact of parcel deliveries on our rural road system and overall energy usage, especially with the increase in online shopping from changing consumer patterns due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Policies related to bridges were discussed at length. Bridges in the Windham Region are aging, and are extremely expensive for towns to repair or replace, our municipalities by and large dependent on limited state money to ensure bridges continue to be functional. The planning process during bridge projects is another potential addition to the plan, in particular ensuring that bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is incorporated into bridge projects where reasonable. The Rockingham 121 bridge project is a recent example where bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure was not incorporated on a bridge on an important regional corridor. Related to this, conflict between bicyclists, pedestrian and vehicles should be expanded upon within the plan, as well as the role of electric bicycles in expanding bicycling usage in the region.

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

Next Meeting Scheduled: TBD

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colin Bratton, Staff