



APPROVED MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
October 21st, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Stephan Chait, Chair, Andy Coyne, Georgianne Mora, Nick Morgan, James Bressor, Rick Cowan, Christine Howe, Erik Moses
Staff present: Colin Bratton
Guests: Abe Koffman (VTrans),

Meeting convened at 4:02 p.m.

Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: None Approved.

Discussion of the VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process: The Transportation Committee reviewed and discussed the updated VTrans process for infrastructure project selection and prioritization. Previously, projects had been selected and prioritized with little local input, Regional Planning Commissions and municipalities only able to provide comment on projects previously identified by the state. In 2021, the Agency of Transportation introduced a new process, known as the Vermont Project Selection and Prioritization Two (VPSP2), which introduced a mechanism for towns to submit local infrastructure projects not previously identified by VTrans for consideration. These projects are compiled and then subsequently ranked by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committees around the state.

Projects are ranked across a variety of criteria, including but not limited to users served, asset condition and regional significance. The highest scoring projects as identified by the Transportation Advisory Committee are then submitted to VTrans for further consideration. The Agency then internally ranks all local projects submitted by municipalities across the State to determine which will be selected for inclusion on the final State Transportation Improvement Program.

This process began in 2021 and was opened again the following year in 2022. Due to budgeting constraints the program was not run in 2023 or 2024. The Agency of Transportation has not yet announced if VPSP2 will open again in 2025, but there is an expectation that the process will resume and towns will once again have the opportunity to submit local projects to the State.

Local Transportation Issues: The Committee discussed a variety of transportation issues currently facing towns in the Windham Region. One of the major issues facing our towns is safety and mobility on the state highway system. Towns have little control or input regarding the use and regulation of state highways running through our communities. Many state highways throughout the Windham Region serve as the main thoroughfare through our downtowns and villages, making them critical to overall

function of our region's most important hubs for social, cultural and economic life. Many towns are concerned with safety on state highways, including but limited to issues related to speeding, bicycle and pedestrian usage and industrial traffic, in particular the many oversized load vehicles which utilize the Vermont state highway system to pass through our state. The Committee believes that further dialogue with VTrans on these issues is necessary and will take steps towards a more formal dialogue at a future meeting.

Relevant to this discussion in the ongoing update to Vermont State Highway Design and Multimodal standards. This is the first such update since 1997 and is expected to have a significant impact on Agency of Transportation highway policy, in particular within downtowns and village centers. The state is currently holding a series of public meetings, both virtually and in person across the state. The Transportation Advisory Committee discussed potential local and regional input on this process.

Next Meeting Scheduled: 4:00pm December 9th, 2024.

Meeting adjourned approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colin Bratton, Staff