



APPROVED MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
Special Meeting
April 3rd, 2025
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Stephan Chait, Chair, Georgianne Mora, James Bressor, Nick Morgan, Christine Howe

Members Absent: Andy Coyne, Erik Moses, Rick Cowan

Staff present: Colin Bratton

Guests: Abe Koffman (VTrans), Sen. Wendy Harrison,

Meeting convened at 4:03 p.m.

Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: None

Review of Draft Letter to VTrans of Windham Region Passenger Rail Priorities: The committee reviewed the draft letter from the Windham Regional Commission to VTrans outlining relevant passenger rail priorities based on the identified list of statewide rail initiatives. This includes the extension of the Valley Flyer passenger rail service to Brattleboro and Bellows Falls, as well as the provision for improvements at passenger rail stations, in particular the historic Bellows Falls station. The draft letter outlines the potential positive impact of expanded passenger rail service within the Connecticut River Valley on Windham Region towns and overall mobility in the region. The Windham Region is economically, socially and culturally interconnected with neighboring regions within the larger Connecticut River Valley, including Claremont, NH, the Upper Valley and Greenfield, MA. Improved passenger rail connectivity between the Windham Region and our neighbors will improve overall mobility, expand access to employment, education and healthcare and strengthen local economic development, in particular within downtown areas in Brattleboro and Bellows Falls served by a passenger rail station.

The Committee discussed next steps for the draft letter of support, as well as the rail plan as a whole. If approved, the draft letter will advance to the Windham Region Executive Board for consideration before being sent to VTrans. The initial draft of the Rail Plan is expected to be released sometime in late Spring or early Summer of 2025.

Approval of Draft Rail Plan Letter: A motion was made to approve the Rail Plan Letter of Support and advance it to the Windham Regional Executive Board for consideration by Commissioner Chait, seconded by Commissioner Mora. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting Scheduled: 4:00pm May 12th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colin Bratton, Staff