



APPROVED MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
May 11th, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Stephan Chait, Chair, Andy Coyne, Georgianne Mora, Rick Cowan, Nick Morgan

Staff present: Colin Bratton

Guests: Matthew Arancio (VTrans), Abe Koffman (VTrans), Wendy Harrison

Meeting convened at 4:00 p.m.

Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes of 2/9/26 was made by Commissioner Mora, seconded by Commissioner Chait. Minutes from 2/9/26 meeting are approved unanimously.

Update to VTrans Non-Metropolitan Local Official Public Involvement: Matthew Arancio, a Regional Planning Coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Transportation, presented to the Committee on the ongoing update to the Agency's 'Non-Metropolitan Local Official Public Involvement' plan. The plan is an agreement between Vermont and the Federal Highway Administration that ensures the Agency of Transportation is following all Federal Highways public engagement requirements necessary for the use of Federal transportation funding. This plan is updated on a five-year basis and was last revised in 2021.

This document is subsequent to 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 and the 1991 federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, which mandate public involvement in the statewide transportation planning process. Together, Federal and State law recognize the role of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee as both a representative body and a cache of transportation knowledge. This plan mandates that the rural Vermont Transportation Advisory Committees be consulted as part of various VTrans planning and programmatic processes, including the Transportation Planning Initiative, the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Statewide Rail Plan, amongst others. This requires that VTrans consult with the TACs during the project and plan development process, as well as invite comment during the draft program and/or plan review period.

The Vermont Project Selection and Prioritization process remains a central part of this public involvement process, granting the TAC significant regional input on ranking identified or potential priority projects considered for inclusion on the STIP. This program remains paused, new projects last considered for inclusion in 2022, four years ago, due to ongoing budget constraints that have prevented additional projects from being programmed across Vermont. As such, the language in the Public Involvement Plan is being updated to require consultation with TAC's regarding the Selection process 'As funding allows' from the current 'No less than annually.'

Despite the pause in the VPSP2 program, there is still potential for input on ongoing projects, as well as during the annual STIP hearing, that could potentially influence the scope of existing projects. There remains local concern from town officials related to communication with VTrans related to ongoing projects, delays and funding shortfalls, however those concerns fall largely outside of the scope of this agreement, programmed projects generally managed directly between the Selectboard and the VTrans Project Manager. However, input at the STIP hearing is one possible avenue to influence the scope and timeframe of existing programmed projects, each ongoing project required to be included on the STIP annually.

Next Meeting Scheduled: 4:00pm Monday June 8th, 2026.

Meeting adjourned approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colin Bratton, Staff