

1 **Regional Transportation Advisory Committee**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **April 9, 2009**
4 **NRPC Office, 155 Lake Street, St. Albans, VT**
5

6 **Attendance:**

7 TAC Members: Paul Hansen (Alburgh), Raymond Larose (Enosburg Falls), Georgette
8 Johnson (Highgate), David Leslie (Grand Isle), Jim Tomlinson (Richford), Colleen Steen
9 (Fairfax), Joey Clark (Enosburgh), Jerry Baitz (Georgia), John Whitney (St. Albans
10 Town), Warren Fournier (Swanton), Charlie Moore (Rail), Cynthia Scott (MVRT), Tim
11 Bradshaw (GMTA)

12 Others: Bethany Remmers (staff), Dick Roberge (Enosburg Falls), Bill Walker (St.
13 Albans Town), Charles Hunter (NECR), Dave Crawford (Essex Junction)
14
15

16 **Introductions:**

17 Chair R. Larose welcomed everyone at 7:10 pm followed by introductions.
18

19 **Rail Improvements, New England Central Railroad**

20 Charles Hunter, the Director of State Government Relations-East, RailAmerica Inc. and Dave
21 Crawford, the Essex Junction Village Manager, presented a proposal to upgrade the NECR line
22 from East Alburgh to Burlington. The project would improve bridges along this section so they
23 could accommodate railcars that are 286,000 pounds. This is the standard load rating for cars that
24 are being manufactured today. This upgrade would allow fully loaded rail cars to be shipped
25 along this section of NECR and would increase efficiency and competitiveness. The project
26 would also improve the rail rating to accommodate passenger rail from Essex Junction to
27 Burlington. The total cost of the project is \$5.2 million and NECR is prepared to provide the
28 necessary 20% match. C. Hunter and D. Crawford noted that the project could be funded through
29 an appropriation from Senator Jefford's office dedicated to improving rail in the Western
30 Corridor of Vermont. C. Moore noted that Vermont is like an island because of the 286,000
31 issue. W. Fournier asked how many jobs would be generated from the project. The TAC
32 discussed how this project could help get more trucks off of the roads. R. Larose asked that
33 Hunter and Crawford present of the NRPC Board of Commissioners meeting.
34

35 *J. Tomlinson moved that the TAC support the proposal to upgrade the NECR line from*
36 *East Alburg to Burlington. P. Hansen seconded. The motion carried.*
37
38

39 **Green Mountain Transit Agency:**

40 T. Bradshaw from the Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) updated the TAC on
41 changes to local public transportation in the region. On January 1, 2009, GMTA took
42 over for the Northwest Vermont Public Transit Network. So far, things are going very
43 well. They have 20 volunteer drivers which is up from three this fall. GMTA has no
44 immediate plan to charge fares. Drivers have been given uniforms and are going to
45 sensitivity trainings. Ridership has remained steady. The VT105 Richford to St. Albans
46 bus does very well. Bradshaw noted that he wants to find out the needs of the community
47 and will be looking to TAC to provide some of that feedback.

1
2
3 **2009 High Risk Rural Roads Program:**

4 High Risk Rural roads is a program that allocates federal funds to mitigate safety issues
5 on rural major collect, rural minor collectors or rural local roads. For 2009, the TAC
6 can nominate up to 10 corridors (stretches or several miles) and 10 high hazard locations
7 (HHL) to participate in the program. VTrans will select 1 corridor for sign reviews and 2-
8 3 HHLs for road safety audit reviews. B. Remmers presented the group with a table
9 summarizing 2002-2008 crash data on class 2-3 roads that was provided by VTrans. The
10 table included the 36 roads in the region with the most crashes recorded during that time
11 period. The crashes were ranked based on the Equivalent Property Damage Only
12 Number (EPDON) value and the EPDON per Crash value. Staff suggested the following
13 roads for consideration in the 2009 program: Berkshire Center Rd (Berkshire), Boston
14 Post Rd (Enosburgh), Oakland Station Road (Georgia), Richford Road (Berkshire),
15 Carter Hill Road (Highgate), County Rd (Swanton), West Shore Rd (Alburgh), Goose,
16 Pond Rd (Fairfax), South Road (Fairfield), Huntsville Rd (Fairfax), Swamp Road
17 (Fairfax), Kellogg Rd (St Albans Town), Perley Rd (Enosburgh).

18
19 *W. Fournier moved to accept staff's 13 recommended roads for consideration in the 2009*
20 *High Risk Rural Roads Program. J. Tomlinson seconded. The motion carried.*

21
22 **Updates and Information:**

23 B. Remmers reported that the NRPC will be doing additional counts on local roads for
24 VTrans. There will be 144 counts over six years. . B. Remmers also noted that the
25 NRPC will be assisting the Chittenden County Metropolitan Organization with their 2060
26 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The NRPC will collect data on commuter traffic into
27 Chittenden County and will complete a build-out analysis for 6 communities.

28
29 **Minutes:**

30 It was noted that page 2, line 11 of the March minutes should be corrected to read, "*P.*
31 *Hansen moved to change the meeting time to 6-8 PM when daylight savings ends and*
32 *have it continue to be 7-9 PM during daylight savings.*"

33 *L. Tomlinson moved to accept the meeting minutes with corrections. G. Johnson*
34 *seconded. The motion carried.*

35
36 **Other Business:**

37 The TAC discussed the Stimulus package and potential projects for the region.

38
39 *J. Clark moved to adjourn; T. Bradshaw seconded. The motion carried.*

40
41 The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.