

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007, NRPC CONFERENCE ROOM**

Attendance: Jim Tomlinson, John Roy, Richard Roberge, John Whitney, James Ferguson, Colleen Steen, George Coy, Georgette Johnson, Warren Fournier, Raymond Larose, Tammy Benjamin (VTrans), Cynthia Scott, Bill Rose (Staff)

Guests: Deb Perry (staff)

Chair R. Larose called the meeting to order at 7pm

INTRODUCTIONS

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT @ TAYLOR PARK

D. Perry briefed the TAC on planned pervious concrete paving demonstration project for Taylor Park in St. Albans City. Perry explained that the project was being conducted to both achieve the City goals for downtown improvements and efforts to improve water quality within the impaired Stevens & Rugg watershed. Perry gave the TAC technical details regarding the pervious paving products performance specifications. She further detailed that the committee working on this project had selected the product both for the storm water runoff reduction qualities as well as for the aesthetic application of the product. Perry also pointed out that the project would be utilizing rain gardens to enhance the storm water runoff potential for the project. Rain gardens were described by Perry as strategic plantings of plant life that would be visually pleasant, low maintenance and well adapted to the climate. Perry stated that the rain gardens were planted in order to reduce the speed of storm water as it moves from the park to the storm water system – reducing the amount of water and sediment, and aiding in the effort to improve water quality. Perry explained that the State of Vermont will be contributing \$10,000 dollars and the EPA would contribute a portion of the overall \$300,000 dollar grant aimed at improvements to the water quality improvement goals within the watershed. Perry stated that the City would be looking at the Vermont Downtown Transportation fund for the remaining dollars. Perry pledged that she would provide further project progress details at a future TAC meeting.

**LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

B. Rose updated the TAC on efforts to recruit applicants to fill the regional seats on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Advisory Committee. Rose reported that efforts had been unfruitful to date, and that given the short period of time until the first scheduled meeting of the group, requested that the TAC grant authority for the NRPC staff to recruit and appoint interim members – which would be ratified or replaced by the TAC by a vote at the next TAC meeting.

J. Tomlinson motioned to grant authority to staff to appoint interim members to the LVRT-LAC subject to ratification at the March/April TAC meeting. J. Roy seconded. Motion carried.

VT 104/36 INTERSECTION PROJECT UPDATE/ACTION

B. Rose reported that there had been new meetings regarding efforts to conduct needed improvements to this intersection. Rose reported that new traffic projections from the new State Police barracks had caused the State to revise its position regarding assistance, and a deal was currently being worked out. Rose stated that he would have more information at the next TAC meeting.

WESTERN CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE/ACTION

B. Rose reported to the TAC that efforts were underway by planning commissions along the western side of the state to develop a comprehensive intermodal corridor plan for the US 7/western rail line corridor project. Rose stated that he will provide additional information on this effort at the next TAC meeting.

ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED FY2008 TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL PROGRAM

B. Rose distributed copies of the Franklin & Grand Isle County transportation projects appearing in the Administrations proposed FY 2008 Capital Program. Rose informed the TAC that he had inquired about several projects that had received top priority rankings from the TAC, but which did not appear in the proposed capital program – an apparent contradiction to what VTrans had told the RPC's when the prioritization process had been undertaken. Of particular concern, Rose noted, was the lack of funding for the top roadway project priority, VT 78 and the top state highway bridge project priority, the VT 78 reconstruction project. Rose reported that he would continue discussions with VTrans regarding these apparent discrepancies and report to the TAC at its next meeting.

UPDATES

Missisquoi Bay Bridge

W. Fournier reported that work continued on the bridge. Fournier stated that the utilities had begun moving their respective utility lines. Fournier also reported that the Town of Swanton had applied to Cianbro Co. for the stone fill made available from the removal of a portion of the causeway.

Safe Routes to School

Rose reported that the program schools were preparing to apply for anticipated infrastructure funding. C. Steen stated that there seemed to be an issue related to the program placing too much emphasis on education and not enough on infrastructure improvement efforts.

US 7 Corridor Study Update

Nothing new to report.

LVRT

Rose had nothing to add to the previous report earlier in the meeting.

Transportation Future Focus Group

Rose reported that the focus group had met as part of the efforts to develop a VT Long Range Transportation Business plan, and that the meeting had been very informative to the effort.

MINUTES

J. Tomlinson motioned to approve the January 2007 meeting minutes as presented. J. Roy seconded. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

J. Tomlinson motioned to adjourn the meeting, C. Steen seconded. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.