

NRPC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Thursday July 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting Format

Attendance

Municipality	Rep.	Present	Municipality	Rep.	Present	Municipality	Rep.	Present
Alburgh Town	Vacant		Alburgh Village	Jason Beaulac		Bakersfield	Vacant	
Enosburg Falls	Gary Denton		Enosburg Town	Joey Clark		Fairfax	Shaw Lafountain	
Fairfield	Maurice Jettie Cathy Ainsworth (alt)		Fletcher	Vacant		Franklin	Peter Magnant	
Georgia	Suzanna Brown	X	Grand Isle	Barclay Morris	O	Highgate	Sharon Bousquet	O
Isle La Motte	Vacant		Montgomery	Mark Brouillette		Richford	Wally Steinhour	
Sheldon	Seth Hungerford	O	South Hero	Bob Buermann	O	St. Albans City	Rep. Mike McCarthy	
St. Albans Town	David Allerton John Montagne (alt)	O	Swanton Town	Harold Garrett	X	Swanton Village	Reginald Beliveau	O
GMT (Transit)	Chris Damiani		NECR (Rail)	Charles Hunter		MVRT (Bike/Ped)	Vacant	
Air Rep.	Vacant		Berkshire	Vacant		North Hero	Vacant	

Other Participants: Kyle Grenier (NRPC), Representative, Matthew Arancio (VTrans)

X = In person

O = Online

Chair, Harold Garrett called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.

1. Adjustments to the Agenda – Yes, addition of Vermont Disaster Declaration – Flooding Update from Shaun Coleman (NRPC).

2. ADDITION: Vermont Disaster Declaration – Flooding Update

Shaun Coleman (NRPC) provided updates to the group with respect to regional town flooding status, statewide flooding/disaster status, and processes that can be expected in the near future which will impact the Northwest region, and beyond. Matthew Arancio (VTrans) also provided comments with respect to the role VTrans Planning is playing during this disaster and into recovery.

(For historical record, flooding mentioned in these minutes is in relation to the catastrophic events sustained throughout much of Vermont from rain events during the week of July 9, 2023.)

3. Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks –Chair, H. Garrett thanked S. Coleman and M. Arancio for their updates. Introductions of TAC members followed.

4. Opportunity for Public Comment – None

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5. Regional Plan Update

K. Grenier informed the Committee of the current schedule of public meetings, and the planned final hearing:

-July 17, 6:30 pm: Virtual Public Meeting, Final Public Hearing
Zoom link on the NRPC website

H. Garrett & B. Morris offered encouragement to other NRPC Commissioners present at the TAC meeting to attend the July 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting where the adoption of the new Regional Plan is expected.

6. Review of the FFY 2024 Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Work Program (Action Item)

K. Grenier presented draft of the FFY 2024 TPI Work Program, with a brief explanation of the plan. A brief discussion was had regarding content of the plan.

B. Morris moved to recommend the FFY 2024 Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Work Program to the Northwest Regional Planning Board of Commissioners as printed. S. Hungerford/S. Brown seconded. The motion carried.

7. Looking Ahead to Future Meetings

K. Grenier gave an overview of the upcoming months:

- No August 2023 meeting.
- September meeting will include greater discussions about EV charging.

S. Brown requested an opportunity to learn more about how other towns within our region manage different types of town-owned trails.

8. Minutes of the May 11, 2023 Meeting

K. Grenier indicated that a new system was put in place for meeting attendance tracking within the grid provided with the meeting minutes: "X" indicates in-person attendance, "O" indicates online attendance.

S. Brown moved to approve June 6, 2023 meeting minutes. B. Morris seconded. The motion carried.

7. TAC Member and Staff Updates

B. Morris brought up concerns regarding the nesting habitat of the endangered Grasshopper Sparrows which occupy space that is incorporated into construction plans at the Franklin County Airport.

B. Morris indicated continued concern for the potential safety of advertised bicycle routes through Colchester, Milton, and So. Hero as the Island Line Trail Link Bike Ferry is currently down.

General discussion was had regarding low attendance at TAC meetings. K. Grenier indicated plans to discuss options with NRPC Executive Director, Catherine Dimitruk. An update will be provided at the September 2023 meeting.

K. Grenier shared updates regarding the Swanton I-89 NB Exit 21 project. R. Beliveau noted paving issues in the general area. H. Garrett noted pavement marking issues in the general area. K. Grenier to share those issues with the appropriate engineer contact.

K. Grenier shared updates regarding the Fairfax VT 104/VT 128 intersection project.

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8. Other Business – None

S. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting. S. Hungerford seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM