

NRPC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Meeting Minutes from Thursday October 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting Format- Physical Location: NRPC 75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

UPDATED AND APPROVED 2/8/2024

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	X
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		South Hero	Bob Buermann	O	St. Albans City	Vacant	
St. Albans Town	David Allerton John Montagne (alt)		Swanton Town	Harold Garrett	X	Swanton Village	Reginald Beliveau	
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), in person; Matthew Arancio (VTrans), online.

X = In person

O = Online

Chair, Harold Garrett called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

1. Adjustments to the Agenda – None

2. Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks

3. Opportunity for Public Comment – None

4. Planning for Bi-Annual Regional Transportation Roundtable with Local Legislators:

Every other year, legislators have been invited to a TAC meeting to discuss priority and/or emerging regional issues. The TAC will confirm the date of the roundtable this year, and will identify a list of topics for discussion. Attached is a list of proposed topics for discussion, along with a list of previously discussed topics from past roundtable events.

- TAC discussed the date of the event. Due to a number of conflicts, the date has been set as Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:30. Location to be determined and communicated by K. Grenier

- Topics for discussion:
 - Discussion surrounding Electric Vehicles (EV)
 - What are some priorities for EV infrastructure on a regional and statewide scale?
 - Are there budgetary concerns for fewer gasoline tax dollars statewide?
 - Review project priorities as outlined in the current Regional Plan
 - What priorities and concerns are the legislators hearing about?
 - Speed & Safety concerns throughout the region
 - Do the legislators know about the VT 105 RSAR? How does this information impact decisions that are being made at the statehouse?
 - Work zone speeding and safety concerns and enforcement.
 - Bike/Ped safety & infrastructure standards – how are these being factored into reconstructions and safety laws for the protection of all roadway users?
 - Size of new, larger agriculture vehicles and the long distances they are traveling as farms become sprawl further across communities and municipalities.
 - Difficulties facing municipal road crews to hire and retain skilled labor.
 - Difficulties facing municipal road crews with limited ability and high cost to stripe newly and repaved roads.
 - Public Transit
 - Microtransit pilot with GMT opportunities.
- Points of appreciation:
 - Towns have expressed their thanks for the following annual programs: Grants In Aid, Better Back Roads, Structures Grants
 - VTrans mowing schedules during 2023 season- the amount of brush cutback has greatly increased the clear zone in some areas. Also appears to have reduce wild parsnip in some locations.

5. Minutes of the September 14, 2023 Meeting

B. Morris moved to approve September 14, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. P. Magnant seconded. The motion carried.

6. TAC Member and Staff Updates

STP FPAV(66) Fairfax paving project (VT 104); updated to include the creation of an additional exit turning lane at I-89 N, Exit 19.

- K. Grenier gave a brief update regarding the above listed paving project and intersection project.
- B. Buermann thanked M. Arancio for his presentation of Class 1 Town Highway details at the South Hero Planning Commission meeting in September.
- B. Morris thanked M. Arancio for elevating sight line issues due to overgrowing vegetation on US 2 near the South Hero / Grand Isle town line.

7. Other Business

Next meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2023. TAC members will host the local legislators to discuss priority and emerging regional transportation topics. Location to be determined.

P. Magnant motioned to adjourn the meeting. S. Brown seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM