



MEETING MINUTES:

Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

NRPC Conference Room, 75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

Thursday May 9, 2024 - 6:30-8:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting Format: in person and remote

Attendance

Municipality	Rep.	Present	Municipality	Rep.	Present	Municipality	Rep.	Present
Alburgh Town	Vacant		Alburgh Village	Jason Beaulac		Bakersfield	Vacant	
Enosburg Falls	Gary Denton		Enosburgh Town	Joey Clark		Fairfax	Matt Guerino	
Fairfield	Dr. Lynda Ulrich 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		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 Heidi Britch-Valenta (alt)	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), in person. Matthew Arancio (VTrans), Faith Dahl (VTrans), Abe Koffman (VTrans), Ian Anderson (VTrans), online.

X = In person

O = Online

Chair, Harold Garrett called the meeting to order at 6:33PM

• Adjustments to the Agenda

- No adjustments were made

• Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks

• Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public comment was made.

• VTrans 2024 Paving Spec Book Updates, Dr. Ian Anderson, Bituminous Concrete Materials Manager, AOT

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- Ian Anderson, Bituminous Concrete Materials Manager, gave an overview of his position within the agency, an overview of the VTrans Construction & Materials Bureau, and an overview of the 2024 Paving Spec Book updates.
 - Conversation was had regarding materials available and used within the Northwest region, best practices.
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- **Eclipse Debrief**
 - Northwest region saw slightly heavier traffic volumes, but overall, no major backups or issues.
 - Portions I-89 and I-91 saw heavy traffic and backups.
 - Newport and St. Johnsbury Vermont areas reported the heaviest backups, some lasting hours.
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- **Active 2024 VTrans projects within the Northwest Region**
 - K. Grenier provided a list (attached) highlighting roadway, rail, rail trail, etc. projects scheduled for the 2024 construction season.
 - Conversation was had regarding bridge project closures and detours.
 - B. Morris requested more information regarding paving/hydroplaning concerns on I-89 between exits 16 & 17.
 - B. Morris requested K. Grenier look into possible traffic counts on US 2 during the VT 78 closure in Swanton Village for benchmarking when considering a longer-term closure planned for the full replacement of Bridge 6 in Swanton Village in 2029.
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- **Minutes of the March 14, 2024 Meeting**
 - S. Brown motioned to approve the March 14, 2024 meeting minutes as printed. B. Buermann seconded. The motion carried.
 - *Note that no meeting was held on April 11, 2024.
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- **TAC Member and Staff Updates**
 - K. Grenier shared updates regarding the LVRT/Sheldon Gristmill Park project, and updates related to NRPC's FY24 TPI Work Plan amendment to incorporate funding for the VT State Rail Trails Interactive Mapping project.
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- **Other Business**
 - Next meeting: June 13, 2024 – Annual TAC officer election.
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- B. Buermann motioned to adjourn the meeting. S. Brown seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:09PM

May 2024 Construction Update

Prepared by NRPC using data from <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/vtransparency> and VTrans project managers

BRIDGES

Route: VT 36

Town(s): Fairfield

Project Name: FAIRFIELD STP DECK(51)

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=19B218>

Project Type: Replace deck of Bridge No. 6 on VT-36 in Fairfield crossing the Fairfield River.

Target Construction Schedule: Spring 2024-Fall 2024

Closures: Full closure is planned, 28 days between June 17, 2024 and August 23, 2024

Notes:

- Deck replacement on the existing single span rolled beam bridge.
- The existing structure is 89 feet long and has a rail-to-rail width of 28-feet.
- The structure currently has a deck rating of 5 (fair), a superstructure rating of 6 (satisfactory), and a substructure rating of 6 (satisfactory). This bridge was constructed in 1955.
- The deck is approaching poor condition. A 1-foot x 2-foot full depth hole has developed.
- Maintenance of traffic options considerations included an offsite detour, phased construction, or a temporary bridge.
- Given the age of the structure, site constraints and current conditions, the engineering study recommended a deck replacement with traffic maintained on an offsite detour for 28 days using Accelerated Bridge Construction Techniques.
- The deck will be replaced with precast partial depth deck panels with a cast-in-place overlay. Shear studs will be welded to the existing beams for a composite deck.

Route: Pidgeon Hill Road

Town(s): Franklin

Project Name: FRANKLIN TAP TA19(8)

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=19F273>

Project Type: Replace and realign failed 5' concrete pipe with 13'x8' concrete box culvert.

Target Construction Schedule: Summer 2024-Fall 2024

Closures:

Notes:

Route: VT 78

Town(s): Swanton

Project Name: SWANTON BF 036-1(16)

Project Factsheet: N/A

Project Type: Rehab Bridge No. 6 on VT-78 in Swanton Village crossing the Missisquoi River.

Target Construction Schedule: Spring 2024-Fall 2024

Closures: Full closure is planned for 14-20 days between July 8-August 19, 2024

Notes:

- Replacement of expansion joints.
- Repair to concrete superstructure.

RAIL

Route: VT 78

Town(s): Alburgh

Project Name: ALBURGH NH 036-1(15)

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=23D602>

Project Type: Safety improvements at RT 78/NECR. MP 15.8.

Target Construction Schedule: October 2024-Jan 2025

Closures:

Notes:

- Rail and ties will be replaced and the concrete panel will be resurfaced.
- The existing crossing is 60 feet long and 13 feet wide.
- Based on cost, length of detour routes and minimizing impacts to ROW, a phased construction was chosen as the best method for traffic control.
- A single lane will be maintained on VT 78 with alternating one-way traffic.

Route: Industrial Park Road

Town(s): St. Albans

Project Name: STP 2038(20)

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=17G101>

Project Type: Crossing improvement at Industrial Park Rd on the NECR at MP 130.95.

Target Construction Schedule: Winter 2024-Jan 2025

Closures:

Notes:

- Rail and ties will be replaced and the concrete panel will be resurfaced.
- The existing crossing is 65 feet long and 13 feet wide.
- Based on cost, availability of detour route options and minimizing impacts to ROW a detour was chosen as the best method for traffic control.

RAIL TRAIL

Route: Robin Hood Drive

Town(s): Swanton

Project Name: SWANTON STP LVRT(21)

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=23F004>

Project Type: Design and construction of a trailhead, parking lot and amenities

Target Construction Schedule: Fall 2024-Winter 2025

Closures:

Notes:

Route: LVRT

Town(s): Swanton-St. Johnsbury

Project Name: STP LVRT(14)

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=21F349>

Project Type: Trail-wide signing and wayfinding installations

Target Construction Schedule: Summer 2024-Fall 2024

Closures:

Notes:

Route: MVRT

Town(s): St. Albans - Richford

Project Name:

Project Factsheet:

Project Type: Full length trail resurfacing

Target Construction Schedule: August 2024

Closures: Planning still in process

Notes:

INTERSTATE

Route: I-89

Town(s): Milton, Georgia, Fairfax, Fairfield, St. Albans Town

Project Name: IM 089-3(83) Milton

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=23V209>

Project Type: Paving on I89 from Milton MM 102.0 to St. Albans Town MM 113.4 both NB and SB.

Target Construction Schedule: April 2024-October 2024

Closures:

Notes:

- This project begins at MM 102.00 on the northbound and southbound barrels in Milton on I-89 and extends northerly along I-89 ending at MM 113.4 on the northbound and southbound barrels in St Albans Town.
- The project will include the associated exit ramps, resulting in a total project length of 22.800 miles.
- Milling to a depth of 2", surface preparation, then paving with a 1/2" layer of leveling course and a 1-1/2" wearing course within the existing paved footprint.
- Some guardrail work will be performed to repair and replace damaged sections to bring full runs into compliance with the current standards.
- Shoulder berms that have built up will be removed to facilitate better drainage from the road surface.

Route: I-89

Town(s): Georgia

Project Name: IM REST(16) Georgia

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=22C373>

Project Type: Preventative maintenance improvements to the Georgia Rest Areas on I-89 Northbound and Southbound.

Target Construction Schedule: Summer 2024

Closures:

Notes:

State Highway

Route: US 7

Town(s): St. Albans, Swanton

Project Name: STP CULV(139)

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=23D602>

Project Type: Culvert replacement on US 7 from St. Albans MM 0 to Swanton MM 5.096.

Target Construction Schedule: Summer 2024-Fall 2024

Closures:

Notes:

Route: VT 104

Town(s): Fairfax, Georgia, Fairfield, St. Albans Town

Project Name: STP FPAV(66) Fairfax

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=21V382>

Project Type: Paving on VT 104 from Fairfax MM 6.859 to St Albans Town MM 4.11, and the length of the St Albans State Highway.

Target Construction Schedule: Spring 2024-Fall 2024

Closures:

Notes:

- Work begins at the intersection of VT-104/VT 104A in Fairfax, progresses northerly 11.7 miles to the intersection of VT Route 105 and VT Route 104 in St. Albans.
- The project encompasses St. Albans State Highway.
- Milling the pavement to a 1-1/2" depth, spot shimming and surface prepping, then paving with a 1-1/2" lift of "top course" pavement.
- Guardrail repairs will be conducted along the corridor as well as some minor berm removal and ditching to promote better drainage.
- The project also entails improvements to the intersection of VT Route 104, St. Albans State Highway and I-89. Work around and within and around this intersection will be performed during night time hours.

Route: VT 105

Town(s): St. Albans Town, Sheldon

Project Name: STP 2941(1) St. Albans Town

Project Factsheet: <https://resources.vtrans.vermont.gov/FactSheet/default.aspx?pin=11B324>

Project Type: Resurface VT 105 in St. Albans, Swanton and Sheldon. Beginning at MM 0.000, St. Albans Town line and extending easterly 7.856 miles.

Target Construction Schedule: April 2024-Fall 2024

Closures:

Notes:

- VT Route 105: Beginning in St. Albans Town on VT Route 105 at mile point 0.003 (near the intersection with US Route 7) and progresses easterly for a distance of approximately 7.7 miles to mile point 2.003 in the Town of Sheldon.
- Sheldon Road (VT Route 105 Approach): Beginning in St. Albans Town at mile point 0.028 (near the intersection with US Route 7) and progresses northerly 0.2 miles and ending with the intersection of VT Route 105 in the Town of St. Albans.
- Milling the top 2" of existing pavement, followed by a 1/2" leveling surface and 1-1/2" wearing surface.
- Prior to paving, the more heavily distressed areas of the road will be repaired.

- The project guardrail, guardrail repair items, signage, highway shoulder repair, improved ditching and drainage structure rehab, signage, traffic signs and center line rumble stripes.
- The project also includes contract items to repair the signal infrastructure at the intersection of VT Route 104 and VT Route 105 in St. Albans Town.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- VT 104 & Exit 19 Intersection Scoping Study Open House:
 - Wednesday, May 15, 6:00-7:30PM @ St. Albans Town Education Center Cafeteria
- Sheldon Junction MVRT/LVRT Trailhead Alternatives Meeting:
 - Monday, May 20, 6:00PM @ Sheldon Town Office
- Fairfield VT 36 bridge closure meeting:
 - Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30PM @ the Fairfield Town Office conference room
- Swanton Village Local Concerns Meeting, 2029 full Bridge 6 replacement:
 - Monday, June 10, 7:00PM @ Swanton Village Complex