WRC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 9, 2017
Windham Regional Offices

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

ATTENDANCE
Erica Roper (staff)    Susan McMahon (staff)    Lew Sorenson – Chair
Lou Bruso    George Mora    Mollie Burke VT Legislature
Shane O’Keefe Rockingham TM

MINUTES APPROVAL
Mollie Burke was added to the list of members present and committee approved November minutes.

BUSINESS –
Introductions were made between WRC’s new transportation planner Erica Roper and the Transportation Committee members present.

Meeting time was discussed and works well enough for committee members present. Erica will send inquiry to non-present members. The February meeting will remain as scheduled.

Status of Road Erosion Inventories and How We Are Doing them
WRC GIS planner Jeff Nugent presented to the committee about the road erosion inventories performed by WRC staff in 2016. The road erosion inventories are being performed in anticipation of the Municipal Roads General Permit which is targeted to come out in 2018. The deadline for all towns to complete the inventory is unknown at this time although towns are encouraged to aim for completion in 2018. Towns can do their own road erosion inventories, contract with a consultant or with the WRC.

Other Inventories Performed by WRC
WRC GIS planner Jeff Nugent presented to the committee about other inventories regularly performed by the WRC including culverts, town short bridges, and sign inventories. Inventories identify location and characteristics and flag major problems but do not make assessments. The WRC provides inventory updates in the form of a spread sheet to Vtrans on an annual basis and provide updated large scale maps to towns as necessary and GIS layers by request.
WRC GIS planner Jeff Nugent presented to the committee about park and ride, bike/ped, and traffic counts performed by the WRC. Park and ride counts are performed 3x per year. Bike and pedestrian counts are generally performed in downtown areas and highly trafficked recreational paths (not hiking trails) and may be performed other places by request. The WRC performs more than 30 bike/ped counts annually. Traffic counts are performed at town request and as part of the research process to support decisions to change regulations (ex speed limit and/ or signage). Traffic counts are not typically done in the winter.

New Grant and Funding Opportunities
Erica provided an update to the committee on new transportation grant funding opportunities. Current opportunities include; the downtown Transportation Fund which is for implementation projects only and has a short implementation time frame, and a three community collaboration Complete Streets opportunity. Questions about the Complete Streets opportunity include; do the three communities apply together or does the grant pick and put them together? And how many sets of three grants are available? Erica will research and distribute answers.

Southeast Vermont Transit Update
Erica provided an update on behalf of Southeast Vermont Transit regarding the completion and opening of the Rockingham Park and Ride. Erica also reported on issues with ride scheduling. SEVT are continuing to address the program issues creating this problem, additional training coupled with limited personnel using the program have addressed service issues.

Town Concerns and Correspondence
Erica reported on correspondence from the Londonderry Selectboard and correspondence from Vtrans Secretary of Transportation addressing concerns about the timing (anticipated in 2019-2020) of scheduled repairs to 20.7 miles of VT Rt. 11 from Londonderry to Springfield. George provided additional information about desired coordination of other RPC and Selectboards support, and interest in a skim coat in the meantime. The Committee discussed road condition and the insufficiency of a skim coat to maintain the road prior to reconstruction.

Erica reported on correspondence to the WRC on behalf of the Newfane Selectboard regarding state recommended weight limit of 16,000lbs on River Road Bridge no. 48. The Selectboard is concerned that the weight limit will delay response in the incident of an emergency and the town does not have the financial means to repair the bridge.

Erica reported on correspondence from the town of Wilmington to Vtrans regarding the Selectboard’s opposition to installation of center line rumble strips in select locations.

Brattleboro Gateway
WRC Associate Director, Susan McMahon presented on the Route 30 Gateway Plan. The Brattleboro Selectboard accepted the plan as conceptual on 12/6/2016. The plan calls for the designation of recreational parking area(s), a designation of bike lanes separated from the street. The town has reached out to Vtrans regarding the plan’s suggestion to maintain the temporary construction speed limit of 40mph up to the I91 bridge,

Next Meeting: February 13th