The chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Lew Sorenson (chair) Gabby Ciuffreda
George Mora Joel Bluming
Shane O’Keefe (Rockingham Town Manager)
Erica Roper (staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE

By consensus the committee voted unanimously to approve the July 10th 2017 minutes as presented.

TOWN UPDATES

Erica distributed new town update form which provides a 1 sentence or less update on active town requests. This document also includes relevant upcoming Transportation events.

- George reported to the committee about the Rt. 11 Band-aid project between Londonderry and Chester – the project is complete and dreamy.
- Route 155 North of the cut off to Ludlow also complete.
- Part of West Jamaica Road is closed; part is completed but does not address the muddy spot.
- Rockingham has lots of paving that needs to be done and sidewalks and curving. The town has a class 2 paving grant but are concerned about costs to catch up.
- Questions about town’s liability for not acting upon known issues. Rockingham is concerned about this with regards to the Vilas Bridge. Jamaica is concerned about Depot St. Bridge.
- Questions about improvements on NY/VT Amtrak.
- Bus service started from Manchester to Albany.
BUSINESS

Scheduling Analysis and Next Meeting Date
- Poll indicates 4:30pm on third Tuesday of the month is best
- Discussion about meeting at 4pm rather than 4:30pm at meetings where towns may want to attend to make it easier for town staff.

Joel motioned to do what the poll indicates. George seconds motion. All in favor.

October meeting will be a test of the new time. Time will be added to the agenda to discuss the new meeting time.

VTrans Local and Regional Input Questionnaire
- Lew asked if this questionnaire is something new. Erica responded that it is not but it is not well used.
- The committee discussed how they want to handle these types of things in general. Should the Windham Regional Transportation folks do anything besides offer to help facilitate?
- The committee wants the opportunity to provide comments if the project is of regional significance or impact.
- When questionnaires are distributed Erica will inform the committee and other WRC staff members and will offer support to the town in facilitating response. Erica will also ask towns if they would like to include Transportation Committee regional comments.
- Notes from this meeting will be used to compile comments for the Bellows Falls Depot St. Bridge.
- Pedestrian and bike access on the bridge should be standard.

Regional Input for Bellows Falls Depot St. Bridge Project
- This is a town project located in the village of Bellows Falls. The project moved into design and engineering on VTrans town bridge program. This bridge project has been fast tracked due to its excessively poor condition.
- Questionnaire went out to Town Manager, Selectboard Chair, and Village Chair.
- Individuals likely to participate in the questionnaire process include Shane (Town Manager) Chair of Select Board, Town Planner, Police Chief, and Highway superintendent.
- Materials from VTrans sometimes call the project a bridge and other times a culvert. Erica will follow up with VTrans as to why.
- The project is regionally important to Transportation. The bridge is one of two bridges leading from Bellows Falls to the Island which houses the Waypoint Center, Amtrak, the Bus Station, a Regional Employment and Commerce Development center, and a large municipal parking lot.
- Have bike and ped counts been done on the bridge? Erica to check in with Jeff.
- The committee comments on design considerations noting that if the bridge is not officially historic it may be to some people.
- The bridge serves as the entry way to the village for tourists coming by train or bus and is currently a pleasant feature. It should remain a pleasant entry way.
- A question was raised as to if the WRC has an inventory of historic and or hazardous materials sites on the island. The WRC will have an inventory of Brownfield sites on the island maybe other sites but unknown.
- The town would love to be able to retain the existing bridges as a bike pedestrian bridge and realign the bridge to be parallel to the existing trestle bridge. The town would appreciate the transportation committee’s support on this.
- People would use the existing bridge as a path and also use a sidewalk on the new bridge.
- Fire Truck access could drive request for realignment.
- A piece just fell of the Bridge St. Bridge.

Meeting Adjourned 5:55pm
Next Two Meetings scheduled for
October 17th 4:30pm - WayPoint Center in Bellows Falls
November 9th 4pm – 7pm - Westminster Police barracks

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Roper
Transportation Planner