Committee and guests attended a walking tour of transportation concerns in Bellows Falls. The tour included the Depot St. Bridge, the Bridge St. Bridge, the Vilas Bridge, damn and fish ladder, the welcome center and bus stop, and the train tunnel.

The chair called the formal portion of the meeting to order at 5:22 PM.

ATTENDANCE
Lew Sorenson (chair) Wendy Harrison
George Mora Alan LaCombe (WRC Commissioner)
Shane O’Keefe (Rockingham Town Manager) Susan Hammond (WRC Commissioner and SB Chair)
Chuck Wise (Rockingham Planner) J.B. Mack (Southwest Region Planning Commission NH)
Erica Roper (staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE
Members present approved minutes with edits. Need re-approval next month.

TOWN UPDATES
Weston safety audit complete, Erica will share results with the committee.
Jamaica historic bridge research complete. Possible site visits to follow.
Newfane speed study requires follow up with town.
Rockingham other needs transportation chapter update in town plan, train station improvements, and bus service improvement.

BUSINESS
Review of draft permit comments
- Lew is confused about the use of this permit. What are they permitted to do? Is a permit to run water off the road? Is it more like a regulation?
- The committee is interested in what funding resources there are. Erica will send out the sheet distributed at the hearing.
- Is there discussion about stormwater taxing districts?
- The committee wants to know when comments need to be in by
- Rockingham estimates that ⅓ of the roads are connected with higher slopes.
- Does VAPTA have any comments?
OTHER BUSINESS

- Wendy reports – Project Prioritization update - through transportation board, concern that they are taking the local input further out of the procedure. Reports that they are extending the review of the process by a year. Request - Can Chris send information in advance of the next meeting? There is concern that they are compromising too much.

- Concern was brought up that when we operate at the Transportation Committee that is theoretically a public meeting but we don’t advertise.

- Lew reported on the history of the Transportation Committee – The WRC has had a Transportation Committee since before VTrans asked for one.
  - The WRC Transportation Committee can choose to operate as VTrans advises
  - Public outreach is with/in the general policy but what does really means and what is needed?
  - Suggests that Erica and other staff can give some thought to what we are doing and what we can do.
  - What type of public involvement makes sense?
  - Example – Londonderry facebook group became a public complaint forum.
  - Consideration that the Transportation Committee may not be the right group to do public outreach but could help make recommendations
  - Possible future agenda item
  - Wendy will follow up with Chris.

Meeting Adjourned 6:13pm
November 9th 4pm – 7pm - Westminster Police Barracks

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Roper
Transportation Planner