DRAFT MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
January 13, 2020
4:00 p.m. WRC Conference Room

Members Present: Karen Astley Chair; Joel Bluming, Georgianne Mora
Absent: Chuck Wise, Gabby Ciuffreda, Susan Hammond, Andy Coyne, Prudence MacKinney
Staff present: Marion Major

Meeting convened at 4:06 p.m.

Introductions: Introductions were made.

Changes to Agenda: Karen noted a new agenda item is added under Other Business of Route 9 Safety measures.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting was made by George, seconded by Joel. The minutes were approved.

Review of P&O: Karen noted the committee last reviewed, updated, and approved the P&O statement on February 11, 2019. The committee reviewed the document. Joel made the motion to accept the document as written. Georgianne seconded. Motion was passed.

Review of transportation plan; make comment or recommendation to executive board for regional plan re adoption: The committee discussed the timeline for adoption of the Transportation plan (expires in 2021) and the Regional plan (expires in ’22). Karen reported on executive board discussions of the plan updates: the board would like to do a quick update to both documents including integrating the transportation plan into the physical document of the Regional plan in time for the expiration date. The board would like to immediately dive into a more comprehensive update of all plans. For the first update, board would like to focus on updates related to 250 implementation. The committee will put the review of the Transportation Plan and Regional Plan on the April agenda to avoid overlap with project prioritization.

Transportation climate initiative status update: Marion gave an overview of the Transportation Climate Initiative and updated the committee on the latest milestone the Initiative has reached. At this point, a draft MOU has been presented to the states interested in participating. At this point, each state will decide on their participation status in the regional initiative. The committee discussed the different aspects of the initiative and the pros and cons for Vermont’s participation. Marion will send updates and links to informational webinars as they come in.

Overview of upcoming project prioritization task: Marion reported to the committee that the annual project prioritization task is coming up for the next two agendas. Marion gave a reminder overview of the process and which lists are being ranked: pre-candidates and projects. The rankings are submitted to VTrans and incorporated into calculating the priorities for implementing the projects. The committee discussed the process for ranking, establishing that last year’s rank values are still valid unless substantial change has occurred. Marion stated she would forward the lists as soon as possible along with links to inspection reports so the committee can prepare themselves for the meetings. Joel discussed activity on the Jamaica bridge 32 project which is now being scoped.

NOTE: These are draft minutes, which are subject to change during final review and approval.
Other business:

a. Rt 9 safety measures: Marion reported that the request to support Brattleboro’s proposed modifications to the scope on Rt 9 to incorporate more safety measures was submitted to WRC earlier that day. The committee reviewed the letter from the Brattleboro selectboard and found the proposals fit well with the committee’s priorities and the transportation plan policies. Passed motion made by Georgianne and seconded by Joel: Transportation Committee submit a letter of support to the executive board addressed to VTrans in the support of requested safety improvements for proposed segment of Rt 9.

b. Rt 9 corridor plan: Marion reported that VTrans is in the earliest stages of establishing a scope for the Rt 9 corridor plan. The timeline they ideally have is to complete the plan within 6-8 months. They will be reaching out to this committee for input throughout the process.

**Next Meeting Scheduled:** Monday, February 10, 2020 at 4 p.m. or as needed at the WRC

Meeting adjourned 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marion Major, Staff

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