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

ATTENDANCE
Jack Cunningham  Matt Mann  Kendall Gifford (staff)
Fred Bullock  Gary Fox  Lou Bruso

Regrets: Lew Sorenson

MINUTES APPROVAL
Minutes of the 11 January meeting were accepted as submitted.

BUSINESS

Pursuant to business of the January Meeting:

- Regarding “Complete Streets” legislation: Kendall handed out a summary list of issues and comments based on Committee and staff review of the proposed legislation which has been introduced as H.198. It now has 28 sponsors including three from districts in our region. Matt reported that Rep. Mollie Burke, one of the two original sponsors, has accepted an invitation to attend the WRC transportation committee meeting on 14 March to discuss this and other pending transportation issues in the legislature.

- Staff also informed the Committee about H.118: a bill to permit municipalities more discretionary authority over speed limits in school zones. This bill could potentially affect some of our towns. Staff has no information regarding the bill’s potential support.

Regional Transportation Prioritization

Committee discussed the process itself, and then moved on to specific evaluations of projects on the list. Some of these appeared to already be in progress or scheduled, such as paving on Route 30 in Jamaica and Winhall. Scoring on some of these was postponed to the next meeting in order for staff to get clarity from VTrans on whether or not there is reason to prioritize these. Others of the projects appear to have little chance of implementation at any foreseeable time. In some cases, the towns have agreed to drop the projects, and in other cases have expressed interest in pursuing them, or a reduced scope alternative. In Dover, the so called Dunn’s corner is one example. Because this project borders on a wetland, costs are
likely to exceed reasonable for the scale of the problem it addresses. Staff is in the process of exploring other approaches that might improve safety on this road segment.

The Committee proceeded with the scoring process for the three relevant capital projects on the list:

- Putney road reconstruction with the introduction of four roundabouts, bike lane and sidewalks.
- Replacement of Bridge 68 on VT 100 in Wardsboro (crosses Wardsboro Brook.)
- Replacement of Bridge 47 (culvert) on VT 100 in Wilmington Village.

Running through this process led to a discussion of appropriateness of the ranking categories, in particular: “Functional importance to natural cultural and historic resource preservation.” The committee did not decide on any changes, but identified the need for further clarity of that particular ranking category.

Scoring and ranking of the town highway bridge candidates will continue at the March Meeting.

As it was 6:00 pm, the remaining items on the Agenda were postponed.

Next meeting is scheduled for 14 March and will be announced by e-mail. Meeting adjourned at 6:02