



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RUTLAND REGION TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023, 5:30 PM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual Option: [Teams Meeting](#), Call in: 1-802-440-1368, Meeting ID: 412-292-450#

In-Person Option: The Opera House, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

MEMBERS PRESENT

TOWN	NAME		TOWN	NAME	
Benson			Rutland City	David Allaire	
Brandon			Rutland Town		
Castleton	Mike Jones David Fabricius (Alt.)		Shrewsbury		
Chittenden	Jan Sotirakis		Sudbury		
Clarendon	David Potter		Tinmouth	Sherry Johnson	
Danby			Wallingford		
Fair Haven			Wells		
Hubbardton			West Haven		
Ira	Larry Taggart		West Rutland	Sean Barrows	
Killington					
Mendon	Larry Courcelle				
Middletown Springs					
Mount Holly					
Mount Tabor					
Pawlet	John Sobotka Harley Cudney (Alt.)				
Pittsford	David Atherton				
Poultney	Sarah Pelkey				
Proctor					

OTHERS PRESENT

Ethan Pepin (RRPC), Nic Stark (RRPC)

*The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871*

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MEETING MINUTES

1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Sobotka to approve February 23rd Agenda. Second by Sotirakis. Approved by voice vote.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sobotka to approve the January 26th Minutes. Second by Sotirakis. Approved by voice vote.

3) OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

4) POP-UP PROJECTS – Ethan Pepin, RRPC Transportation Planner

Pepin introduced the concept of pop-up projects, tactical urbanism and other short term interventions that reconfigure roadway space. He separated these projects into two camps. One was festival/block party which he explained was a temporary closure of space devoted to motor vehicles, either a roadway or a parking lot, in order to create a venue for an event. Pepin then gave examples of these types of events, including the West Rutland Community Block Party, Salisbury Walk/Roll to School Day, Rutland Center Street Green Streets, and Rutland Depot Park Farmers Market. Pepin then explained the other main category, pop-ups/demonstration projects, which he defined as utilizing temporary materials to demonstrate or test a potential infrastructure change without committing to a full build. He then gave examples of these types of projects, including the Rutland City temporary roundabout, the Killington Ave School Safety demonstration, Center Street placemaking and outdoor dining, D&H Rail Trail Crossing in Poultney, and the Greensboro Village Pedestrian Improvements. Pepin then concluded by speaking to the value of each approach, noting that the festival approach was useful when municipalities needed a temporary gathering space, but did not need a long term structure. Pepin then talked about how demonstration projects were very useful for engaging the community with transportation planning, demonstrating that local government is responsive to citizen concerns around transportation, and experimenting with new safety improvements without going through the cost and effort of engineering and construction.

5) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pepin announced that VTrans was putting the VPSP2 program on hold due to concerns about funding and being able to make long term plans given the rate of cost inflation. Pepin mentioned that he was sorry this was the case, as he was looking forward to the chance to work with the TAC on projects in the region. Pepin then asked the TAC what they find most useful out of TAC and what they hope to get out of it. Atherton, commented that the state should utilize RPCs as much as possible. Atherton noted that RPCs are the conduit for small towns and are the key staff

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working with small municipalities to increase their capacity. Pepin thanked Atherton for his comment and suggested that smaller communities with capacity issues should reach out to the RPC to see if they can help bolster local capacity. Barrows asked if VTrans would provide updates on projects they are selecting. Pepin clarified that VTrans was putting VPSP2 on hold, and not simply conducting it internally. Barrows talked about how he valued the interaction between local officials and the chance to learn new information from VTrans and other state agencies. Atherton noted that he was surprised to hear about putting the program on hold because he had just been talking to a town rep about project selection and prioritization who seemed unaware of VPSP2 being put on hold.

6) TOWN UPDATES

Castleton: Fabricius noted he has nothing to report.

Clarendon: Potter said most of what has been going on is winter maintenance. Town went out to bid on a large box culvert on the creek road, just south of Rutland Town line.

Ira: Taggart noted Ira has not much to report now.

Mendon: Courcelle stated that the selection committee proposal for the Route 4 scoping study project came in over budget and the committee has directed Steffanie to make some cuts and renegotiate.

Pawlet: Sobotka said road crews have been working off and on for mud season, hoping for a freeze. Cudney said that it has been worst mud season in recent memory. Noting there have already been two mud seasons expected a third. Bike ped grant is getting closer and closer to contract.

Poultney: Pelkey has no updates from road crew. Poultney is in midst of Better Connections project, about 50-60% done. Pelkey announced that Poultney received a grant to replace the existing deficient sidewalk along School Circle leading to Poultney Elementary.

Tinmouth: Johnson talked about getting a salt and sand shed grant and getting all the pieces together. Steffanie has gone to the feds to renegotiate. Road crew is settled into new town garage.

Rutland City: Nothing really to report from Rutland City. Allaire was invited to the governor's press conference. Allaire talked about a proposal to set aside \$150 million in surplus funds that state has as a future match for federal projects. Joe Flynn was advocating for this along with Allaire. Allaire noted that this surplus should be invested in a smart manner with concern to prioritizing

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projects with long term benefits. Pepin concurred and added that he hoped that money will help smaller communities who sometimes have trouble putting up matching funds for grant projects.

West Rutland: Barrows stated that a sidewalk scoping study for 7 different sidewalk replacements/build projects in West Rutland was approved by the selectboard and W Rutland will be looking to get to construction. Fingers are crossed for town meeting day, hoping the budget passes.

7) ADJOURN

Allaire motioned to adjourn, Johnson seconded. Approved by voice vote. Adjourned at 6:15.

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