



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## RUTLAND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024, 5:30 PM

### MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 226 664 661 864, Pass: qCPd89 | Call: 1-802-440-1368, ID: 485 980 535#

### ATTENDANCE

(X = in person) (V = virtual attendance)

TOWN	NAME		TOWN	NAME	
Benson	Cheryl Murray		Pawlet	John Sabotka	V
Brandon			Pittsford	David Atherton Alicia Malay	V
Castleton	Jeff Davidson Michael Jones	V V	Poultney	Sarah Pelkey	V
Chittenden	Jan Sotirakis		Proctor	Bruce Baccei	X
Clarendon	Dave Potter		Rutland City	Kiana McClure	
Danby	John Mykleburst		Rutland Town	Dave Sears	
Fair Haven			Shrewsbury	Marc Cimonetti	
Hubbardton	Janet Morey		Sudbury		
Ira	Larry Tagart		Tinmouth	Judy Gilmore	V
Killington	Abby Sherman	V	Wallingford	Bruce Dobbins	
Mendon	Larry Courcelle	X	Wells		
Middletown Springs	William Reed		West Haven	John Garrison	
Mount Holly	Clinton Wooley		West Rutland	Sean Barrows	V

**Guests:** Zoe Neaderland & Faith Dall (VTrans)

**Staff:** Ethan Pepin

### MEETING MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 24TH AGENDA

Motion made by Courcelle. Second by Baccei. Approved by voice vote.



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## 3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27TH MINUTES

Motion by Courcelle to approve the minutes. Second by Jones. Approved by voice vote.

## 4. OPEN TO PUBLIC

No public comments.

## 5. VERMONT RAIL PLAN UPDATE & CORRIDOR ID PROGRAM – ZOE NEADERLAND, VTRANS

Neaderland gave an overview of rail in Vermont, noting that Rutland County has significant rail infrastructure and is one of the biggest counties for shipping rail freight. Neaderland then explained more about the Rail Plan Update, noting that this is a minor update to the Plan which had last been updated in 2021. Neaderland noted that a major component of this update would involve using GIS methodologies to identify areas that suffered from repeat damage in extreme weather events. Neaderland then gave an overview of the Federal Rail Administration's new Corridor ID Program, which provides funding for expansions of passenger rail service. Vermont has received the first tier grant from the program which pays for planning and feasibility studies looking at new rail service. Vermont received funding to look at adding a second Ethan Allen Express train that would continue south from Rutland and connect to Manchester and Bennington. The potential expansions of service isn't guaranteed and would take years of further work to implement, but has the potential to double the current rail service to Rutland City. After the initial study, if VTrans pursues the project further they could apply to the second tier of the Corridor ID program, which would fund a full service implementation plan. After that, VTrans could apply for the last tier which would provide funding for implementation, such as station and track upgrades. Barrows suggested that local road crews often have difficulty working around railroad ROW and suggested a Road Foreman meeting on the topic would be a good way to address the issue. Pelkey said that it was exciting to hear about these projects, especially with the ongoing Rutland City Transit Oriented Development Masterplan which seeks to increase development around the Transit Center and Rail Station. Pelkey also noted that she had worked on an application for the development of a Transload Facility in Fair Haven, and while the grant application was not accepted, the need was still there and the project was good.

## 6. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Pepin noted that the Federal Scenic Byway grant discussed last meeting does not allow towns to apply directly, but VTrans has indicated they would be able to submit the application on behalf of the towns but would not provide any local match or grant administration.

Pepin announced that the Category B, C & D Better Roads grants were now open with applications due by December 27<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the RRPC would be happy to assist with project planning and grant writing but noted that he would not be working from December 24-27 so would not be available during that time.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Pepin announced that the November TAC meeting would be a joint meeting with the Addison County TAC and would be held on a Wednesday: November 20<sup>th</sup>. The joint TAC meeting will feature presentations by two VTrans project managers who are overseeing major improvements to 22A.

## 8. TOWN UPDATES

Gilmore said that Tinmouth was still looking at options for a Salt and Sand Shed. Jones stated that the funding for the Main Street Sidewalk Project was not yet released by VTrans, and it was a source of frustration for the town. Jones also noted that the Town received a TAP grant for a Salt and Sand Shed, but the timing of the grant would not work out and they would need to give up the grant. Sherman said that the initial phase of the Killington Forward Road Project was just about complete, with final line striping expected soon. Sherman also said that Killington was working on a number of culvert projects. Atherton stated that Pittsford was working on a culvert project on Whipple Hollow Road. Atherton also noted that he had been appointed to the State Transportation Board, which reviews 1111 permits among other things. Barrows noted that West Rutland's old Foreman has finally retired and the town would be looking to bring on two new road crew members. Barrows also discussed the ongoing tri-town trails project which seeks to connect West Rutland, Proctor and Pittsfield with a walking and biking trail.

## 9. ADJOURN

Adjourned at 6:41 PM.

*Respectively submitted by Ethan Pepin*