

CCMPO Pedestrian/Bicycle Committee Meeting Notes – December 9, 2010

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: TBD

ATTENDEES:

Lou Bresee, Jim Dudley, Peter Keating, Bryan Davis, Chapin Spencer, Charlene Wallace, Christine Forde

AGENDA

- 1) Brief review of project updates
- 2) Bike/Ped Plan – getting started on the performance measures
- 3) Discussion about bicyclist safety including current efforts by other groups, what role our committee should play, etc.
- 4) FY12 CCMPO TIP
- 5) Burlington Bike Path Task Force - update
- 6) Queen City Park Road – I-189 idea

MINUTES

- 1) Bryan led a brief discussion about the project updates included as an attachment in the meeting reminder and pointed out a few new ones:

Muddy Brook Crossing – the CCMPO provided the final scoping update to Williston and South Burlington public works directors. Study consultant Stantec may present the update at future South Burlington Planning Commission meeting. South Burlington staff are preparing a list of potential projects (not just bike/ped) for the City Manager, which will include Muddy Brook. This project is important to Williston but officials are not likely to commit funds soon. They are trying to fill gaps in entire bike/ped network.

Route 2A to Taft Corners – Williston public works director reviewed information from CCMPO staff about existing facilities from Taft Corners to Industrial Avenue. Public works director noted that bike/ped improvements along Route 2A from I-89 to Taft Corners will occur as part of new development projects.

Route 2/7 Exit 16 – Colchester is currently waiting to see what happens with house at the corner of US 7/Lower Mt View. CCMPO staff's understanding is that the Hampton Inn will purchase the house under their expansion plan after they get their Act 250 permit (don't have it yet but they might be close). The Hampton Inn has agreed to provide the Town with the ROW needed to construct the sidewalk and all other future improvements needed at that intersection (see Exit 16 Circulation & Scoping Study).

Webster Road – Path to School – CCMPO is working on a Technical Assistance project for Harbor Road to determine if additional improvements could be made for bicyclists and pedestrians between the Athletic Club and the school. Consultant VHB is studying the missing sidewalk segment on Harbor Rd from Route 7 west to Athletic Dr. This will be presented to the Shelburne Selectboard on Tuesday, December 14.

Jim Dudley noted that the Route 7 paved shoulders project should be kept separate from the Webster Path to School project. The current Harbor Road study by the CCMPO could be included as part of the Path to School project.

Essex Junction Rt 15 Corridor path (Village to West St); Essex Rt 15 Corridor Path – Bryan still plans to convene a meeting with Winooski, Colchester, Essex and Essex Junction town staff to talk about coordinating path projects along Route 15.

US Rt 2/7, Winooski Main St Bridge – Chapin will follow up with Burlington and Winooski about committing funds to a new bicycle/pedestrian scoping project. CCMPO staff will continue to be involved in the bridge discussions.

2) Bryan led a discussion of the Performance Measures included in the 2008 Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (see pp 67-68, Ch 5, <http://www.ccmpto.us/library/bikeped/>). These measures were included as a way to measure progress in meeting the Plan's goals. The group reviewed the recommended performance measures, confirmed responsible parties for gathering data, and set a tentative deadline of 6 months (June 2011) to complete this effort.

Chapin noted that a statewide study of the economic impact of walking and biking is underway and we should contact project partners (specifically Resource Systems Group) as they are likely gathering some of the same data from municipalities and others. **Bryan will follow up with RSG.**

3) The committee discussed bicyclist safety and behavior choices (particularly in these darker months) including lack of lights, dark clothing, no helmet, disobeying rules of the road, wrong-way riding, etc. Bryan commented on the ongoing work of the Safe Street Collaborative (www.safestreetsvt.org) led by Local Motion, which is an education and enforcement effort that is expanding countywide with help from numerous partners. Behavior change is a challenging component of our work. Discussion about the impact of bicyclists receiving tickets for offenses and how word spreads quickly through the community.

4) Chapin talked about a new Transportation Demand Management (TDM) project idea submitted to the CCMPO by Local Motion, CCTA and CarShare VT. The goal is to create a funding category on the CCMPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from which various TDM projects could be funded. CCMPO staff reviewed the proposal and has sent comments back to the project partners. Discussion about use of CCMPO funds for this type of TIP item, alignment with VTrans goals, and political implications of this effort. Chapin will keep committee updated on progress.

5) Chapin provided a brief update on the Burlington Bike Path Task Force (<http://www.localmotion.org/programs/islandline/reports>) which recently met to gather public input on the path. The committee will meet for one year and ultimately recommend improvements to the path and recommend a financing mechanism to fund the work.

6) Lou recently did a voluntary 1-hour afternoon traffic count at the Queen City Park Road/Route 7 intersection and found that most vehicles (~85%) turned left from QCP Rd,

presumably to access I-189. He presented an idea that would allow vehicles on Pine Street to access the unused portion of I-189 by removing the current barriers. Chapin mentioned discussion among other groups of turning that part of I-189 into a park and ride lot, with access from Pine Street, QCP, and I-189. Use of this part of I-189 would need approval by VTrans and Federal Highway Administration. This could be discussed further as part of the upcoming Shelburne Road Corridor Study.