



1MEETING NOTES*/

CCMPO Park and Ride Plan Advisory Committee

Kick-off Meeting (October 29, 2009)

Prepared: October 29, 2009 by Joe Segale

Committee Members Present: George Gerecke (chair), Williston MPO Representative; Wayne Davis, Amy Bell, VTrans; Dean Bloch, Charlotte Planner/Selectboard Assistant; Tom Buckley; Meredith Birkett, CCTA; Cathy Frank, Local Motion; Dan Bradley, Burlington DPW; Bob Penniman, CATMA; Harris Roen, Burlington Conservation Commission;.

CCMPO Staff Present: Peter Keating, Christine Forde, Eleni Churchill, Daryl Benoit, Bryan Davis

Welcome and Introductions

George Gerecke welcomed the committee and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Peter Keating provided some background information. Joe Segale provided a presentation that described the overall purpose of the project, specific tasks and a schedule. The committee members offered comments on the scope of work and schedule which are summarized below.

Scope of Work Review

Task 1: Project initiation.

- No comments offered.

Task 2: Existing System Inventory

- VTrans and the CCMPO staff have conducted license plate surveys at some of the Park and Ride lots. The data would help identify the place of residence of people parking in those locations. CCMPO staff has provided the license plate surveys to VTrans when they were originally collected. The plate numbers need to be converted to home addresses. Joe Segale asked that the information be provided so it can be included in the report.
- Bob Penniman noted that the CATMA annual employee survey, which reaches about 12,000 employees, is about to be launched and has information that should be included. Joe Segale will coordinate with Bob.
- Joe presented two statewide maps that show the Chittenden County commuter-shed based on 2000 Census Journey to Work Data overlaid on existing park-and-ride facilities. The commuter-shed extends into Grand Isle, Franklin, Lamoille, Washington and Addison Counties. The committee agreed that those counties should define the limits of the planning area for the study. Dean Bloch pointed out that the study should also account for commuters to and from New York.
- Bob Penniman pointed out that the 2008 American Community Survey has just been released and should be incorporated. Daryl Benoit noted data from the 2008 National Household Travel Survey is available. Data from the Chittenden County transportation model will also be incorporated.

- Joe observed that the statewide map suggests Chittenden County commuter shed is well served by existing park-and-ride facilities. Committee members felt strongly that there are still holes in the system, particularly near interstate interchanges, and that some facilities are over capacity.
- Meredith Birkett asked that the capacity and design of existing park-and-ride facilities consider transit accessibility and adequate space to maneuver buses.
- The surrounding regional planning commissions are preparing existing and future condition reports in conjunction with the CCMPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. The information contained in that work should be incorporated as appropriate.

Task 3: Goals and Objectives

- Relative to interviews with large employers, Bob Penniman suggested using the Way-to-Go employer participant list to identify employers to contact.
- The committee does not want to hold a general public meeting during this phase of the study. The committee prefers that public meetings be held in municipalities where a new facility may be proposed or significant upgrades are contemplated for an existing facility. The number of meetings will remain unknown until Task 4 which will identify and prioritize recommendations.
- The surrounding Regional Planning Commission need to be part of the discussion. Amy Bell noted that Northwest RPC has been dealing with park-and-ride challenges and will be particularly interested. It was suggested that in addition to RPC staff, the Transportation Advisory Committees also need to be informed. The outreach to surrounding RPCs will be coordinated by Peter Keating.
- The decision on whether or not to conduct a survey will be made after the completion of Task 2. The scope and methodology will depend on the type of information that is being sought. The survey should help fill missing gaps in existing information. If the existing information collected in Task 2 is sufficient, it may not be useful to conduct a survey.

Task 4: Plan and Prioritization

- The list of potential park-and-ride projects should start from recommendations that have already been identified in previous transportation planning efforts (corridor studies, regional transportation plans, etc).
- Joe described the existing prioritization method and pointed out that it is clear and easy to understand. The updated methodology should incorporate the goals of the plan, but should remain transparent and reasonably easy to implement. Peter Keating pointed out that the prioritization process also involves significant input from committee members.
- Wayne Davis emphasized the importance of providing for a smooth transition between multiple modes at park-and-ride facilities.
- Harris Roen emphasized the importance of having recommendations that can actually move forward and incorporating project readiness into the prioritization process.

Task 5: Implementation Plan

- Public meetings at specific municipalities may be necessary as part of the task to focus on a specific recommendation. The committee agreed that early involvement of municipalities is critical.



- Joe pointed out that he will need assistance from committee members when and if it becomes necessary to approach land owners about specific right-of-way needs.
- Dean Bloch asked that zoning requirements be considered in evaluating the feasibility of specific recommendations. Zoning needs to be considered from a regulatory perspective (would a park-and-ride facility be permitted in a specific location). Zoning regulations also need to be considered as an opportunity. For example, regulations could allow for an employer to reduce on-site parking if parking is available elsewhere such as at a park and ride or intercept facility.
- Joe Segale noted that public/private partnership opportunities will be identified. Amy Bell noted that VTrans continues to have limited state funds for projects. We should not assume that federal and state transportation funds are available just because a private partner is willing to cover the non-federal match for a project. Even situations where a landowner is willing to lease a piece of land there are restrictions in federal rules.

Task 6: Draft and Final Plans

- No Comments

Project Schedule

Joe Segale provided an overview of the schedule and noted that the survey, if pursued, would occur during January and February. There were no specific comments.

Next Steps

The next Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 9:00 am at the CCMPO offices. RSG will forward Project Memo 1 – Existing Conditions, prior to the meeting.

