



*Communities working together to
Meet Chittenden County's transportation needs*

CHITTENDEN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, Vermont 05404-2109
(802) 660-4071 / (802) 660-4079 Fax
www.ccmppo.org / info@ccmppo.org

Members

CCMPO Public Transportation Committee - Meeting Notes, February 22, 2010

Tom Buckley,
CCTA Board

Present: Chris Cole, Tom Buckley, Peter Keating, Michele Boomhower, Meredith Schuft, Bryan Davis and Julie Potter (10:15AM).

Gerry Mullen,
MPO Board

The meeting was called to order at 9:05AM by Committee Chair Tom Buckley. The committee approved the meeting notes from July 14, 2009. Michele noted that the CCMPO Board is no longer interested in examining the consequences of becoming a Transportation Management Area as was mentioned in the 7/14/09 notes and was instead waiting to see the details of the federal reauthorization bill. Chris asked to add reauthorization to this meeting's agenda. Also added were: Air quality, Section 78 VTrans Report, Tilley Drive, and mode share shift.

Vacant,
MPO Board

Andy Montroll,
MPO Board

Regional Park and Ride Plan Update

Chris Cole,
CCTA GM

Peter showed a presentation on the status of this project begun last November. He described the Plan purpose as building off previous Plans, to develop a document guided by program goals and objectives, to include P&Rs outside the region (but within the Chittenden County commuter shed), to identify upgrades to existing facilities as well as locations for new ones, to update facility prioritization methodology, and to develop an implementation plan. An advisory committee was assembled to oversee the work and a public participation element was also included. RSG, the consultant working on the project, presented this status update at a public meeting with the CCMPO Board last week. In describing the two types of facilities, park and rides and intercept facilities, Peter used Richmond and the Gilbane lots as examples. Chris Cole felt that Gilbane was a poor example of intercept given its limited use and that K-Mart was a better example. Peter went on to describe the inventory information and performance assessments done for each existing facility. He also went over facility ownership, CATMA's facilities, modal access, commuter flow data and facility mode share. The next step is to develop plan goals and objectives. Committee members had several comments, including:

Ralph Montefusco,
Senior Rep.

Jason Whitney,
Disabled
Community Rep.

Meredith Schuft,
CATMA

Sonny Audette

Krista Chadwick,
VTrans

- VTrans should have a policy to make options on land at Interstate interchanges for future facilities
- Include TOD features as elements desired when locating facilities
- Locate facilities in corridors already served by transit routes and not where route deviations would be required
- Clarify the claim that 30% of park and ride spaces are related to transit use
- Address methods/ways for project delivery in the implementation section
- Encourage higher funding levels for the municipal park and ride program

Michele
Boomhower,
CCMPO ED

Proposed CCTA Charter Change

Chris reported on the status of H607/S255 (both bills have identical wording). These are expected to pass in the coming days and the Governor is expected to sign the bill. Chris reported that CCTA had accepted all suggested revisions to the proposed legislation. The bill adjusts CCTA's area of operation, addresses membership and commission representation, and describes the process of developing assessments to communities. The will take effect July 1, 2011.

Chairman's/Members' Items

Federal Reauthorization

Chris will be going to Washington DC for an annual APTA conference and will be meeting with the Vermont congressional delegation while there. He wanted to know if CCMPO was offering comments on reauthorization and hoped to coordinate with us. He mentioned that CCTA has a list of policy changes related to transit funding that he planned to deliver to the delegation.

Air Quality Report

Michele reported that the CCMPO Board had accepted the draft Air Quality report (put together by CCRPC staff) at its last meeting and that the next step will be an air quality/energy/climate plan that the MPO and RPC will work on together. Tom has some suggested edits for the report but will get these to Julie Potter after the meeting. Committee members are particularly concerned about the potential consequences should the region fall out of attainment for air quality.

Section 78 Report

Chris mentioned that this report, third in a series requested by the legislature, addresses transit funding and service coordination with human service providers.

Tilley Drive

Michele reported that a coalition of groups led by Vermont Interfaith Action, succeeded in putting together a transportation service for patients that need to get to medical facilities on Tilley Drive in South Burlington – an area outside the CCTA service area. SSTA vans pick up CCTA U Mall patrons at the mall and transport them to their medical appointments. Rides must be set up in advance. Financial support for the service comes primarily from Fletcher Allen Health care along with others including CCTA. This issue will hopefully lead to a larger discussion involving communities, developers, regulators, planners, and others to more closely coordinate land use development and transportation infrastructure and services.

Mode Shift

Bryan reported on a recent press conference where a number of transportation groups, including CCTA, CATMA, Local Motion and the CCMPO, disclosed that the decades long trend of increasing rates in single occupant vehicle use has peaked and begun to go down. An examination of recent census data from the American Community Survey, when compared with 2000 Census journey to work data, revealed a modest but statistically significant drop in the share of solo commuters traveling to work in their cars. There were corresponding increases in transit use and walking.

Next meeting: TBD –When the Vermont Legislature adjourns later this spring. Agenda items for that meeting will include Park and Ride Plan status and legislative report.