

Vergennes Transportation Task Force

Meeting Notes

Task Force Meeting No. 7

Date/Time: October 29, 2014 / 6:30 PM
Place: Vergennes Fire Station
Next Meeting: October 29, 2014
Attendees: Greg Edwards, Margaret Lowe, Steve Lowe, Diane Lanpher, Bonnie Christie, Shannon Haggett, Joel Melnick
Absentees: See email list
Distribution: See email list

Items Discussed:

Action:

- 1. VT 22A Truck traffic** Diane developed a letter to the Truck and Bus Association. Diane will ask for traffic count data for VT 22A by vehicle classification. **Steve Lowe drove and provided driving time and mileage for VT22A, Addison VT 17 to Ferrisburgh US7 and for VT17 and US7 to VT22A intersection in Ferrisburgh. His findings were summarized in a memo. Outstanding questions regarding trucks were: what are their origins and destinations? What are the number of trucks passing through Vergennes and when do they pass thru? Joel will look into the Bradenton Florida story that influenced trucks passing thru their town.**
Diane Lanpher/
Steve Lowe
- 2. ACRPC Transportation Grant Application** – The application was the only one received by the ACRPC and was approved for \$25k in funding at the August 20th TAC meeting. The next step is the ACRPC will develop an RFP and work with the City to finalize it and select a consultant. Eventually we will need to propose City members to work with the ACRPC. **RFP is pending the RPC getting a new transportation planner on board.**
- 3. Parking/One-way streets** – The goal is to provide more space for bikes and on street parking. Rebecca Rey and Joel Melnick measured the widths for various streets and many were less than 25 feet wide. This makes them narrow to expand parking to both sides while maintaining sufficient lane width for a one way street operation. One possibly is to seek input from the fire department on needed minimum widths for emergency access. Also consider signing and publicizing parking areas. Rebecca researched the pros and cons for one way streets and found nothing conclusive. It was suggested we do an inventory number of spaces and number of available parking spaces during peak periods. Diane conducted a parking survey at the VSO event at the Opera House. Diane and Joel M. counted the available spaces before and during the event. Steve Lowe will conduct at lunchtime count. **Rebecca conducted an available parking space count on a weekday and Saturday. This will provide a basis of the available parking issue. Joe K. will inquire about ability to add parking signs for Bixby lot, revisions to PO parking signs allowing for parking during non-business hours, potential use of Bank lot, and research VOH website for parking information. Joel will also ask police chief about getting the police's perspective on safety issues.**
Steve Lowe
- 4. VTrans Bike/Ped Grant Application** – This was an application for a sidewalk at the north end of Main Street. It was not selected and Diane is following up with VTrans.
- 5. Additional Agenda Items** – Discussion of the VTrans Transportation Alternative

Grant program was tabled to discuss pursuing the SCBC program. For future meetings all members will develop potential projects for discussion. One possibly was the bridge over Otter Creek sidewalk. Diane researched the bridge inspection report for the bridge. Another possibility is to pursue needed bike/ped connections in the City. The 2006 bike/ped study and the Middlebury student report may be a good basis to bike/ped improvements.

6. **Strong Communities Better Connections Program** : As suggested by the ACRPC, this has been discussed with the City Council and the grant administrators. Diane, Shannon and Greg will work with the ACRPC to pursue an application. Greg has requested participation by the economic development and basin task forces. Greg will set up a conference call for 1 pm on Friday to discuss the application with the CCRPC. All members will research other master plans and RFP's that may assist with application. **Our application was submitted on October 3rd and selections are to be announced in December.**
7. **Other** - The next meeting will include a walk around town to discuss potential walking and bike linkages and improvements mentioned in the VCRD report.
8. **Funding** – Rebecca will research what is available for implementation items such as signs or crosswalk beacons by contacting the VLCT, and Mel.
9. **Next meeting**: Saturday, November 15th at Vergennes Laundry at 10 am, This will be a walking tour to discuss potential improvements. Next regular meeting is Thursday, December 11, 2014, 6:30 pm at the Fire station, Green Street. Joel Melnick will reserve it and get the key.