



City of Barre, Vermont

Regular Meeting of the

Transportation Advisory Committee

Nov 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Hellein (Chair), Jacob Hemmerick, Joanne Reynolds

Absent: Giuliano Cecchinelli (Vice Chair), Joshua Akers, Arthur Bombardier

Staff: Bill Ahearn (DPW Director), Elijah Morgan (Engineering Tech), Steve Mackenzie (Manager)

Visitors: Lucas Herring (Mayor), Amy Galford, Judy (no last name available)

1. Call to order, 6:33pm
2. Adjustments to the agenda
 - a. No changes
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. **Motion Reynolds to approve draft minutes, second Hemmerick, approved unanimously.**
4. Visitors and communications
 - a. Mayor Lucas Herring requested that the committee appoint a secretary to reduce demands on staff. Hellein said this was a good idea, but that the current arrangement had been requested by Ahearn. Hemmerick agreed to serve as secretary starting at the next meeting.
5. Public Works Department monthly transportation report
 - a. Department staff reports on transportation work and planning since the previous meeting

Ahearn noted that the DPW worked more towards traffic accessibility throughout the City. Noting that encroachments on intersections, tree removal, and sight distance improvements. Painting has been a priority of the DPW staff, where stop bars, line delineations, and Spaulding School traffic management.

Hellein noted that the reports are helpful to have, but said that it seemed that Spaulding's concern had inappropriately jumped the line of planned interventions that had been approved by the committee.

Bill Ahearn rebutted with the traffic safety issues with the current parking setup on Ayers Street. Bill Ahearn questioned the Hellein's goals, noting that the TAC was left out of this decision due to the urgency of the required action.

Hellein said that the intervention is good, but that this case is a good example of something that should have come to the committee to determine priority before taking immediate action.

- b. Note new resident concerns as raised to staff
 - i. No new resident concerns

6. New Business

- a. Discuss priority items for upcoming meetings

Hellein presented the current priorities list gathered from staff, committee members and the community. (See [packet](#).)

Ahearn stated that the City wide effort for traffic calming is going to be the number 1 priority. Hellein stated that lane widths would be an important part of the traffic calming strategy. Ahearn noted that there could be an impact on commercial and emergency vehicles and that changes shouldn't be made unilaterally. Morgan and Herring raised the importance of ensuring lane widths support the needs of emergency vehicles and the need to receive input from emergency services.

Amy Galford stated that she emailed members of the committee to ensure that Berlin Street remained on the list of committee priorities, but received no response. She expressed frustration that a one-way treatment for Berlin Street was at no point a priority for the residents of that neighborhood, and that there was no outreach to residents when changes to the street were considered by the committee. Hellein apologized and said that he would ensure Berlin Street stayed on the list of problems the committee is addressing.

- b. Review of current Transportation Planning

Hellein presented the transportation recommendations of the three current plans adopted by City Council. (See [packet](#).)

According to summaries in Hellein's presentation: The Merchants Row plan recommends improved pedestrian infrastructure, traffic calming, and more compact parking. The Summer Street plan recommends improved pedestrian infrastructure and streetscape improvements. The Municipal Plan recommends too many things to

summarize neatly, but improved walk/bike infrastructure is a consistent refrain throughout the Transportation and Neighborhoods sections.

Ahearn noted that a sidewalk on North Main Street from Sixth Street to Richardson Road was being considered for the Streets and Sidewalks plan. Hellein asked that this project be brought before the committee before it is included in a plan.

c. Hill Street conditions and calming presentation

Hemmerick presented slides with general information about transportation planning and specific observations and data about upper Hill Street, where he lives. (See [packet](#).)

According to the presentation, this section of Hill Street sees more daily traffic than Pine Street in Burlington, and data collected by the City's speed cart shows 85% of drivers exceeding the posted limit. Included in the presentation were imagery of interventions that have been shown to be successful at traffic calming in other places, including bulb-outs, traffic circles, digital speed signs, and narrower vehicle lanes.

Hellein agreed that the presentation appropriately encapsulates the situation on Hill Street. Reynolds agreed, noting it's her street as well, and suggesting a pilot of some traffic calming interventions would welcome. Hellein said a pilot would be great, but that he would feel better about having improvements happen somewhere multiple members of the committee do not live.

Ahearn recognized that there is a balance of pop ups and the location that need to be taken into consideration, and staff can observe the community's response and measure how to act from there.

7. Confirm date of next meeting

- a. Dec 15, 2021

8. Roundtable

- a. Hemmerick reiterated that he will take minutes for upcoming meetings.
- b. A resident named Judy mentioned via Zoom comment that vehicles have been parking on the bike path on Smith Street. Bill Ahearn responded that he will reach out to Judy to follow up on this.

9. Adjourn

- a. **Motion Reynolds, second Hemmerick, adjourned. 8:07pm**