

City of Barre, Vermont

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

February 16, 2022, 6:30 PM

Conducted in City Council Chambers, City Hall and virtually via a Zoom link



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

The [agenda](#) was posted online for the public and meeting materials were emailed to committee members.

1. Call to order

- a. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.
- b. **City staff present:** Bill Ahearn, Director of Public Works; Eli Morgan (Public Works Engineering Technician); Larry Eastman (Acting Chief & Deputy Chief of Police)
- c. **Transportation Advisory Committee members present:** Michael Hellein (Chair), Jake Hemmerick (Secretary), Joshua Akers, Art Bombardier, Giuliano Cecchinelli (Vice-Chair), Joanne Reynolds
- d. **Members absent:** None
- e. **Public present:** None

2. Adjustments to the agenda

- a. No adjustments to the agenda.

3. Approval of the minutes of January 19, 2022

- a. Mr. Bombardier requested that the record note that in 5b he did not mention strobes being attached to sign, but was referring to other improvements. The chair suggested removal of this. **Motion to approve as amended by Bombardier, second by Hellein. Abstention by Reynolds. Ayes:** Hemmerick, Cecchinelli, Akers, Bombardier, and Hellein. **Motion passed.**

4. Visitors and communications: input from the public for items not on the agenda

- a. None

5. Department of Public Works monthly transportation report

- a. **Dept. staff reports on transportation work and planning since previous meeting.**
 - i. Hellein noted the Department has been very busy with winter maintenance.
- b. **Note new resident concerns as raised to staff**
 - i. Hellein noted a request for a stop sign on Boynton Street. Morgan shared some observations on this, and Ahearn shared that its useful for the TAC to weigh in on where and when stop signs are warranted for fairness based on clear criteria – mentioning traffic volume or geometry. Hellein recommended that this be added to the list with consideration of Department-recommended criteria for a stop sign. Mr. Bombardier noted that Class 1 and 2 should have stop signs, but Class 3 should be case by case.
ACTION: ADD TO LIST AND STAFF TO DEVELOP CRITERIA
 - ii. Ahearn shared a conversation with a resident of River Street, related to use of loud trucks and Jake braking during quiet hours – and that this is a violation covered by ordinance. Hellein noted that noise enforcement is something that is on the list for policy work. Ahearn shared that there is some legislation on

after-manufacture placement of noise-amplifying exhaust. Hemmerick inquired in any police action might be merited. Eastman said he would coordinate with Ahearn to see what action may be needed.

ACTION: EASTMAN AND AHEARN WILL COORDINATE TO CONSIDER ENFORCEMENT. HELLEIN WILL COORDINATE WITH STAFF TO CONSIDER WHEN POLICY WORK ON NOISE WILL BE POSSIBLE.

- iii. Reynolds mentioned a concern about sidewalk plowing on upper and lower camp and street sweepings. Ahearn shared that the street sweeping is focused on phosphorus reduction in April and October with five street sweeping routes. Ahearn offered to loop back with the sidewalk plowing routes and opportunities to reconsider practices.

ACTION: AHEARN WILL PROVIDE SIDEWALK PLOWING OPERATIONS IN AN EMAIL OR FUTURE PACKET.

6. Old business

a. Full committee vote on Merchant Street intersection with Route 14.

- i. Hellein summarized the matter for the full committee to vote on an unamended motion from 1/19/22, to recommend only a design with no left turn lane. Hellein moved as presented, second by Reynolds. Committee members asked questions and discussed the proposal. Ayes: Hellein, Hemmerick, Reynolds, Akers. Nays: Bombardier & Cecchinelli. Motion passed.

7. New business

a. Vermont Agency of Transportation's Transportation Planning Initiative

- i. Hellein explained that funding is available through the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to complete transportation special projects and studies, for regional and measurement not construction. He asked the committee to provide guidance for the application due March 8th and suggested consideration of a demonstration traffic calming project. Ahearn suggested a design for Academy, Washington, and Church to help move into the implementation process. He also mentioned the S. Main Corridor to support elementary school traffic, as well as N. Main from Berlin to 5th. He also wanted to do a traffic circulation analysis to see what the impact is on traffic. Hellein suggested traffic calming along a neighborhood, vs. an arterial route to demonstrate a change in a less disruptive location. He suggested Berlin St. based on active citizens and recent work. He also mentioned Seminary St. to improve conditions around the school. Hemmerick moved that the Chair prepare an application to the Vermont Agency of Transportation Advisory Planning Initiative through the RPC for traffic calming on Berlin St., Second by Reynolds. Ayes: Bombardier, Hemmerick, Cecchinelli, Akers, Reynolds. Hellein noted they would do public outreach in three visits.

b. Portable vehicle speed sign placement policy

- i. Staff provided a policy suggestion for use of our portable speed signs for the committee to consider and approve. The packet included proposed criteria. Committee members suggested focusing on heavily trafficked corridors, near

highly trafficked school zones, where the Public Works Department staff notes issues, where the Police Department notes issues, and where citizen complaints or surveys indicate hot spots with a preference for stable placement. Ahearn suggested the value of data measurement by having some mobility. ACTION: AHEARN WILL DEPLOY THESE UNITS AND BRING BACK A LIST FOR MORE PERMANENT PLACEMENT.

c. **Consideration of changing meeting time.**

- i. Committee agreed that 6:30 works as a meeting time by unanimous consent and did not authorize a change.

8. Confirm date of next meeting: March 16, 2022

- a. Approved by unanimous consent with no objections.

9. Roundtable

- a. Bombardier asked if the committee is run by Roberts Rules of Order, expressing concerns about the committee's compliance with Roberts Rules.
- b. Cecchinelli mentioned an issue with the speed indicator sign on Ayers St. that isn't working. He asked if the battery changes have been done and working. Ahearn noted that the Department is looking for a key to the cabinet to replace the battery. He suggested moving the sign to a sunnier place to get the charge.
ACTION: STAFF WILL REPLACE THE BATTERY AND REPORT IF THIS CURES THE PROBLEM AND CONSIDER RELOCATION TO A SUNNIER SECTION OF AYERS ST. IF NOT.
- c. Hemmerick noted that Council approved a railroad crossing improvement that looked routine on S. Main St. across from Trow & Holden.

10. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by Hemmerick. Second by Bombardier. Approved by unanimous consent.