

Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee Agenda

January 9, 2018 – DRAFT Minutes

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Memorial Room, City Hall

Members Present: Amber Collett, Stephen Falbel, Jennifer Gordon, Jonathan Harries, Anthony Mennona, Mark Provost, Celia Riechel, Constantinos Stivaros, Heather Voisin.

Members Absent: Chris Loyer, Dan Costin

City Staff: Corey Line, Department of Public Works; and Kevin Casey, Department of Planning

City Council: Dona Bate

Meeting opened by Chair Gordon at 6:00 p.m.

January agenda was amended to remove: discussion of bike rack request from Anne Watson.

MOTION to approve January agenda as amended by Dona Bate, seconded by Heather Voisin; all in favor.

Public Comment – no members of public present.

Approve December minutes – **MOTION** to approve December minutes by Jonathan Harries, seconded by Amber Collett; all in favor.

Introduction of new members: Stephen Falbel and Constantinos Stivaros – Introduction of new and returning MTIC members, noting that Dan Jones and Erin Aguyo did not seek reappointment. Stivaros notes he has a professional conflict of interest until April 2018 and will attend but not vote at MTIC meetings until the conflict is resolved. Dona suggested that new members review the Montpelier in Motion Plan posted on the city website and that we elect new committee officers in Feb. **ACTION:** Chair Gordon will add officer elections to the February agenda.

Discussion of the short-term bike parking policy recommendation to City Council – Corey Line and Heather Voisin reviewed their proposed short-term bicycle parking policy (i.e., bicycle racks). Once approved, the policy will be available through the city website. Any individual may submit an application. If the property is privately owned, the property owner must be consulted and agree to the rack placement. If the property is publicly owned, DPW will assess the location appropriateness and bring request to MTIC for approval. The City should reach out to nearby properties as a courtesy. Applications for short-term bicycle parking will be reviewed on a rolling basis by MTIC. If requests become numerous, the MTIC committee may reevaluate the approval process to maximize Committee meeting time and effectiveness. **MOTION** to approve the short-term bicycle parking policy by Jonathan Harries, seconded by Anthony Mennona; all in favor.

MTIC can request the City Manager's office publicize the policy via Front Porch Forum, and the City's website and social media channels. Additional outreach opportunities could include: outreach to Montpelier High School 'green-team' students; outreach through Montpelier Police Department and Officer Mike Philbrick; and educational/informational materials on or near the racks. **ACTIONS:** Dona Bate will share the policy with the City Council and find out if Council feels policy needs their approval. Once policy is shared publicly by the City, Collett and Reichel will also share or comment about the policy on Front Porch Forum.

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DPW update on existing projects – Corey Line provides an update on existing projects including:

1) Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons: The City received matching state & federal funds from for the installation of several rectangular rapid flashing beacons in Montpelier at locations such as Elm St. However that approval was recently rescinded by the feds due to a patent issue. Boarder lighting crossing signs are still eligible, should the patent issue not resolve and we need to seek an alternative. **ACTION:** Corey Line will follow-up with Jon Copans of VTRANS regarding next steps.

2) The Barre-Main Scoping Study: Corey Line will begin planning the first meeting of the steering committee. MTIC members participating in the steering committee include: Dona Bate, Jonathan Harries, Celia Riechel, Constantinos Stivaros, and Heather Voisin. **ACTION:** Corey Line will send a doodle poll to steering committee members to determine a meeting day/time for the group.

3) Shared-use Path: A budget shortfall is expected to be part of a larger bond vote.

4) Cross Vermont Trail: The group is wrapping up final easements for the Gallison Hill East-Rt. two connection with a three-year window for project completion.

5) Bike Lanes: A proposal from Resources Systems Group to do the design on both ends for the installation of bike lanes on Rt. 2 from Main Street to Granite St/Berlin St came in at \$8,000 but will be revised given the existing capacity within City departments. The new proposal is expected to be closer to \$4,000, which is nearly half of what was budgeted; 6) Guertin Park Construction: This invoice is also half of what was originally budgeted, freeing up another \$4,000 for additional projects.

MTIC members discuss the project updates with Mennona noting he has received feedback around bike lanes and infrastructure specifically along Terrace St. and Northfield St. On Terrace St., cyclists are concerned that they are being pushed to the shoulder in the turn from Bailey Ave. and despite the green striping, it may still be unclear when cars are to yield to cyclists. On Northfield St., Mennona notes that the sidewalks look great, but the bike lane feels inconsistent as it may not yet be finished. Mennona voiced concern about cyclists being pushed to ride on the sidewalk until the bike lane is more clearly striped. **ACTION:** Corey Line will inquire about additional signage options for Terrace St.

Traffic calming policy and community outreach plan – Corey Line notes that the elements of the traffic calming policy may be achieved as part of the Complete Streets Plan that is still in process. **ACTION:** Chair Gordon will request that Kevin Casey provide an update to the MTIC regarding the status of the Complete Streets Plan.

Updates on items from previous meeting – 1) Transit Sub-Committee: Including Dan Jones, Dan Costin, and Amber Collett. Collett provided MTIC with an update about the sub-committee's discussion of on-demand micro-transit. Jones is no longer serving on MTIC but will continue to serve on the Transit sub-committee, and Stephen Falbel will join the sub-committee.

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ACTION: Collett will follow-up with sub-committee members about next steps.

On behalf of the Sustainable Montpelier group, Dan Jones has formed a transportation task force which will discuss micro-transit, bikes, pedestrians & other ideas to reduce cars and increase mobility options. Falbel, Collett & Bate will be participating.

2) MTIC updates to City Council: City Council would prefer updates from MTIC on an as-needed basis.

3) Evaluation Rubric: Chair Gordon, Riechel, and Stivaros will discuss a draft a rubric for evaluating potential uses of ATF funds. **ACTION:** Riechel will follow up with Stivaros and Gordon to draft rubric, and Chair Gordon will add discussion of the rubric draft to the February 2018 MTIC meeting agenda.

4) Coordination with Complete Streets Committee (CSC): Chair Gordon was invited to discuss MTIC's 2018 goals with the CSC on Jan. 17, 2018. Discussion regarding 2018 goals for MTIC including the continuation of the Barre-Montpelier scoping study, improving the quality of street crossings, implement traffic calming measures, and increasing community engagement including working with the CSC to foster public discussion of the Complete Streets Plan. **ACTION:** Corey Line will send projected timeline for projects to Collett for sharing with the CSC. Chair Gordon will attend the Jan. 17 CSC meeting.

5) Outreach to Local Motion: Chair Gordon reached out to the interim director of Local Motion, but he is not available until mid-January. **ACTION:** Chair Gordon will follow up with the Local Motion interim director to identify what they are doing at the state level regarding cycling advocacy and how that might relate to MTIC's goals and objectives.

Next meeting: February 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn by unanimous consent at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Amber Collett.