



NVDA
*Northeastern Vermont
Development Association*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Meeting

**May 26, 2021
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

Those attending:

Committee:

Joel Cope
Martha Feltus
Paul Monette
Thomas Robinson
Grant Spates
Gina Vigneault

Staff:

Judy Butson
Tina Gonyaw
Doug Morton
David Snedeker

Guests:

The Meeting (via Zoom Meeting) was called to order by President Martha Feltus at 6:02

Update Agenda

None

Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting as presented was made by Grant Spates and seconded by Thomas Robinson. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Financials

PO Box 630 36 Eastern Avenue, Suite 1 St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819-0630 802 748-5181 Fax: 802 748-1223

The regional planning and development commission serving The Northeast Kingdom: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties
NVDA is an Equal Opportunity lender, provider and employer

The March and April 2021 Unaudited Financial Statements were discussed and a motion to approve them subject to audit was made Thomas Robinson and seconded by Paul Monette. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Judy answered a few questions.

FY2022 Budget

Judy presented the FY2022 Draft budget; explaining it's a moving target. Executive Committee will meet again before the June Full Board meeting to approve sending the budget on.

VPSP2 (Regional Project Prioritization)

Doug Morton presented and will be sharing project scoring information with the Committee and respond to questions prior to June adoption.

Presentation attachment below

Legislative Update

Legislative items likely to impact NVDA were presented by Martha Feltus, President.

Attachment below

Director's Update

Attachment below

Other Business

None

A motion was made by Joel Cope and seconded by Gina Vigneault to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and staffing.

Returning from Executive Session with no action or other business before the committee, a motion was made by President Martha Feltus declared the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.



NVDA VPSP2 2021

**paving, roadway &
traffic & safety projects**

DOUG MORTON, SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNER

VPSP2 Vision

Develop a performance-based, data driven project selection & prioritization framework that maximizes the “**transportation value**” delivered to Vermont taxpayers.

VPSP2 OBJECTIVES

- ❑ Identify and utilize criteria that provide “transportation value” within potential and planned VTrans projects.
- ❑ Develop a mechanism for RPC and communities to provide input in the selection and prioritization of transportation projects.
- ❑ Provide a defined, consistent, and transparent process for selecting and prioritizing the projects that ultimately make up VTrans’ Capital Program



How did we get here?

THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM AND BRIEF VPSP2 HISTORY

Project Development Phases

VTRANS CAPITAL PROGRAM PROJECT STATUS

In order for VTrans to spend funds on a project it must be listed in the Transportation Capital Program. VTrans submits a Capital Program to the Legislature each year and the Legislature must approve the list in order for projects to advance. The Capital Program categorizes projects according to the following status:

Candidate – A project gets on the Candidate list after it has completed the planning process, has been proposed by TAC and has been accepted by VTrans.

Development & Evaluation (D&E) – A project moves from the Candidate list to the Development & Evaluation list if preliminary plans are expected within 12 to 24 months. Undergoes project definition.

Front-of-the-Book (FOB) – Front-of-the-Book projects are part of VTrans four-year program. A project moves from the Development & Evaluation list to Front-of-the-Book when it has completed preliminary plan development.

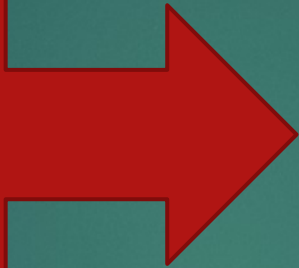


Capital Projects

PROJECTS IN THE VTRANS CAPITAL PROGRAM

RPC DOES NOT HAVE TO RANK/PRIORITIZE THESE
PROJECTS

**POTENTIAL
PROJECTS
150% LIST**



**List of
Capital
Projects**



VPSP2 Focus

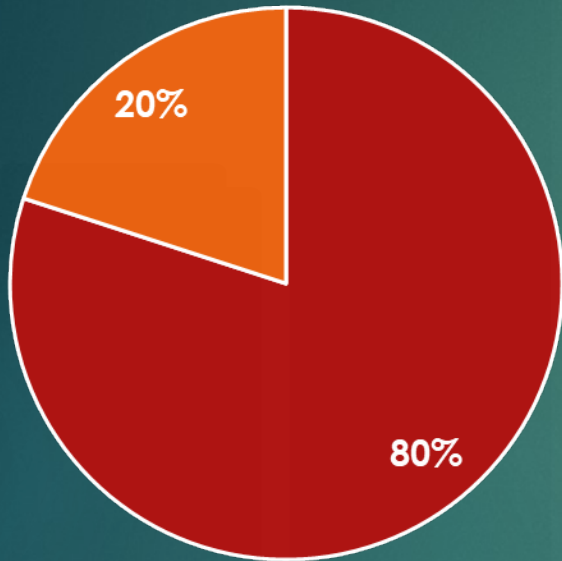
project delivery
schedule



Evaluation Criteria

Previous Prioritization

■ VTrans (Engineering) ■ RPC (Community)



System Preservation, Safety, Energy/Multi-modalism, Economic Development, Social/Cultural Importance, Alternate Routes, Flood Vulnerability, Miscellanea

VPSP2



Transportation Value 100

Regional Criteria

R1. Is the project, or the driving need for the project identified in a regional plan (corridor study, town/city plan) or does project support goals identified in regional plan?

R2. Has town been involved in planning (scoping, traffic, feasibility) study or public planning process related to this need/project? Has town demonstrated support in other ways?

R3. Will project improve town's sense of community (e.g. public space)? Does project provide opportunities for residents to connect to community resources?

R4. Are there key community buildings located within limits of the project (schools, senior centers, parks, churches, libraries, municipal buildings)?



REGIONAL PLANS / TOWN PLANS CAN BE MORE STRATEGIC ON POLICIES



**POTENTIAL
PROJECTS
150% LIST**

List generated from
VTrans Asset
Management System –
hence Asset Driven
projects

RPCs and TACs are tasked to review this list, evaluate the 3 criteria scores and update preliminary transportation value



Potential Paving Projects Asset Driven

ALPHABETICALLY LISTED

2021 VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization (VPSP2)

NVDA Potential Paving Projects				Asset Driven Potential Paving Projects - Preliminary Transportation Value Scores								
Project Name	Route	RPC	Length	Safety	Asset	Mobility/ Connectivity	Economic Access	Resiliency	Environmental	Regional	Health Access	Preliminary Transportation Value
Barton	US 5	NVDA	3.9	3	12	2	8	6	7	2	0	38
Brighton - Bloomfield	VT 105	NVDA	16.0	3	15	2	8	8	7	2	0	43
Brighton - Canaan	VT 114	NVDA	29.6	3	17	2	8	8	7	2	0	45
Danville - St. Johnsbury	US 2	NVDA	10.0	5	17	4	8	4	10	2	5	53
Derby - Charleston	VT 105	NVDA	6.8	10	15	4	1	6	10	2	5	51
Derby - Newport	VT 191	NVDA	2.3	3	17	2	10	6	7	2	0	45
Guildhall - Bloomfield	VT 102	NVDA	24.0	3	12	2	5	6	7	2	0	35
Hardwick - Barton	VT 16	NVDA	20.5	3	15	2	8	10	7	2	0	45
Lyndon - Sutton	US 5	NVDA	10.0	6	12	2	8	8	7	2	0	43
Montgomery - Westfield	VT242	NVDA	6.0	3	12	2	8	6	10	2	5	46
Peacham - Marshfield	VT 232	NVDA	6.2	3	12	2	8	2	7	2	0	34
Ryegate - St. Johnsbury	US 5	NVDA	19.1	3	12	2	10	6	7	2	0	40
Sutton - Barton	US 5	NVDA	9.9	3	12	2	9	6	7	2	0	39
Troy	VT 243	NVDA	1.2	3	12	4	9	4	7	2	0	39
Troy - Newport	VT 105	NVDA	10.0	3	15	4	1	6	10	2	5	44



Potential Roadway Projects Asset Driven

ALPHABETICALLY LISTED



NVDA Potential Roadway Projects				Asset Driven Potential Roadway Projects - Preliminary Transportation Value Scores								
Project Name	Route	RPC	Length	Safety	Asset	Mobility/ Connectivity	Economic Access	Resiliency	Environmental	Regional	Health Access	Preliminary Transportation Value
Barton - Coventry	US 5	NVDA	10.5	5	12	2	10	6	7	2	5	49
Newport - Derby	US 5	NVDA	5.1	5	12	4	9	6	7	1	5	48



Potential Traffic & Safety Projects Asset Driven

ALPHABETICALLY LISTED

2021 VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization (VPSP2)

NVDA Potential Traffic & Safety Projects			Asset Driven Potential Traffic & Safety Projects - Preliminary Transportation Value Scores									
Project Name	Route	RPC		Safety	Asset	Mobility/ Connectivity	Economic Access	Resiliency	Environmental	Regional	Health Access	Preliminary Transportation Value
Derby - Newport	Various	NVDA		4	15	4	10	0	10	2	5	50
Lyndon	Various	NVDA		0	12	2	4	0	10	8	5	41

Regionally Driven Potential Projects

- ❑ New avenue of intaking potential projects/community needs that could become a capital project
- ❑ Community needs/ideas will be run through the **Qualifications Sheet** to review the preliminary Transportation Value. Same 8 criteria parallel to the workbook
- ❑ TAC may not have any this round, but opportunity to start discussion of the region's needs (are there challenging intersections onto a State route that could be assessed during upcoming paving project?)

NEXT STEPS

- Doug will finalize draft transportation value scores (incorporate the 3 criteria – mobility / connectivity, economic access and health access) – email to TAC for review by 1st week of May
- Doug will gather town comments for May 11th TAC meeting – will review projects/comments and final approval of potential project list
- Doug will submit to NVDA Executive Committee for final approval and submission to VTrans May 31.
- Please reach out with any questions/clarifications

QUESTIONS?

UPDATE for NVDA Executive Committee – Legislative Initiatives ref NVDA, May 2021

ARPA Appropriations

G.300 a) 11) \$11m to ACCD for Brownfields revitalization. \$1m to RPCs for brownfields assessment

G.300 a) 12) \$10,580,000, Dpt. Economic Development, priority capital projects (H.18) To be proposed by RDC/RPCs. NVDA's nominations: Bogner, Yellow Barn,

G.600 b) General Fund,

A) \$650k thru ACCD, tech assistance to municipalities (thru RPCs) bylaw modernization ref smart growth (S.101)

B) \$850k divided by RPCs for additional pandemic related work

C) \$1m to RPCs to assist in municipal energy planning

Tbill, H.433, Sec. 41, Transportation Equity Framework, (increase access to mobility options, reduce air pollution, enhance economic opportunity for Vters in communities that have been underserved by the state's transportation system" Report due Jan. 15, 2022

H.122 establishes Regional Emergency Management Committees. In consultations with RPCs

H. 315, \$950k to VLCT and RPCs to help municipalities with their ARPA \$\$

Miscellaneous

Better Places

Tourism

Broadband

Housing

Rural Resilience, Climate Council



May 26, 2021

To: NVDA Board of Directors – Executive Committee

From: David Snedeker, Executive Director

Re: NVDA Director Updates – NVDA Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom)

A large majority of NVDA staff continue to work remotely as per the recommendations of Governor Scott. We are seeing a few more staff in each week. The downtown St. Johnsbury office building remains closed to the general public, but tenants operating within the building are letting some clients inside.

Funding Applications submitted by/with NVDA:

USDA Rural Business Development Grant – Business Recovery – *application submitted*

NBRC Rural Forest Economy Partnership Grant – YBBA project – *\$1M awarded*

EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant – *\$600K awarded*

NVDA Brownfields Coalition Partnership – EPA Assessment Activities update

We have fully utilized the \$600,000 that NVDA and Coalition Partners Newport & St. Johnsbury received, EPA Phase 1 & Phase 2 environmental assessment activities were undertaken at 14 locations and furthered redevelopments at 12 locations and facilitated property transfers at 2 locations.

The success of our 2018 EPA grant likely factored into the recent award of the 2021 award for \$600K to be used over the next 3 years.

NVDA Revolving Loan Program

NVDA has received a loan application from a Newport business for the purchase of equipment. We will schedule a committee meeting once all documents have been received. Applications were submitted to a few other small businesses, but have not been returned.

Industrial Park Lot Sale/Inquiry

- NVDA is still awaiting a closing on the sale of Lot 4 in the St. Johnsbury – Lyndon Industrial Park for a storage silo for wood pellet distribution.
- NVDA has signed land contracts with a build-to-suit warehouse developer for NVDA's Orleans industrial park. The option to purchase land in the Lyndon industrial park was cancelled.
- NVDA continues discussions with a local business interested in the possible purchase of our St. Johnsbury office building.

Other major projects/initiatives:

NVDA and VLCT hosted an informational event for municipalities on the American Recovery Plan Act. RPCs and VLCT will be providing technical assistance to municipalities over the next 2 years.

NVDA is participating in the Climate Council's Rural Resilience Subcommittee meeting.

NVDA has submitted a Regional Project Priority list to VT ACCD for funding considerations.

NVDA staff have begun spring - summer field work with all NEK towns around road erosion and water quality through the grants-in-aid initiative.

NVDA staff continues to lead the Hardwick Yellow Barn Business Accelerator development project. Nearly all funding has been secured and bidding documents are being prepared.

NVDA continues to provide grant support to the NEK Community Broadband – our region's Communication Union District.

NVDA staff have completed the update of the Northern VT Economic Development District's CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) Plan, which will be presented at NVEDD's upcoming June meeting.