

**TOWN OF WILLISTON**  
**MOBILITY PROJECTS GROUP**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**March 18, 2021 – 6:00 pm**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting – ID 203 172 6412 on [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) or call (646) 558-8656**

**Group members present:** Amy Brewer, Hans Buehler, Jim McCullough, Chapin Kaynor, Kevin Thorley, Stuart Meyer, David Westman

**Staff:** Matt Boulanger (Williston), Melinda Scott (Williston), Marshall Distell (CCRPC), Sai Sarepalli (CCRPC, in attendance briefly at the beginning of the meeting)

**Public:** none

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- 1) Matt welcomed the group and stated that the goals of the meeting are to review the draft Official Map and language a final time in order to transmit to the Planning Commission for a joint meeting on April 20.
- 2) Survey Results
  - a) [CCRPC MEMO](#)
  - b) [Official Map Results](#) (excel)
  - c) [Intermodal Facility Survey](#) (excel)

Marshall Distell reviewed the survey results. Kevin Thorley noted the low response among those under 25 and asked if it would be worth republishing the survey with targeted outreach to high school kids. Chapin stated that if that were to happen, the survey should focus on projects/facilities the Committee has already identified as most important.

- 3) Draft Documents
  - a) [Official Map](#)
  - b) [Tier 1 and Tier 2 Language](#)

The Committee reviewed the Official Map.

Marshall noted that there are eleven mode-shift facilities identified on the map and stated it would be helpful to prioritize and winnow them down to a few higher priority facilities. Marshall asked if any of the identified mode-shift facilities were in the town's CIP program, and Melinda responded no. Marshall stated that a recent park and ride study done by CCRPC indicated that a mode-shift facility at Maple Tree Place was a high priority. Marshall proposed only included the top 2-3 highest priority mode-shift facilities on the Official Map. Hans and Stuart would like to include all the mode-shift facilities identified by the Committee. Melinda noted that several of them would be fairly inexpensive and feasible to implement; for example, the park and rides might only need landowner permission and signage. Matt stated he understands the importance of prioritization, so that the Official Map includes only those facilities that are reasonably feasible. For that reason, it might be worth further characterizing the facilities by ownership, with the idea that facilities on town-owned parcels would be easier to develop. Marshall said it was okay to keep all the identified facilities on the map but said it would be helpful to highlight the highest priority facilities.

Chapin stated there are lots of opportunities in Maple Tree Place for park and rides, a transit center and bike locker facilities. He would like to see some of the excess parking lots converted to mode-shift facilities.

Marshall noted the recent Chittenden County bike share study and asked whether there's an opportunity to expand bike share to Williston. Matt supports this idea.

Chapin stated that he feels the Growth Center needs more green spaces, other than the one identified in the Marshall/Harvest “island.” Marshall asked how that one was identified as a desired green space. Melinda responded that there is currently an undeveloped island formed by Harvest Lane and Marshall Ave; however, development will occur at some point. This green island has a tributary running through it that could form a natural asset for an urban park. This space was also identified in a previous visioning exercise for Tafts Corner as a future park. Chapin suggested another area for a park could be focused on the Burr Oaks, as it has already been identified for protection. Melinda suggested the Essex Alliance property could also have some green space. Jim McCullough noted another potential green space on the Home Depot parcel. He stated the property owner has invited members of the public to view the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks from that spot.

David noted that “green spaces” were not part of the original Charge for this group, and therefore the Official Map Sub-Committee did not consider them. He wonders if the Official Map should identify green spaces throughout town, not just in the Growth Center. Melinda stated that the Conservation Commission has been working separately to identify and prioritize parcels for conservation, and that the bylaw has requirements for open space in proposed subdivisions outside the Growth Center. Chapin noted that it seems more critical to identify desired green space in the Growth Center, as concentrated development is encouraged in this area. Chapin noted the Form Based Code project will also consider how to integrate green space.

The group looked at the bike lanes and rec paths on the map. Chapin noted that he thinks it’s important for Rte 2 and 2A to have continuous multi-modal facilities (rec paths) on both sides of the road and separated from the road through the entire Growth Center. Currently these facilities are on only one side of the road.

David Westman noted that the map is missing a desired facility that the Committee had identified, from the rec path ending at Coyote Lane to Old Stage Rd. Chapin also identified this connection as important.

Jim McCullough spoke about the desired connection between the Catamount Community Forest and Pine Ridge Forest, both owned by the town. He stated it is necessary to use an easement over the Riverhill Farm property and would like to see the alignment revised on the map to reflect the desired path. He stated the current alignment on the map would not be traversable due to the topography.

David Westman would like the map to include an on-road bike lane on Oak Hill Rd from the 4-way intersection with Rt. 2 to a point south of Sunset Hill where the speed limit changes. It is currently very unsafe to bike.

Jim McCullough noted the importance of fog lines for bicycling safety and stated there should be a policy statement that when the town repaves roads, a fog line should be painted and 11ft traffic lanes should be designated.

Stuart said roads with bike lanes should be prioritized for sweeping. Kevin Thorley brought up the issue of DPW not plowing all the sidewalks and rec paths during the winter. Chapin stated this was a budgetary issue and the Planning Commission was working on it. Chapin wondered if the rec paths were large enough for a pickup truck to drive, and if so, whether they could be plowed with a pickup.

Melinda asked if the group feels the Official Map is ready to be transmitted to the Planning Commission. Marshall suggested CCRPC staff could do one more round of revisions and send it back to the Committee for comments. Melinda asked if the members could also review the accompanying draft language and send comments to her. Kevin and Stuart asked if the language could mention and define “demonstration/popup” facilities. David asked why not all facilities are defined in the draft document – park and rides, for example.

Amy mentioned it would be great to take advantage of people's altered habits during COVID to put up some popup facilities.

Kevin noted that new car chargers are being put in at Finney Crossing, and there's an opportunity to put in other facilities there such as bike lockers. Car charging locations should be put on the map. The draft document should include a definition of mode-shift facility as potentially being a park and ride and/or transit center and/or bike locker, with standards for those individual components.

#### 4) Next Steps

Melinda will contact Marshall with a summary/list of requested changes. CCRPC staff will revise the Official Map and Draft Language, then send back to Williston Planning staff to distribute to the Committee for comments. Committee members will submit comments to Williston staff. There is a joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Mobility Committee tentatively scheduled for April 20, provided no additional substantial changes to the map are requested after this review.

#### 5) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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For more information about Mobility Project, go to [town.williston.vt.us](http://town.williston.vt.us) and click on "Departments/ Services," then "Planning & Zoning," and "Williston Mobility Projects Group," or stop by the Planning & Zoning Office at 7878 Williston Road or call 802-878-6704.