Regional Transportation Council

The Reg. Trans. Council met on Thurs March 24th at 5:30 in the Meeting Room at the Rut. Reg. Planning Comm. Office.

Several topics were on the agenda. One was an annual exercise where the Council is asked by VTrans to prioritize roadway, paving, town Hwy. Bridge, and candidate projects in Rut. County and send the list to Montpelier, where the decisions are made by Agency of Trans. about where and how quickly these projects fall in the Trans. Plan & funding. I will forward the list to the Aldermen.

Second the Council was tasked with identifying sections of road for a new program dubbed Systemic Local Road Safety Program 2016. Two sections of highway were ID'd countywide to be submitted to VTrans for possible improvements, for this particular program mainly signage to improve safety.

Separately, urban roads & intersections

Were ID'd with a suggested list entirely within Rutland City, and this list will be discussed further at our next meeting on April 28th at 5:30 at R.R.P.C. I have the list available. Those suggestions are due May 20th

Lastly and the issue that got my attention, was a late request by VTrans to the Council. Federal Highway, with the State, is going thru an exercise to clean up mapping involving the Nation Highway System designations due to so-called mapping errors in their MAP-21 designated data-set. I only found out about this request the day of the meeting of the Council, although described thru e-mail correspondence as technical corrections by VTrans, I have not gotten a clear answer:

At issue → Removing Bus. Rt 4 and sections of Strongs Ave / Merchants Row / West St. from Nat. Hwy. Sys. My concern was immediately does this affect funding in any way from feds for these roads.

Initially, the answer was no but I was not convinced, particularly when the request came at the last minute asking the Trans Council to agree and endorse the changes with a formal vote, and without any consultation with the affected community.

Long story short.

I asked the Council to take no action + they agreed.

We are sending and have sent a formal letter to Trans asking for a more information and materials and explanation for the change.

Costa Papis, from the Agency is coming to the next meeting to hopefully more fully explain the request and any possible negative ramifications for the City.

I have spoken to Commissioner Lorenberg and briefed him.

I hope to have more info after our meeting on the 28th of April.

This report is for information only

Dave Alpert