



Meeting Summary

ACEC-VT / VTrans Quarterly Meeting

Location: Microsoft Teams – Virtual Meeting

Date: September 9, 2020

Program discussion and General Meeting 10:00 am – 11:15 am

Jon started off first online ACECVT/VTrans meeting. No roll call today – Minutes include attendees list based on those signed into the meeting.

I. General Meeting

A. VTrans Operations - COVID-19 - Rob White

1. Office / Telework

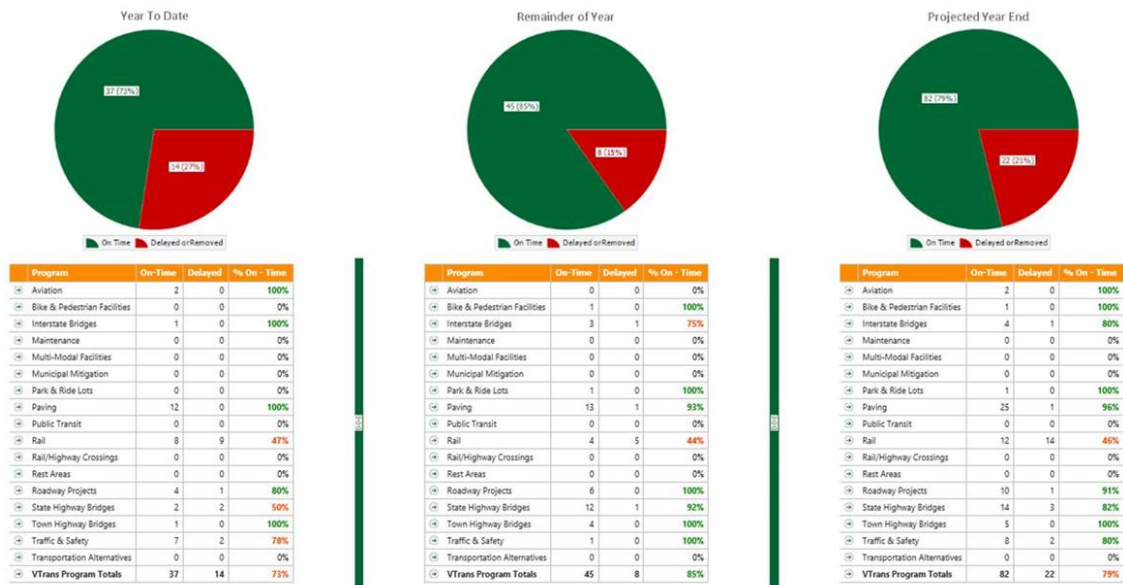
- a. Starting to open up conference rooms for VTrans folks to use during virtual public meetings

2. State / Federal Budget Update

- a. Legislature passed a skinny budget - first quarter of budget (60% of T)
- b. Currently in discussions for the remainder of the budget
- c. Struggling with state funds - usually relies heavily on the gas tax and there are less people driving
- d. Trying to do some unique things to keep projects moving
- e. Federal Reauthorization is due on 10/1
- f. Highway portion of the bill is in draft form - which includes some stimulus.
- g. Rail and Aviation are still being worked on
- h. Expecting a continuing resolution until a Transportation Bill can be passed
- i. There are a lot of big projects in construction right now, which are spending a lot of money. With financial uncertainty VTrans will be delaying construction bids until there is more certainty about transportation funding.

3. Project Performance - On-time Delivery

- a. Reference Graphic on next page



B. Champlain Parkway - Virtual Public Engagement Considering COVID-19 Restrictions

1. Dale Gozalkowski, Emily Handelman - CHA
2. Kevin Walsh, Alison LeFlore - Stantec
3. Delia Makhetha - WSP
4. <http://www.champlainparkway.com/>

5. Discussion Topics

- a. Importance of public engagement in engineering projects
- b. Challenges COVID-19 presented to using the conventional public engagement process
- c. Multi-lingual aspects including hearing materials and videos
- d. Role of Parkway website in public engagement process
- e. Renderings, animations, videos created in advance of the public hearing
- f. Lessons learned during virtual public engagement process
- g. Questions and Answers
 - Is there the ability to track and perform analytics on website traffic & comments? – Yes. Comments mainly received through website and e-mail (in English) within 2 days of deadline.
 - What features should remain / be brought back for future public engagement? – Bring back in-person feedback at places general public attends (e.g. supermarket, soccer games, events, farmers markets). Keep recorded videos and multi-platform engagement (e.g. website)

C. Contract Administration

1. Upcoming RFP's
 - a. Go Vermont Van Pool 2020
 - b. Wildlife Mitigation - Nuisance Animals

D. VTrans Committee Updates

1. David Hoyne - VTrans Specifications Committee

- a. Committee continues their work - mostly minor adjustments to the specifications
- b. Keep up to date with the General Special Provisions to keep up with the actions of the committee
- c. Check out the VTrans Specifications SharePoint Site
- 2. Evan Detrick - VTrans Standard Details Committee
 - a. Committee is working on TL 5 Bridge barrier standards and Box Culvert standards
 - b. VTrans will offer the details for review prior to finalizing them
- 3. Dave Youlen - VTrans Work Zone Committee
 - a. Safety and Mobility Document Rewrite continues. Aiming to roll out by January 1
 - b. Part of the rewrite is to identify minimum training for various roles in the design process
 - c. VTrans/FHWA would like each firm to have a Work Zone Resource Officer that would be a single resource for employees in the firms to reach out to with questions on work zone plan development and be the point person for information flowing from VTrans to the consultants. This person would likely have more training than other employees. VTrans would like to create a list of these Resource Officers at each firm
 - d. VTrans has eighteen test projects for using lighted paddles in Vermont

E. Events, recent and scheduled:

- 1. ACECVT BOD Meetings
 - a. Last held August 26, 2020 - Virtual Meeting
 - b. Next scheduled September 23, 2020 - Virtual Meeting
- 2. VTrans Innovation Showcase and Career Day - September 9th 1pm - 3pm
 - a. (Link to [Register In Advance](#))
- 3. 6th Annual Transportation Workshop - March 10, 2021
 - a. Hope to hold in-person at VCFA
 - b. Option to spread to 1hr virtual sessions
 - c. Patricia, Anant, Greg Rowangould (UVM), Rob White (tentative)
 - d. Call for Abstracts
 - a. To be released in September/October
 - b. Due November/December

2. **FHWA**

A. Updates from Matt DiGiovanni

- 1. Unlikely to see a new highway bill this month - most likely a continuing resolution
- 2. It is likely there will be a bill in January or February
- 3. House and Senate versions of the bill are similar - both include additional money for rural states
- 4. Matt has not yet seen any proposed change in state participation % - it appears that this is something being pushed by the states at this point



3. Future Meetings - Potential Topics

A. Next Meeting: December 9, 2020

1. Open Bridge Modeler - Pilot Projects, Status/Plans for long term implementation (Aaron)
2. Other Future Agenda Items?

Minutes posted at: <https://www.acec.org/vermont/about-us/meeting-minutes/>

Prepared by: Aaron Guyette
ACECVT/VTTrans Committee

ACECVT/VTrans Quarterly Meeting Attendance Meeting

Date: September 9, 2020

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