



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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Councilor Karen Paul, Chair WARD 6
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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 5:30 PM

Main Conference Room, 645 Pine Street

–MINUTES–

Members present: Chair, Karen Paul
Kurt Wright
Vince Brennan

Others present: Councilor Bill Keogh (CCMPO Alternate Representative), Andy Montroll (CCMPO Representative), Michele Boomhower (CCMPO Director), Nicole Losch (staff)

Chair Paul called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm. Wright and Paul in attendance.

I. Agenda

Wright moved to accept the agenda. Brennan second. All in favor.

II. Public Forum

None.

III. Minutes of February 9, 2011

Wright moved to accept. Brennan second. All in favor.

IV. CCMPO / CCRPC Merger Update

Boomhower & Montroll: CCMPO Board is acting on the proposed merger draft by-laws tonight. Once documents are signed, official transmission will go out to the community and Community Boards. Merger process included fall meetings with all communities and eight legislative committees, drafted proposed by-laws, January delivery of legislative report. Found general support to reduce government by merging; some questions about cost-savings. Savings include \$40,000 in annual rent by moving from S. Burlington to Winooski; some administrative savings to come within 1-3 years through fewer required audits, office supplies, and reduced admin/business manager staffing. Professional overhead saved on salaries when the open Assistant Director position was not filled. Merged individual by-laws and charter, activities and committee structures.

No rights or authority was diminished by the draft by-laws and functions remain the same for RPC and MPO. Each organization's two primary/two alternate members were consolidated to one primary/one alternate. Voting process remains relatively unchanged; Burlington retains one RPC Board vote and four MPO votes and non-municipal member voting remains as the status quo from before the merger. One governing body will oversee activities with the new Board doing business as the MPO and RPC for all legal engagements until FY2013. A single Board will oversee the merged organization beginning July 1 but two separate groups will be maintained during the first year. Some Board members are concerned about workloads given that the combined Boards will have double the work but half the people. To alleviate potential burden on Board members overseeing work of two organizations, new by-laws strengthened committee structure to have same number committees but more focused to handle the base work. Three committee categories: MPO operations, RPC operations, and Work. The new by-laws restructured the appointment process so that everybody will be appointed this coming year no matter their remaining terms: A through K towns will appoint for 1-year positions while the balance of towns appoint for 2-year positions. CCMPO Director will be the Assistant Director/MPO Director overseeing MPO programs and two-thirds of combined budgets and activities. CCRPC Director will be overall organizational director and oversee RPC-funded programs. FHWA representative Chris Jolly confirmed changes do not require federal re-designation or governor's signature. Still seeking merger support from all communities in the region by elected bodies endorsing draft resolution. CCMPO and CCRPC Boards to vote for the merger in May. No community objections to the provisions now on the table.

Keogh: our population is increasing. Will MPO designation be changing?

Boomhower: Threshold is 200,000 for urbanized area population for large MPOs. 2010 Census data shows Vermont will not reach that threshold but MPO thresholds are likely to move in new legislation from Federal Highway Administration.

Paul: moved to forward resolution to City Council pending final review of changes after tonight's CCMPO Board meeting. Brennan second. All in favor.

Wright moved to adjourn. Brennan second. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.