

Middlebury Area Climate Economy Transportation Task Force Meeting  
May 7, 2018  
Draft

**Present:** Steve Maier, Mary-Claire Crogan, Laura Asermily, Dorothy Mammen, Josh Donabedian, Chris Robbins, Eric Davis, Fred Dunnington. Minutes: Dorothy

**Next Meeting:** June 4, 3 pm at Regional Planning

**Walk in Our Shoes mobility exercise:** Laura reported on going via wheelchair from town offices to National Bank, and Dorothy with a walker and leg brace from town offices to post office. Eric Davis noted that it is steep coming down from Congregational Church toward the post office, and that there are three steps with no ramp on Court St crossing by Middlebury Inn driveway.

**ACTR Post Office Bus Stops:** Steve Maier asked about the recommendation from Bill Kernan regarding the ACTR bus stops in front of the post office. Laura said that Kathleen confirmed that the letter is a draft, and that more follow-up is to come. Fred Dunnington commented that the lines in the bus stop areas are both cross-hatched and also show parking spaces.

The factors affecting businesses in our town are complex and far-reaching, of which parking is only one. Ideas: Chris and Josh mentioned enhancements that could show available parking. Eric noted that the BMP marketing plan includes signage for parking and an app with up-to-the-moment parking availability around Middlebury.

**Ride the Bus:** Dump the Pump Day coming up Thursday, June 21. Also, the Middlebury College students are wrapping up their projects. They have taken professional photos and will be blanketing campus with Ride the Bus posters. They have created a passport to encourage bus riding to local businesses. The passport is launching Thursday, then again in the fall when the students return to campus. All four groups will contribute to a colloquium presenting their projects and each also has an one-hour in-depth presentation scheduled.

**RR Platform:** Fred distributed the presentation shared at the kick-off meeting with the Planning Commission on May 3. Presentation mentions roof cover and a shelter area, but it was suggested in meeting that there wasn't enough funding for those. Josh reported hot off the press that the first public meeting would be on Tuesday, June 19, evening (exact time TBA), in the town conference room. Eric Davis has a conflict in Rutland that night so we will need someone else to present the letter he wrote on behalf of our task force. Josh mentioned that all options are open for discussion, but some would require site improvement or acquisition funds that there may not be money for. Connection to bus – bus stops running about 7 pm, what if train comes in later? And for location of RR platform, should existing ACTR stop locations should be taken into account. Mary-Claire: room for creative solutions. For example, Rutland bus leaves before Link bus gets to Middlebury, which is resolved by providing a volunteer driver for that connection if you call ahead.

**Bike-Ped:** May is Walk-Bike month. Walk-Bike Council advocating for good signage, shoulder repairs, multi-use path projects, etc. Chris says Public Works is getting a new street sweeper, so hopefully shoulders will improve. Fred mentioned that in some cases, line-painting has become more generous to cars than originally planned, for example on Cross St bridge, making the shoulder narrower. Steve says Court St feels unsafe to him as a cyclist. Chris: if some paths were paved to pedestrian bridge, you could ride to Creek Rd without ever getting on Rt 7.

**Promoting Middlebury:** Josh mentions that Middlebury is a candidate for the Vermont Walk-Bike Summit early May 2019. Sessions happen at multiple venues, it would bring people to town, we have great facilities. Mary-Claire could put in a good word for Middlebury for the Tri-state Transit Conference for 2019. Fred mentioned Planning Meeting, and Preservation Trust meeting being held in Bristol this spring, which could be in Middlebury.

Students riding bus to school – Mary-Claire looking at revising morning commuter schedule so that timing will match to change in school starting time planned for fall.