

Bennington Region TAC mtg
11/17/2021 at 3pm

Attendees:

Mark Anders, Katharine Otto, Fredericka, Cuenca, Nick Zaiac, Jim Hand, Beth Wallace, Fredericka Cuenca

Minutes:

1. TAC Chair

Mark: Bruce Lierman is stepping down as TAC Chair. We seek nominations for a new Chair.

Nick: Volunteered to be Chair if no one else steps forward.

Group resolved to vote on Chair at next meeting.

2. Policy discussion – Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)– what should the money be spent on?

Mark: BCRC is a member of the Energy Action Network TCI Steering Committee, which is tasked with recommending how the estimated \$20-30 million annual revenue generated from TCI should be spent. TCI is a regional Cap and Invest program for transportation fuels. VT's biggest source of GHG emissions is transportation. VT spends \$2 billion on imported fossil fuels per year and has the highest per capita VMT of all the NE states and a higher VMT than the national average. What do the TAC members think? Should we endorse TCI? If so, how should the funds be spent?

Jim: Multiple dwelling units such as apartments and condo units will need charging infrastructure. Range anxiety is still a concern for many.

Beth: Bennington Rec Center has conduit for a charging station but no charging station yet. Dwelling proximity to a park is a good criterion for charging station locations. The Rec Center is in an area with high residential density.

Jim: Large employers are good locations for charging stations because people typically park at work for 6-10 hours.

Jim: TCI funds could be used for an information campaign to let people know about low cost EV's, such as the Leaf, which is available for \$12-\$15 K after incentives.

Nick: E-bike adoption makes regional bike/ped projects useful like regional E-bike corridors connecting North and South Shire. Look through past plans for projects. Need to address long-stalled projects. Funds could be used for local E-bike subsidies.

Jim: Frustrated the Governor has not signed on to TCI.

Mark: Do we want to vote to write a memo to ask our legislators and governor to join TCI.

Group voted to endorse writing memo endorsing TCI. Mark will write a draft a statement for the TAC to review.

3. Policy discussion – automated speed enforcement (ASE)

Mark: There is a proposed initiative in the Legislature to conduct a one-year automated speed enforcement pilot project in three work zones. The proposal is no fines for pilot study. VTrans has asked BCRC for comments. Studies show ASE significantly reduces crashes and financial costs due to crashes. Speeding and strategies to reduce is one of the most frequent requests towns make to BCRC. Should the TAC formally endorse ASE?

Jim: There should be a fine to pay for program. VT has too many regulations with no penalties attached. Without a penalty, nothing will happen. Also, speeding uses more fuel and high-speed crashes cause significant vehicle damage.

Fredericka: NY ASE ticketing is like a parking ticket – no points off license. People are comfortable with the privacy issue because of automated toll collection.

Nick: This is an encouraging first step. After Work Zones, the program should be expanded to school zones. ASE is fairer and more equitable enforcement system.

Beth: ASE is more equitable than current enforcement system.

Nick: Stop sign cameras are also affective.

Group voted to endorse ASE. Mark will write a draft a statement for the TAC to review.