

Vermont Traffic Committee
DRAFT - Minutes of Regularly Noticed Meeting Held
December 11, 2024

The Vermont Traffic Committee met on Wednesday December 11, 2024. Secretary Flynn called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm at the VTrans Dill Building in Berlin, VT, and online via Microsoft Teams. Lt. Ravelin joined the meeting in progress (1:39 PM). The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Attendees:

Secretary Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation

Commissioner Andrew Collier, Department of Motor Vehicles

Lt. Paul Ravelin, Vermont State Police, Department of Public Safety

Evangeline James, Assistant Attorney General

Ian Degutis, VTrans Traffic Operations Engineer, Traffic Committee Coordinator

Amy Godard, Resident, Bridport

Kristin Driscoll, VTrans Traffic Operations

Joseph Kelly, VTrans Traffic Operations

Marcos Miller, VTrans Traffic Operations

Sarah Ramsay, VTrans Traffic Operations

Josh Taylor, VTrans Traffic Operations

Brad Woods, VTrans Traffic Operations

Agenda Items Discussed

- **Bridport, VT-22A, Speed Limit**

Mr. Degutis provided a brief overview of the Traffic Committee and the process by which Traffic Operations conducts their engineering studies for Commissioner Collier. He explained the 85th percentile speed and 50th percentile speeds and how they are collected. Engineering studies also look at crash history and narratives of each crash, as well as roadside character and development. General research finds that changing speed limits doesn't change the behavior of drivers without other changes.

Mr. Degutis explained the request on VT-22A to extend the existing 40-mph zone northerly approximately half a mile to just north of the intersection with Cross Rd. An engineering study was conducted including three speed studies which showed good compliance. The crash study showed relatively few crashes in the past 5 years with no fatalities. Traffic Operations has recently upgraded the warning signage at this curve including larger fluorescent yellow curve signage and chevrons. These changes were completed in April and no crashes have been reported since then.

Mr. Degutis stated that Traffic Operations' recommendation is to retain the existing speed limit through this area. Generally, speed limits are not reduced due to a particular curve or point, and advisory speed limits are used. Advisory speed limit signs located at the curve better convey the message instead of a posted speed limit sign further from the curve. Based on ball banking the curve and additional concerns with the nearby intersections the advisory speed limit is 40-mph, which feels like a reasonable speed. Secretary Flynn clarified that if the speed limit were reduced to 40-mph, the curve warning sign would stay but there would not be an advisory speed plaque.

Ms. Godard shared her experience living within the requested zone and her concerns about unreported crashes and signage. She said her flood light has reduced the crashes at night and that there are many more crashes that go unreported, many of them are during daylight hours potentially due to trucks using the farm driveways on either side.

Commissioner Collier asked if the speed studies are at a set time of day. Mr. Degutis said they are not a set time but to be consistent they try to capture free flowing vehicles and studies are not done during snow and rain. Additional options outside the purview of the Traffic Committee were discussed including flashing beacons and additional signage enhancements. VTrans Traffic Operations will add retroreflective strips on some or all of the warning sign posts, and continue to consider other improvements if crashes continue. Given the recent signage upgrades, the Traffic Committee can revisit this item in the future.

Lt. Ravelin motioned to approve Traffic Operations' recommendation to retain the existing speed limit. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion. The Traffic Committee voted unanimously to approve Traffic Operations' Recommendation.

Secretary Flynn asked if Ms. Godard would be agreeable to a law enforcement vehicle sitting in her driveway to monitor the speeds. Ms. Godard is agreeable to someone sitting in her driveway.

Lt. Ravelin motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on September 11, 2024. Secretary Flynn seconded the motion. The Traffic Committee voted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, with Commissioner Collier abstaining.

Additional Agenda Item:

- **Traffic Committee Meetings, 2025**

The Traffic Committee confirmed the meeting dates for next year to be the second Wednesday in April, June, September, and December. The start time will be 1:30 pm and conclude at 3:30 pm. The meetings will be held at the Dill building at 2178 Airport Rd. No changes were made to the existing resolution.

- **Traffic Committee Administrative Rules**

Mr. Degutis provided a brief status update on this effort. Approval of the Traffic Committee was given last year regarding the proposed changes to the administrative rules. This update includes four rules, one of which is being addressed through the Treasurer's Office, the other three are not substantial. Traffic Operations is working with Ms. James to submit these forms to the proper people and will keep the Traffic Committee updated on the progress.

Lt. Ravelin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion. Secretary Flynn adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm.

Minutes prepared by Joshua Taylor, VTrans Traffic Operations, and submitted via Ian Degutis, Traffic Operations Engineer/Traffic Committee Coordinator.