

Vermont Traffic Committee
DRAFT - Minutes of Meeting Held
June 12, 2024

The Vermont Traffic Committee met on Wednesday June 12, 2024. Secretary Flynn called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm at the VTrans Dill Building in Berlin, VT, and online via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attendees:

Secretary Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation
Commissioner Wanda Minoli, 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

Joyce Manchester, Road Safety Committee, Moretown
Don Wexler, Selectboard Member, Moretown
Nancy Bell, Resident, Shrewsbury
Christina Clarke, Resident, Shrewsbury
Bob Knudsen, Resident, Shrewsbury
Hallie Knudsen, Resident, Shrewsbury
Paddy Martin, Resident, Shrewsbury
Martha Sirjane, Resident, Shrewsbury
Bob Snarski, Volunteer Fire Department Safety Officer, Shrewsbury
Francis Wyatt, Selectboard Member, Shrewsbury

Kristin Driscoll, 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

- **Moretown, US-2, Speed Limit**

Mr. Degutis explained this request is on US-2 in Moretown. The original request from 2023 included US-2 and VT-100B but Traffic Operations worked with the town and RPC to split the request into smaller pieces. At the westerly end of US-2 the request is to reduce the speed limit from 35-mph to 30-mph and from 50-mph to 40-mph. An engineering study was done from the Waterbury town line to the Middlesex town line. Mr. Degutis shared crash, volume, and speed data and explained the 85th percentile speed and how speed studies are conducted. There was a similar item in 2022 that reduced the speed limit in the existing 35-mph from 40-mph and the speeds are effectively unchanged since then. Traffic Operations' recommendation is to retain the existing the existing 35-mph zone and to reduce the existing 50-mph zone to 45-mph for about 1.85 miles. Additionally, the curve signs will be reviewed as well as other signage by Traffic Operations but that is outside the Traffic Committees purview.

Mr. Wexler and Ms. Manchester stated their concerns regarding Gallagher Acres, the increase in population density and children in this area as well as bicycling comfort since this is a part of the Cross Vermont Bike Trail. The town is currently involved in a sidewalk study and will be looking for funding in the future and the RPC may be conducting a bicycle study in the future. Commissioner Minoli responded that a sidewalk has the potential to change the roadway character and could impact speeds in the area and once the project is complete they could reassess the speed limit.

Lt. Ravelin motioned to accept Traffic Operations' Recommendation. Commissioner Minoli seconded the motion.

The Traffic Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

- **Shrewsbury, VT-103, Speed Limit**

Mr. Degutis explained this is a continuation of a tabled item from the December meeting. The request is to review the speed limit through the village of Cuttingsville on VT-103. In 2022 the Traffic Committee lowered the speed limit on a 1 year trial basis. A follow up study in 2022 showed that speeds have not significantly changed and Traffic Operations' recommendation was to revert to the previous speed limits. The town indicated they were trying to increase enforcement and in 2023 the speeds had dropped somewhat but Traffic Operations' recommendation is to revert to the previous speed limits. Mr. Degutis explained the previous engineering studies, including the previous speed limits and the changes in speeds. The towns initial request was in relation to two fatal crashes in one year, neither was directly related to speed but Mr. Degutis understands the concern.

Mr. Wyatt on behalf of the selectboard is supportive of keeping the speed limit at 35-mph as originally requested and discussed the history and shared his views on the process of setting speed limits. He said that it's easier to turn on and off Spring Lake Rd which has 250 cars a day and a bus stop and the selectboard is planning to increase enforcement this year and have gotten a movable speed feedback sign.

Lt. Ravelin asked about the dedication to increasing enforcement, which is going from 4 to 8 hours if the town is able to get that from the Sherrif, and about the speed feedback sign location, which has been moving primarily from the northern end to the southern end.

Commissioner Minoli motioned to keep the speed limit at the current 35-mph. Lt. Ravelin seconded the motion.

The Traffic Committee voted unanimously to approve the motion.

- **Castleton, VT-30 & VT-4A, Speed Limit**

Mr. Degutis explained this request is to reduce the speed limit from 40-mph to 30-mph on all four approaches to the intersection of VT-30 and VT-4A in Castleton Corners. Three approaches are pretty built up and the last has an interesting geometry.

Traffic Operations' recommendation is to create 35-mph speed zones for approximately ¼ mile on all approaches, which is more in line with prevailing speeds, and extend the 40-mph zone on the north approach to the elementary school.

Lt. Ravelin motioned to accept Traffic Operations' recommendation. Commissioner Minoli seconded the motion.

The Traffic Committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

- **Williston, VT-2A, Speed Limit**

Mr. Degutis explained this request for an engineering study to review the speed limits is on VT-2A near Old Creamery Rd where there is a horizontal curve and grade change. The 85th percentile speeds showed relatively poor compliance and there have been quite a few crashes with a strong correlation to winter weather. Signage was upgraded in 2021 and the power company has done some tree clearing in this area.

Traffic Operations' recommendation is to retain the existing speed limit and to increase enforcement, it's unlikely that there will be good compliance with a reduced speed limit.

Commissioner Minoli motioned to accept Traffic Operations' recommendation. Lt. Ravelin seconded the motion.

The Traffic Committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Additional Agenda Item:

- **Starksboro, VT-116**

Traffic Operations recommends updating this certificate to match current conditions as the sign location is slightly different than the existing certificate. Lt. Ravelin motioned to update the No Parking certificate. Commissioner Minoli seconded the motion. The Traffic Committee voted unanimously to accept this motion.

- **Traffic Committee Administrative Rules**

Ms. James gave an update on the ongoing effort to update the Traffic Committee administrative rules. Changes include but are not limited to updating references to old departments and divisions that don't exist and fixing errors or references to statutes that are no longer valid or existent. There have been no substantive changes to what the rules were trying to accomplish, and changes mostly include clarification and cleaning up since some of the rules have been replaced by statute. Additional clarification and language was discussed among the members with Ms. James.

Commissioner Minoli motioned to tentatively approve the current changes with the intention to review additional changes to the reference to civil defense regulations via email. Lt. Ravelin seconded the motion.

The Traffic Committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Secretary Flynn adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

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

These minutes were approved on XX/XX/XXXX