

2040 Vermont Long Range Transportation Plan Update Public Involvement Plan

Introduction

Vermont Agency (VTrans) of Transportation is embarking upon an update of the Vermont Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP establishes the state's long-term vision for the transportation system, strategic direction, and priorities for implementing the vision over the next 20 years. The priorities in the plan manifest themselves in the projects included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Background

Since the most recent publication of the LRTP, the federal government has passed two comprehensive surface transportation acts: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) in 2012 and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. Each of these of these instituted new approaches to maintenance and management of the nation's transportation network, including state systems. MAP-21 focused on performance-based management and continued the emphasis on multi-modalism. The FAST Act continued in the same spirit and added new focus on freight movement, job creation and economic development, as well as accelerated project delivery and innovation. The update will align the LRTP with these areas of federal emphasis, reflect changes in Vermont that have occurred since the 2009 plan, and position VTrans to advance the transportation system into the future.

Process

VTrans Policy, Planning and Research Bureau staff will update the LRTP over the next 12 months. Work is mostly complete on the foundational information pieces for the update. This consists of the 2016 Statewide Transportation Public Opinion Survey, and an Existing Conditions and Future Trends report, covering a range of topics including:

- Transportation System Overview
- Summary of VTrans System Plans and Policies
- State & National Policy Review
- Energy & Climate Change
- Demographic & Economic Analysis
- Funding & Finance
- Land-Use
- Technological Change

This compilation of information will serve as the basis for kickoff of the plan update process and inform the Stakeholder and Outreach & Public Involvement Processes described below.

Plan Development

VTrans planning staff will develop the work products for stakeholder consideration and public comment. Work products will include the 2016 Statewide Transportation Public Opinion Survey, Existing Conditions and Future Trends report, presentation materials, summary of public outreach sessions with the Regional Planning Commissions, drafts of the LRTP, and a final LRTP. The plan will be consistent with the requirements of 23 CFR 450.216 – Development and Content of the Long-range Statewide Transportation Plan.

Stakeholder Meetings

VTrans will convene a broad range of external stakeholders to guide the development of the plan. External stakeholders will include partner state-agencies and departments including Natural Resources, Human Services, Economic Development, Public Safety, and Public Service, representatives of public transit, representatives of users of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, economic development organizations, and representatives of Vermont’s most vulnerable populations including elders and persons with disabilities. External stakeholders will also include representatives of Vermont’s Regional Planning Commissions and Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administrations. VTrans will also convene an internal stakeholder group to gain input from subject matter experts within the agency and to ensure awareness and understanding of the plan’s purpose and content throughout the organization.

Stakeholder meetings will occur at three points in the plan update process. The first will occur early in the process with meeting objectives including educating and informing stakeholders of the purpose of the LRTP, presenting the Existing Conditions & Future Trends report, and soliciting feedback regarding present and projected conditions and current and future transportation issues and trends. Stakeholders will convene a second time to review a summary of public input collected through the RPC outreach process (see below), and to discuss direction and policies to address the identified long-term issues. Stakeholders will convene a final time to review the draft recommended LRTP policies. Subsequent to the third & final stakeholder meetings, a draft final plan will be distributed and made available to all interested parties for review and comment.

VTrans will also seek input from the standing Aviation, Public Transit, and Rail Councils by requesting time on the agendas of the regular meetings of those bodies.

Outreach & Public Involvement

Consistent with VTrans’ adopted, “Process for Non-Metropolitan Local Official Participation in Statewide Transportation Planning”, VTrans will coordinate with the Regional Planning

Commissions (RPC) to solicit regional and local input throughout the state, utilizing the materials developed for the stakeholder meetings. Additionally, VTrans will work in cooperation and coordination with the CCRPC, representing the sole MPO urban area in Vermont, on the development of the plan.

There will be two rounds of visits to the RPC Transportation Advisory Committees in all regions of the state. The first round will take place over summer of 2017 to present the Existing Conditions & Future Trends report, and solicit feedback regarding current and projected conditions and trends in transportation and hear about regional issues and priorities. The second round will take place after the development of draft LRTP policies in early winter of 2017/18. RPCs will be encouraged to advertise the TAC meeting agenda broadly with notice of the LRTP update.

Project Website

VTrans will maintain a webpage for the LRTP update process. This webpage will provide background information on the purpose and content of the LRTP, house the work products developed throughout the process, and provide a portal for public comments. The location is <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/long-range-plan>

Timeline



Contact Information

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Public Involvement Milestones		
Milestone	Timeframe	How to Comment
DRAFT Existing Conditions & Future Trends Report	Posted to webpage May 26, 2017	Via e-mail or U.S. mail, or VTrans' Facebook account.
Stakeholder Meeting #1	June, 2017 (date TBD)	Attendees may comment during the meeting or submit comments via project webpage e-mail account, or written via U.S. Mail.
Round #1 - Regional Planning Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) presentations	June-September 2017 (Dates and times are to be determined.)	Attendees may comment during the meeting or submit comments via project webpage e-mail account, or written via U.S. Mail.
Summary of Stakeholder & Regional TAC meeting input	Posted to project webpage September 30, 2017	Via e-mail or U.S. mail, or VTrans' Facebook account.
Stakeholder Meeting #2	October, 2017 (date TBD)	Attendees may comment during the meeting or submit comments via project webpage e-mail account, or written via U.S. Mail.
DRAFT Priorities and Policies document	Posted to webpage December 15, 2017	Via e-mail or U.S. mail, or VTrans' Facebook account.
Round #2 - Regional Planning Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) presentations	January-March, 2018 (Dates and times are to be determined.)	Attendees may comment during the meeting or submit comments via project webpage e-mail account, or written via U.S. Mail.
Stakeholder Meeting #3	January, 2018 (date TBD)	Attendees may comment during the meeting or submit comments via project webpage e-mail account, or written via U.S. Mail.
DRAFT Vermont Transportation Plan	Posted to project webpage April 30, 2018	Via e-mail or U.S. mail, or VTrans' Facebook account.