



For Immediate Release
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Contact John Zicconi
802-828-2942

Transportation Board Announces Six Public Hearings

MONTPELIER – The Vermont Transportation Board this fall will hold six public hearings for the purpose of gathering public comment about State transportation policy associated with public transportation, train travel and highway safety, including bicycle and pedestrian safety as well as the possible legalization of marijuana.

Working with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the state's 11 Regional Planning Commissions, the Board identified these topics as ones of growing importance to many Vermonters. The Board wants to discuss these issues with the public to determine how future transportation policy can be shaped to best position Vermont to meet the needs of its many residents.

“Both nationally and in Vermont, people are driving less and seeking alternatives to the car for travel,” said Nick Marro, Chairman of the Transportation Board. “As a result, we want to better understand what Vermont can do transportation-wise to remain attractive as a place to live, work and raise a family, as well as what it can do to keep its roadways safe for not only motorists but also pedestrians and cyclists.”

The Transportation Board each year travels around the state to meet with Vermonters and discuss important transportation issues. Last year, the Board focused exclusively on college students and young professionals (ages 18-34) to better understand their preferred modes of travel. This year, the Board is expanding its program to include all other demographics.

Topics the Board plans to discuss include:

- Both nationally and in Vermont, people are driving less and seeking to use alternative modes of transportation. What does this mean for the State's future?
- What transportation options do people consider when choosing a place to live and work?
- How important are motor-vehicle alternatives such as rideshare, bicycle infrastructure, public transit, commuter rail, and vehicle-sharing such as Carshare Vermont and Zipcar?
- What urban transportation solutions can be adapted to rural areas?
- What should Vermont's future passenger train service look like?
- What can Vermont do to make both walking and riding a bicycle safer?
- If the State legalizes the use of marijuana, what should be done to help keep roadways safe?

At each hearing, the Board will present background information regarding each topic to set the stage for discussion and comment. Following the hearings, the Board will submit a written report to both VTrans and the Vermont Legislature. The Board also will post the report on its website.



Transportation Board

The Board will hold public hearings on the following dates:

1. **October 14:** Rockingham Town Hall, 6 p.m., Lower Theater, 7 Square, Bellows Falls. VT.
2. **October 15:** Northeastern Vermont Development Association, 6 p.m., NVDA Conference Room, 36 Eastern Ave, St. Johnsbury, VT.
3. **October 29:** Essex High School Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m., 2 Educational Drive, Essex Junction, VT.
4. **November 12:** La Quinta Inn & Suites, 6:30 p.m., 813 Fairfax Road, St. Albans City, VT.
5. **November 17:** Thatcher Brook Primary School Library, 6 p.m., 47 Stowe Street, Waterbury, VT.
6. **November 18:** Addison Regional Planning Commission, 6 p.m., 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT.

People who cannot attend a hearing can submit written comment by visiting the Board's website at <http://tboard.vermont.gov/>.

The upcoming hearings are being conducted pursuant to Title 19 V.S.A. § 5(d)(8), which charges the Transportation Board to work together with the Agency of Transportation to hold public hearings "for the purpose of obtaining public comment on the development of state transportation policy, the mission of the Agency, and state transportation planning, capital programming and program implementation."

For more information, contact the Board's Executive Secretary John Zicconi at john.zicconi@vermont.gov or by calling 802-828-2942.

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