

# Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Subject</b>	Vergennes PEL Study Policy Committee Meeting
<b>Date and Time</b>	January 6, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Virtual Via Zoom Meeting In-Person at the Vergennes Fire House, 50 Green Street, Vergennes, VT
<b>Policy Committee Member Attendees</b>	<p>Voting Members:</p> <p>Chair – Adam Lougee (ACRPC)          Kati Gallagher (VNRC)          Brent Rakowski (ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Chair)          Diane Lanpher (City of Vergennes), Municipal Appointee          Ron Redmond (City of Vergennes), Municipal Appointee          Matthew Bogaczyk (VTrans)          Matthew Arancio (VTrans)          Mary Rudd (Town of Panton), Municipal Appointee          Matt Birong (Representative of Addison-3 District), Vermont Legislature          Renny Perry (Vergennes Partnership), Business Community          Phil Summers (Addison County Chamber of Commerce), Business Community          Rhonda Williams (Town of Waltham), Municipal Appointee          Bill Smith (Vermont Truck and Bus Association), Trucking Industry**          Clark Hinsdale (Town of Ferrisburgh), Municipal Appointee**          Jubilee McGill (Representative of Addison-5 District), Vermont Legislature**          Mike Audy (Town of New Haven), Municipal Appointee**</p> <p>Non-Voting Members:</p> <p>Amy Bell (VTrans), Observer          Mike Winslow (ACRPC), Observer          Liz Shipley (FHWA), Observer          Faith Dall (VTrans), Observer**          Joel Perrigo (VTrans), Observer**          Jacqueline LeBlanc (FHWA), Observer**</p>
<b>Study Team Attendees</b>	<p>Stephanie Camay (WSP)          Delia Makhetha (WSP)          Stephen Chiamonte (WSP)          Annabelle Dally (WSP)          Maya Miller (WSP)          Ken Robie (DuBois &amp; King)          Jim Gish (VHB)</p>
<b>Public Attendees</b>	<p>Mel Hawley (Vergennes Property Owner)          Terry Pelletier (Panton Resident)</p>

\*Joined late

\*\*Invited, but not present

## Meeting Synopsis

The meeting was officially called to order at 11:04 a.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025, by Adam

Lougee, the Chair of the Policy Committee as quorum was met. Following the acceptance of the agenda and the official roll call, Adam Lougee turned the meeting over to Stephanie Camay, a study team member with WSP, to give the presentation.

The presentation included a brief study overview, an update on the study timeline, a review of the role of the Policy Committee, and a discussion on the content of the Alternatives Evaluation Technical Memorandum. The purpose of the meeting was for the Policy Committee to reach consensus on the approval of the study team’s recommendation and on proceeding to NEPA, pending funding. Members of the Policy Committee were encouraged to ask questions and provide additional feedback on the Alternatives Evaluation Technical Memorandum. The team restated the transportation solutions being studied and the study’s Purpose and Need. The team provided an overview of relevant meetings held, including the VTrans Leadership Briefing on December 5, 2024, and the Technical Committee and Coordinating Agency Meeting on December 13, 2024, and subsequent comments made which resulted in an additional assessment of historic and cultural resources, a review of estimated construction costs, and the addition of potential project development costs. The team then reviewed the alternatives evaluation, and the resulting recommendation of the study team as presented in the Alternatives Evaluation Technical Memorandum. The study team recommends dismissing the Purple Route Alternative for not meeting the Purpose and Need for transportation or for local and regional issues, as well as the Green and Orange Route Alternatives, which meet the Purpose and Need for transportation, but not for local and regional issues. The study team recommends advancing the Blue and Pink Route Alternatives, as well as the No Build Alternative per NEPA.

Adam Lougee opened the meeting to public comments. Two public participants were present. Mel Hawley, a property owner in Vergennes spoke first. He noted his house would be impacted by the Pink Route Alternative and that he also served on the Board of the cemetery, which could also be impacted. Mel encouraged the Policy Committee to reject the study team’s recommendations and pursue a more creative and less costly approach to utilizing the existing roadways on the purple route. Terry Pelletier, a Panton resident, spoke next and supported Mel’s opinion on the route alternatives and the study team’s recommendations.

Stephanie Camay reminded the Policy Committee that the questions before them were whether they, “approve the Alternatives Evaluation Technical Memorandum and the study team’s recommendation” and “approve proceeding to NEPA, pending funding.” Of the sixteen voting Policy Committee members, twelve were present to vote.

Renny Perry, Vergennes Partnership, made the motion to support the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Matt Birong, State Representative from the Addison –3 District. Brent Rakowski, ACRPC TAC, asked if there was interest in amending that motion to include a local alternative which would be the Purple Route. Adam Lougee referred the question to the members who made and seconded the motion. Renny Perry responded that the request deserves some consideration and that he would agree to amending the motion as long as the amendment would not hold up or interfere with the process moving ahead. Renny Perry requested clarification. Matthew Arancio,

VTrans, stated that it would not prevent the study moving forward to the NEPA process. Mary Rudd, Town of Panton, requested voting on Brent Rakowski’s suggestion first followed by the acceptance of the study team’s recommendation followed by approval to move forward to NEPA. Renny Perry and Matthew Birong withdrew the motion and the second to accommodate the change in order of voting that Mary requested.

Mary Rudd, made the motion “the Policy Committee recommends the Purple Route Alternative be included for consideration with both the Pink and Blue Route Alternatives.” Brent Rakowski seconded the motion. After no further discussion, Adam Lougee called for a vote on the motion. Eleven responded “yes,” none responded “no,” and one abstained. The motion passed. The Policy Committee recommends the Purple Route Alternative be further studied, along with the Pink and Blue Route Alternatives.

Renny Perry made the motion “to accept the study team’s recommendations.” Ron Redmond seconded the motion. After no further discussion, Adam Lougee called for a vote on the motion. Nine responded “yes,” two responded “no,” and one abstained. The motion passed. The Policy Committee accepts the study team’s recommendations.

Renny Perry made the motion “to proceed to NEPA.” Rhonda Williams seconded the motion. After no further discussion, Adam Lougee called for a vote on the motion. Eleven responded “yes,” none responded “no,” and one abstained. The motion passed. The Policy Committee approves proceeding to NEPA.

	Motion 1	Motion 2	Motion 3
Katie Gallagher	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
Brent Rakowski	Yes	No	Yes
Diane Lanpher	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ron Redmond	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matthew Bogaczyk	Yes	Yes	Yes
Matthew Arancio	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mary Rudd	Yes	No	Yes
Matt Birong	Yes	Yes	Yes
Renny Perry	Yes	Yes	Yes
Phil Summers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhonda Williams	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adam Lougee, Chair	Yes	Yes	Yes

Bill Smith, Clark Hinsdale, Jubilee McGill, Mike Audy – not present

Stephanie Camay, WSP, provided an overview of next steps before Adam Lougee, the Chair of the Policy Committee, closed the meeting. The meeting was officially adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

*Note – More detailed meeting notes will be published on the study website (<https://vergennesspel.com/committees-agency-coordination/>), along with a recording of the meeting.*