

Transportation Board Report Highlights

The Board held six hearings in the following locations: Bennington, Middlebury, Morristown, Newport, Springfield and St. Albans. Average attendance was 30 people, with a low of 10 in Morristown and a high of 45 in Middlebury.

The Board also took comment from more than 60 people electronically through its website. All told, the Board heard from about 250 people during its process, which started in mid October and ran through the end of November.

While many issues were raised and discussed, the following are the highlights:

Transportation Revenue:

- VMT support when couched as port of alternate-fuel taxation discussion.
- Alter DMV fee to take into account vehicle size and weight.
- Lower Annual JTOC Transfer: \$25.3 million now to \$22.75 this year and \$20.25 next.

Bike & Pedestrian Issues:

- Simplify sidewalk grants.
- Need more sidewalks and crosswalks with pedestrian-controlled signals.
- Increase shoulder width, better pavement condition and sweeping.
- Focus on roadways that connect residential areas to “destinations.”
- Harsher penalties for impaired driving, including vehicle impoundment and breath interlock vehicle starters.

Freight and Passenger Railroad:

- Selling state-owned track – 50-50, but could change mind if \$ is worth it.

Public Transit: Intercity Bus and Elderly Services:

- Widespread support for intercity bus expansion.
- Widespread support for filling the gap to fully fund on-demand elderly services.
- Buses and trains need to run more often, reach more destinations and easily connect to each other for longer trips.

Highway Safety:

- Primary seat-belt law.
- Stop impaired driving.
- Curb speed and aggressive driving.
- Better pavement so drivers don't try to avoid potholes and rough spots.

Park & Ride Expansion:

- Suggested a dozen new lots – locations noted in report.