

**Sunset Advisory Commission  
Board and Commission Review**

***Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee - 19 V.S.A. § 38***

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

The grant committee meets annually to select projects for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program. By statute they meet and select projects annually and announced not earlier than December and not later than the following March. The committee met on January 3, 2017 and February 13, 2018. The agenda has been reviewing the compilation of project scores as the grant applications are scored prior to the meeting and making awards based on the available funding amount. Minutes are sent to each member of the committee.

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

Committee makeup is 12 members as codified in 19 V.S.A. §38 and comprises of members of 4 state agencies, 3 municipal representatives appointed by VLCT, 1 member of VAPDA and two members each of the House and the Senate. Although terms are meant to be 2 years, this has not been followed by the committee. Committee members do not receive any per diem.

- Senator Richard T. Mazza
- Senator Margaret Flory
- Representative Timothy Corcoran
- Representative Dave Potter
- Roland Simmons, Chair Orwell Selectboard, VLCT
- Jared Cadwell, Chair Fayston Select Board, VLCT
- Todd Odit, Town Administrator Jericho, VLCT
- Bonnie Waninger, Central VT RPC, VAPDA

- Michele Boomhower, AOT Director of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development
- Billy Coster, ANR Director of Planning
- Wendy Knight, Commissioner, ACCD Department of Tourism and Marketing
- Laura Trieschmann, ACCD State Historic Preservation Officer

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

To select Transportation Alternatives grant projects.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

There is still a need to have grant projects selected for funding. However, no other VTrans grant programs have a committee makeup codified in statute. Rather, selection committees are convened with appropriate technical staff from VTrans and other appropriate state agencies. Sometimes non- state agency staff is included – for instance from a regional planning commission. In reality, VTrans does convene such a group for the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program to provide the committee details as to whether or not project proposals are eligible for funding, if the project will result in the desired outcomes, etc. For instance, all funding last year and this next year for this program is all to go to projects that will lead to water quality benefits. The committee does not have the technical expertise to determine this.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The committee is making grant selections based on input from VTrans.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

The process could be undertaken by the Agency in a manner similar to the award of other grants based on specific ranking criteria established for the program. The Yes, essentially one less step of coordination with the official grant committee could be removed.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

Yes, the functions overlap with the process that VTrans undertakes in assessing grant applications and their eligibility and effectiveness. Removal of the committee process would streamline the program and align it with other grant programs administered by the Agency.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

There were no costs incurred as the committee does not receive compensation.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

No, this is not applicable to the grant selection committee.