

## **Clean Cities Roundtable**

**March 28, 2007**

**University of Vermont**

**Attendees: About 45 (Attendee list and PPT slides attached).**

**Submitted: Richard Watts – Comments Welcome**



**Attendees at March 28 CC meeting**

### **1) Clean Cities Background and Introductions**

UTC Director Lisa Aultman-Hall discussed the mission of the Department of Energy Clean Cities program and some of the common core activities.

“The mission of the Clean Cities program is to advance the economic, environmental and energy security of the U.S. *by supporting local decisions to adopt practices that contribute to reduced petroleum consumption in the transportation sector.*”

Lisa underscored the local, petroleum reduction and transportation parts of this mission for the Vermont Clean Cities focus. (While most Clean Cities are cities or regions, the Vermont Clean Cities is a statewide organization).

As part of the introductory round, attendees were each asked for one example of a successful Clean Cities related projects or petroleum reduction strategies from anywhere in the world.

### **Some general Clean Cities ideas mentioned by attendees.**

Ride-sharing

Clean school buses

Electric vehicles

CNG buses partnership between UVM and Burlington

Ride the Wind transit system in Calgary (wind powering transportation fuel)

Selling car and walking

2007 diesel engine standards

Way to Go Week  
 Biking and walking path/road network  
 Link Express bus successes  
 Promoting living where you work  
 CATMA surveys and increased walking and biking around UVM  
 Biodiesel in fleet vehicle  
 Safe Routes to Schools programs  
 Careba, Brazil  
 Bike trucks  
 Bus transit for all and in rural areas  
 Spending a week without a car  
 Sustainable transportation at Shelburne Farms including horses  
 Hydrogen Station on Toronto fueled by wind  
 Burlington's Hydrogen station  
 Portland Oregon's commitment to biking, including complete network  
 Walking and biking as obesity prevention  
 Idling prevention  
 South Burlington's new downtown center that promotes walking and biking  
 electric vehicles setting the stage for hybrids  
 British rail system  
 Transit bus ridership increases  
 Changing mindsets  
 Bike taxis / bike trucks



Gina Campoli from VTrans with Lisa Aultman-Hall

Shared taxis  
 Electric municipal vehicles  
 Alternative fuels into fleet vehicles  
 Unlimited access programs for university students  
 Drive 55 campaign  
 Reducing VMT  
 Horse drawn trash collection



Urban growth boundaries  
Workplace programs  
Foldable stackable cars



Elaine Wang, Peter Plumeau from WSA and Susan Bandfield from Riders Of Vermont

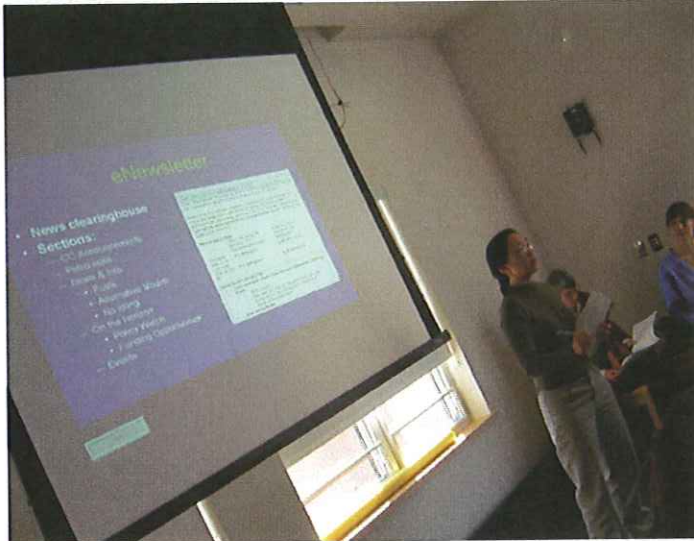
## 2. Vermont Clean Cities program

Lisa reviewed the emphasis of the program, which is to support **local** priorities to reduce **petroleum** consumption in the **transportation** sector. Lisa discussed the existing Clean City program presently coordinated through UVM's University Transportation Center (or in process) which include a bi-weekly e-newsletter, shared grant writing, other collaborations, information clearinghouse, data gathering and the annual update of a report on alternative fueled vehicles in Vermont. Lisa also presented an overview of the University Transportation Center and the areas of overlap between the UTC's mission of "Sustainable Transportation and Advanced Technology in Northern Communities" and the Clean Cities program. Areas of overlap include shared research interests, and the skills of UVM faculty and researchers in grant writing as a strong area of collaboration between the UTC, the Clean Cities program and community partners. (For the UTC overview see PPT or <http://www.uvm.edu/~transctr/>).

A question which Lisa asked of the stakeholders is what data set they feel Clean Cities Vermont should report as "the" metric (gallons sold? VMT? PMT?) Future detailed input on this item will be sought. Participants were asked to keep in mind that Clean Cities should be providing data in a way that no one else currently is. Links to existing resources are also appropriate.

Elaine Wang, a graduate student at UVM, who coordinates the Clean Cities e-newsletter asked for comments. About 250 presently receive the e-newsletter today. Suggestions for improving the e-newsletter including utilizing more hotlinks at the top to facilitate skimming through it, linking weekly data on gas prices to more long-term trend charts,

adding a bike/walk section and linking to schools and those active in schools. There was also a suggestion to expand the list or do a separate one to interested citizens occasionally.



Graduate student Elaine Wang

### **3. Kelly Launder, Department of Public Service**

Kelly gave an overview of the Clean Cities program as a nationwide network, with experience and knowledge which can be tapped for local issues. She also reviewed Department of Energy and some possible funding opportunities, stressing that idling technology is a current major grant program focus, but that other programs are also funded, especially biodiesel in the eastern U.S. Competing nationally is difficult but having the UTC as a partner adds potential opportunities. The research interests and overlap of the UTC is an area to explore and leverage. Kelly was asked about biofuels and anti-idling ordinances.

### **5. Discussion of Clean Cities work-plan for '07-'08**

In addition to the activities discussed in item #2, the Clean Cities program will take on one "special task" each year within the constraints of the \$20,000 in funding provided. That special task could be data collection, a report, a conference, an event or anything else that people can think of.

A final decision will not be made until July, 2007 when the Clean Cities program is formally handed over to the University Transportation Center. Ideas are still welcome or response and suggestions to any of these. We will keep you posted as we move towards making a decision about that "special task."

#### **Some suggestions by category: (Duplicate comments only listed once).**

Support and education for fleet managers exploring and trying to understand AFV issues, for example expanding the use of Burlington's CNG station.



Clean Cities can't do everything, public outreach is a big part of it, and we have to think about schools, fleets and the public.

Promoting alternatives to tourists (78 percent arrive in cars) in Vermont and getting around without their cars in coordination with tourism industry.

Tell the story of the success of student bus ridership at UVM and expand that program and work with students to do more in the community.

Work around the schools is the long-term investment that is needed as the school children then bring those ideas home, e.g. curriculum.

Bringing rural teens into urban areas via transit or vanpools [a late addition]

Riders with disabilities (in many cases these citizens lack access but their limited transportation is more sustainable than the average car-driving citizen)

### **Strategies**

More public outreach, public relations around these issues (newsworthy events), potentially using UVM resources.

Get a statewide conversation going around these issues. Reach beyond the normal suspects. Reach beyond Chittenden County. Talk about what it will take to get people out of their SOVs.

DRBs as the place where many of these decisions are made and working with them on these issues. Potentially with VLCT as a partner.

Seasonally appropriate messaging

State-wide Town Hall conversations

Promoting Clean Cities objectives in existing forums/networks



BED's Mary Sullivan and VSJF Director Ellen Kahler

### **Data**

Getting data on VMT or Person Miles Traveled as our metric. And it's not just VMT it's what kind of cars and how those cars are fueled. (Vermont Poll and other UVM efforts)

Data on how many people bike and walk.

### **Transportation Demand Management:**

Continuation and support of "Way to Go Week."

Commitment to Transportation Demand Management strategies (TDM)

A second "Way to Go Week"-type event in the fall

Getting people out of their cars is hard, but helping them do it once makes it more likely it can happen again.

Decreasing the amount of cars used in urban areas such as Burlington.

Promotion of "Way to Go Week" and help it be effective statewide.

Car sharing programs.

Park and ride lots and commuter programs.

Promoting biking and walking by disseminating practical how-to ideas and tools.

Raising the cost of parking or reports around parking issues and best practices reports on parking for small Vermont communities.

Parking issues around the airport.

Parking in Montpelier also an issue, particularly with the season.

The MPO is building a GIS data base on parking issues that could be useful to thinking about parking issues.

### **Public Transit**

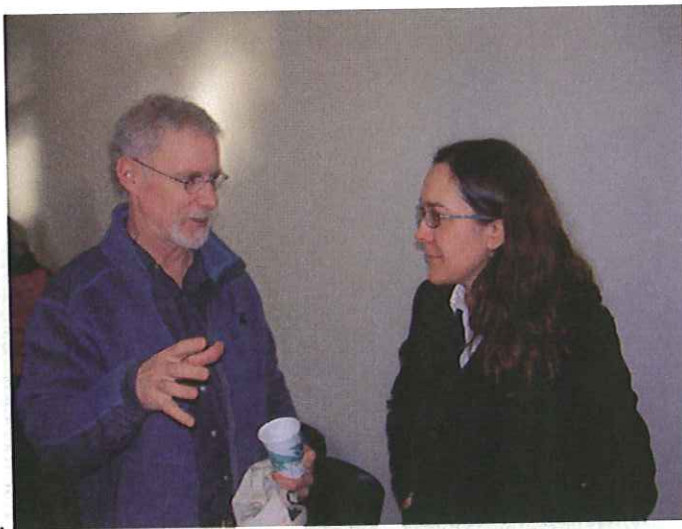
Promote public transportation. For example, target one region and help them enhance their systems.

Highlight and educate regarding the funding dilemma for public transit and take an active role in being an advocate for greater spending on public transit.

Promote the choices that do exist, particularly on moving into village and urban centers.

### **Idling**

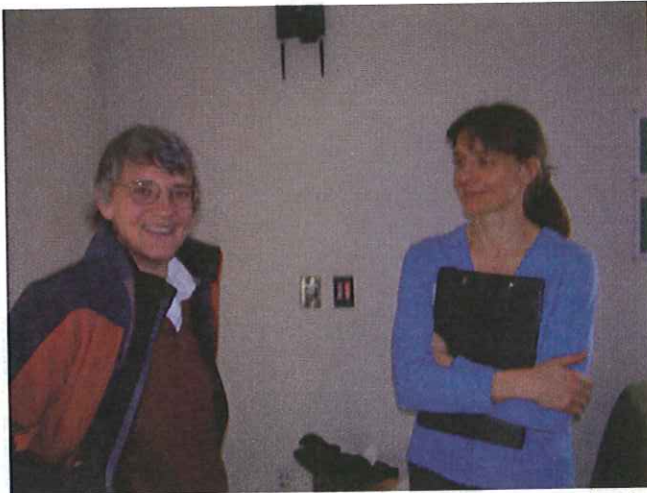
Supporting communities with anti-idling ordinances and expanding those statewide as Winter comes on



CCMPO Transportation Planner Peter Keating and UVM Graduate Student Emily Stebbins

### **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

- ◆ Continue and improve enewsletter (action by UVM – Spring 2007)
- ◆ Document AFV databases (action by UVM, with review from stakeholders – Spring 2007)
- ◆ Comments on Roundtable Minutes (all stakeholders – April 2007)
- ◆ Get new web site up and running (UVM with input from stakeholders – April – May 2007)
- ◆ Hire program coordinator (he or she attends regional clean Cities Meeting in June)
- ◆ Yearly special task is decided (July 1 2007)
- ◆ Special task is accomplished (Fall 2007)



UVM Parking & Transportation Director Katherine Decarreau and UVM Enviromental Coordinator Gioia Thompson