

Public Transit Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 15, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present(alphabetical): Richard Amore, Matthew Arancio, Stephanie Beck, Michele Boomhower, Rep. Mollie Burke, Adams Carroll, Clayton Clark, Dan Currier, Chip Desautels, Tammy Fay, Caleb Grant, Sen. Wendy Harrison, Elaine Haytko, Lucas Herring, Peter Johnke, Adam Lawrence, Ross MacDonald, Jim Moulton, Devon Neary, Ken Putnam, Stephanie Reilly, Randy Schoonmaker, Angela Smith-Diery and Gwynn Zakov

Minutes:

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

Senator Wendy Harrison & Rep. Mollie Burke welcomed along with all attendees. Michele Boomhower opened with comments on the budget allocation and acknowledged support from the General Assembly and appreciation for the upcoming work needed to move towards the next legislative session.

Review of Minutes:

Review and approval of March 2023 PTAC minutes/record Approved without comment.

Panel Presentations & Discussions

- Legislative Updates – \$850k added to the Public Transit Budget, specifically for GMT to maintain zero-fare service until January 2024. The rest of the budget is likely going to be in the final t-bill. Testimony provided on transit program overview, budget, zero-fare study, micro transit pilots, demand response programs, GO Vermont, and the Mobility and Transportation (MTI) grant program.
- Recommendations on funding source for nonfederal match report: The Vermont Public Transportation Association, in consultation with the Agency of Transportation and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns shall provide a written recommendation on one or more funding sources for the nonfederal match required of public transit providers operating in the statewide transit system no later than January 15, 2024.
- 2023 Vermont Elders and Persons with a Disability Summit review. Next year, with federal guidance, the summit will be renamed to Older Adults and Persons with a Disability. Discussion of trip costs and how to bend the rising curve of costs back down. New surveys going out. Capstones new Gopher program outlined. Community Driver program. Are there more organizations and people to provide more trips to the demand response programs and how to reach them and replicate successes throughout the state discussed. Next year's Summit will be in person.
- Micro transit Feasibility Studies Report and Pilots. Net costs per passenger, utilization, annual costs, annual ridership broken down through communities. Urban vs. small town and demand response vs. tourism.
- SFY'24 Grant Awards and Projects – MVRTD facility, pending 17 unit e-bus application, Central Vt transit facility, 5 micro transit pilots, community driver pilot at RCT, statewide bus RFP, Community Rides (Gopher) Mobility for All Pilot, Q-Ryde implementation, Pole-Barn at RCT & GMT "Fair Fare" policies and related infrastructure
- Provider Highlight -Rural Community Transportation (RCT) Caleb Grant introduction: What makes RCT different and public transportation for the Northeast Kingdom and Lamoille County different. RCT's impact

on the community. Micro transit's ability to empower people will be exciting to see in the pilot launch. Overall, the goal is to diversify their service portfolio and remove transportation hurdles. We look forward to alleviating fleet issues soon.

- Tri-State Conference in Killington on September 6 & 7. Introduction to Elaine Haytko to go over conference agenda.

Member Updates

No comments or discussions