## "We have the right and we need better transportation"

# Mobility, community, and connection of Latin American migrant workers in Vermont

Julia LanzDuret-Hernandez (they/them)

Sarah Grajdura, PhD (she/her)

Dana Rowangould, PhD (she/her)

Funded by the National Center for Sustainable Transportation



TRANSPORTATION
RESEARCH CENTER

## Study background & details

#### **Purpose:**

Understand transportation needs and experiences of Latin American migrant workers in VT

#### **Vermont context:**

- Rural
- Border state
- Driver's privilege card (DPC)
- Newer migrant populations

### Research design:

- Semi-structured interviews
- Conducted in Spanish



## Factors contributing to migrant mobility in VT

Car & License

Documentation status & border proximity

Knowledge of transportation options

- Driver's licenses and car provide freedom for self
   & others via informal travel networks
- Overall, obtaining Driver Privilege Card (DPC)



- Knowledge of transportation options and how to attain them poses bigger barrier than affordability
- Importance of personal networks

## Potential mobility solutions

## **Create safe environment for migrants** (regardless of documentation status)

- Continue to offer permissive driver's licenses in VT, expand elsewhere
- Separate routine traffic stops and immigration enforcement (ICE)

#### Improved information distribution

- Native language options
- Ways to get license

#### Transit agencies and ride programs

- Reliable transportation (rides there AND back)
- Reach new & isolated migrants
- Respectful environment & cultural competency

Partner with and support community organizations working with migrants



### Additional information

LanzDuret-Hernandez, J., Grajdura, S., Rowangould, D. (2024) "We have the right and we need better transportation": Mobility, community, and connection of Latin American migrant workers in Vermont. *Journal of Transport Geography*. 118, 1039447. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2024.103947">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2024.103947</a>

#### Questions?

<u>Dana.Rowangould@uvm.edu</u> Julia.LanzDuret-Hernandez@uvm.edu

## Acknowledgments

The study was sponsored by the National Center for Sustainable Transportation at The University of Vermont. The authors would like to thank all of the study's participants, Marita Canedo and Migrant Justice, Peggy O'Neill Vivanco, Sierra Espeland, Holly Foster, Maisie Melican, Calvin Wuthrich, and Alvaro Nadal-Alvarez for assistance with data collection and analysis.



