



Public Transit Policy Plan

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PTAC

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Title 24 V.S.A. §5083

State policy shall support the maintenance of existing public transit services and creation of new services including, in order of precedence, the following goals:

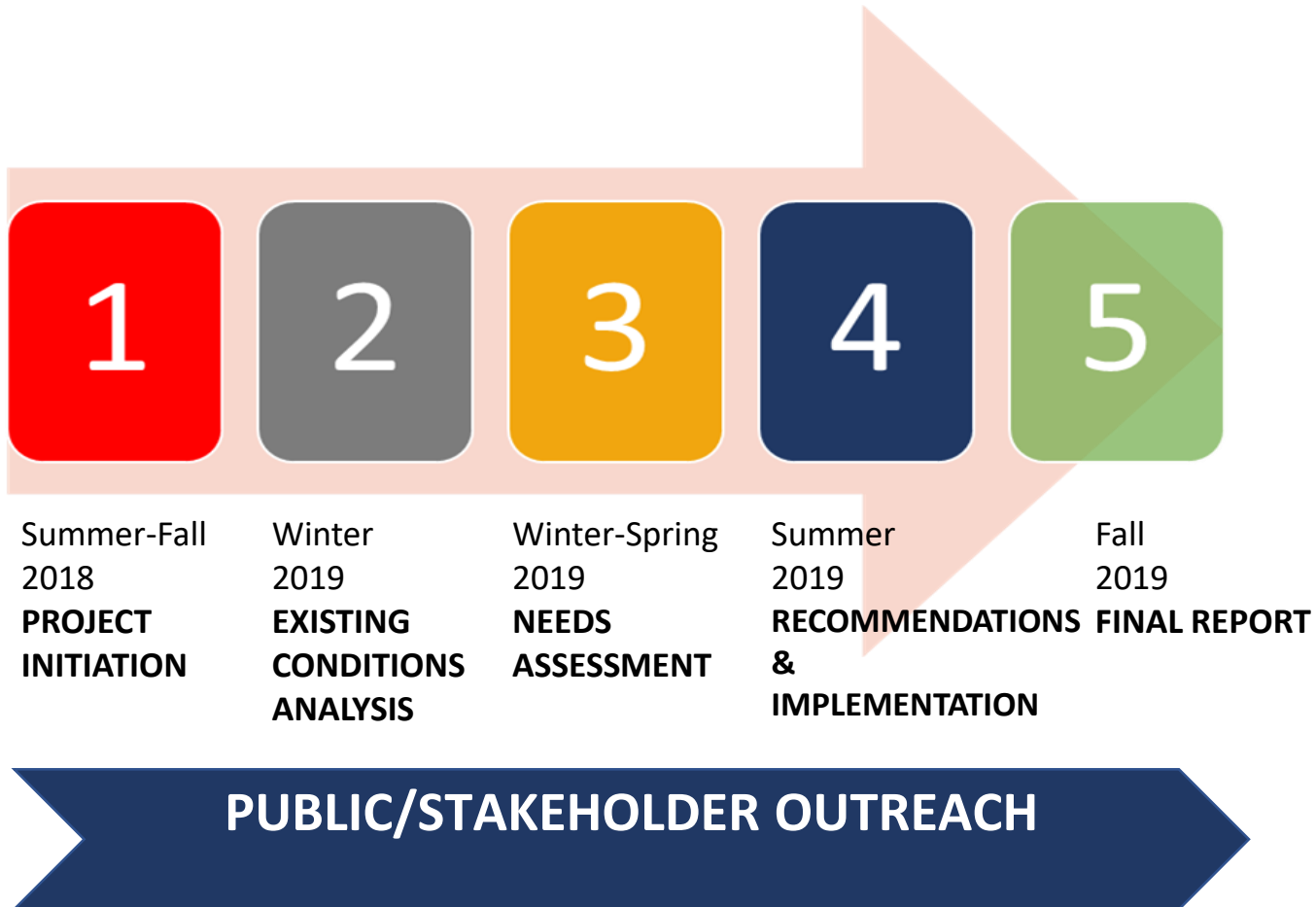
- Basic mobility for transit-dependent persons.
- Access to employment.
- Congestion mitigation to preserve air quality and sustainability of the highway network.
- Advancement of economic development objectives, including services for workers and visitors that support the travel and tourism industry.



Goals of the Project

- Develop a 10-year vision for improved transit in Vermont
- Update state policies for public transportation
- Incorporate human service transportation coordination plan into the PTPP
- Engage the public and key stakeholders

The PTPP Process





Progress Thus Far

- ❑ National best practices review
- ❑ Prior studies review
- ❑ Transit service existing conditions analysis
- ❑ AOT Transit Program overview
- ❑ Analysis of other issues
- ❑ 7 E&D Committees assessed



Outreach Efforts Thus Far

- Regular attendance at PTAC
- Briefings to partner organizations (DAIL, VPTA, TPI)
- Regional forums
- MetroQuest survey
- Stakeholder interviews
- Study Advisory Committee



Future Outreach Efforts

- Attending E&D Committee meetings statewide (January-March)
- Second round of MetroQuest survey to obtain feedback about potential solutions (Summer)
- Presentations at RPC Transportation Advisory Committee meetings (Summer)
- Study Advisory Committee Meeting (Summer, Fall)
- Final round of partner organization meetings (Fall)



Regional Forums – Existing Conditions

- ❑ Current transit services (local, regional, intercity)
- ❑ Land use patterns – challenge for transit in rural areas
- ❑ Important trip generators
 - ❑ Employment and retail
 - ❑ Medical, educational and human services
- ❑ Demographic analysis of region
 - ❑ Population density
 - ❑ Employment
 - ❑ Transit propensity (composite index)
 - ❑ Characteristics (age, disability, auto ownership, income)
 - ❑ Commuting to key job centers



Regional Forums – Needs Analysis

- Current services – strengths and weaknesses
- Geographic service gaps
- Temporal service gaps
- Trip type gaps
- Accessibility needs
- Technology challenges
- Information gaps
- Affordability gaps



Regional Forums – Potential Solutions

- Information
 - One-call/One-click system including planning and reservations
- Service Enhancements
 - Expanded service areas and hours
- Complement Existing Network
 - Volunteer driver program enhancements
- Accessibility Improvements
 - More sidewalks or curb cuts
- Technology
 - Mobile information



High Priority Solutions

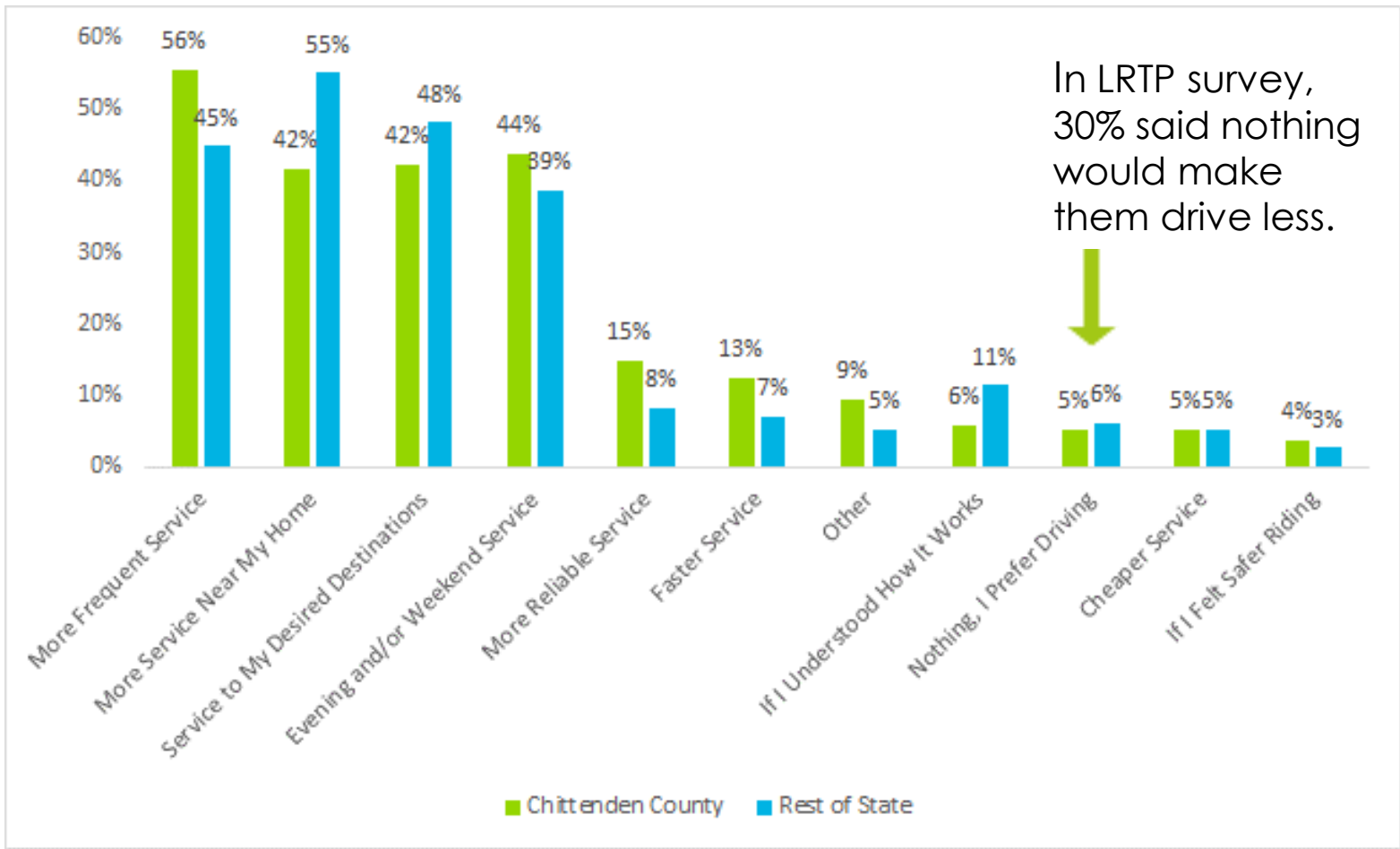
- Enhancements to volunteer driver programs
- Expanded service areas
- Extended service hours
- One-call/one-click system
- Better mobile information (highest priority in Chittenden)



MetroQuest Survey

- Widely used online engagement tool
 - Complements regional meetings and interviews
 - Spread word through website, social media, emails
- Sought 500 responses, but over 1,200 responses obtained
- Not a statistically valid sample
 - Likely reflects people with an interest in public transit
 - Not weighted to reflect Vermont demography
- Comparisons to 2016 LRTP Survey
 - 2,496 responses, weighted by demographics
 - Based on random sample of addresses

What would encourage you to use transit more often?





Next Steps: Needs Assessment

- Market Analysis
 - How do the various types of gaps affect the market segments?
 - How do the market segments relate to the policy goals?
- Resource Analysis
 - Estimate resources to meet needs of each market segment
 - Define level of service goals (# annual trips)
 - Multiply by population in each segment and then average trip cost
 - Consider fully meeting needs vs. meeting lifeline needs



Next Steps: Other Opportunities

- Volunteer drivers More efficient use of current pool of drivers
 - Expand the pool of drivers
- Rides to Wellness
 - Sustainable funding from the health sector to overcome transportation barriers to health care
- Cooperation with surrounding states (NH, NY, MA)
 - Cross-border collaboration and integration of service
- Strengthening ties to the community
 - Enhancing community “ownership” of local transit services



Next Steps: Recommendations

- ❑ Revise policies, goals, objectives and actions
- ❑ Enhance/update performance measurement system
- ❑ Implementation plan
 - ❑ Statewide initiatives
 - ❑ E.g. Rides to Wellness, Mobility on Demand
 - ❑ Technology applications
 - ❑ Strategies for human service transportation
- ❑ Monitoring plan
- ❑ Final report



Timeline

- Needs assessment – Winter/Spring 2019
- Recommendations – Spring/Summer 2019
- Final report – September 2019
- Meetings and public outreach – throughout project

Keep track of progress at vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/PTPP