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**Public Transit Advisory Council**

**September 16, 2021 1:00pm – 2:30pm**

**Meeting Notes**

1:00pm Welcome and Introductions – Ross MacDonald

1:05pm Review and approval of the June 2021 PTAC minutes/record **(attached)**

* 17 in attendance
* Approve June meeting notes (approved)

1:10pm COVID-Related Operations and Updates. Dan Currier and Tim Bradshaw

* Covid-19 survey results (see charts in PPP) – Dan Currier
	+ Steady increase in ridership
	+ 50-60% ridership
	+ Feb 2019 400-500k – Dip in 2020 due to pandemic (50% Mar-80% Apr)
	+ Dip in user app and ridership
	+ App increase due to marketing
	+ Cost have decreased due to free and supplemented fees
	+ PPD helped with ridership fears
	+ What will costs look like through 2023
	+ TIM- Operations Covid-19
	+ Questions providers are asking riders are helping with ridership
		- Jane Kitchel- Have passengers rejected questions asked by providers? (Tim – No. People feel safe and the masks that are handed out have helped the experience)
	+ Social distancing has been lifted/safety shields still in place
	+ Minimal service disruptions
	+ Anyone interested in becoming a driver or volunteer contact the providers
	+ Mask mandate extended will alert public with changes
	+ State air purification research still at work

1:30pm FY ’22 Legislative Directives. Fare-Free Study, Multi-Modal Connectivity Review, Electrification Plan and Feasibility Study

* What/how do we maintain fare free
* Multi- modal connectivity review; how/ where meet buses
* Will have report before legislative session
* Electrification plan; what is involved and how to get over charging challenges
	+ Larger battery for overnight use, better rates?
	+ Routes are using larger buses and need more charging
	+ Working with GMT to switch larger buses
	+ Christine Howe - Exciting time; transforming transit is a positive
* Jane Kitchel - Federal infrastructure bill- potential more money coming to support transit
* 5339 exciting (5 for 5 on grant approvals)
* Jon Moore- Fare free are we giving away $? No. We are giving away services (will conduct a level of surveys for fares) Are we putting cab companies out of service?
* Lucas Herring – Are there other transit options for hospital release or work in non-Populus hours? We have invested in pilots to see what the needs truly are (did not see level of need for these services.) Could Barre be the pilot (Mobility for All)?
* Brenda Siegel – When working on microtransit do you have relevant panel to get accurate answers? We have a board of people that use the service, but this is a concern. Assist with AHS for options.

1:55pm FY’23 Initial Budget Review

* Overall funding for this year down a bit due to capital. Continue to benefit (see budget PPP) Does not capture remaining Covid-19 funds (setting aside for capital needs) Possibly to find a better product then RouteMatch
* New location GMT offices
* Improvements for Randolph facility
* New modes for riders (have to rely on competitive grant funds)
* GoVermont redo budget for MTI grant

2:10pm Pilot project updates

* COVID Research Grant – Dan
* Covid -19 reaserch grant incorporating uv lights / aerosol viruses (UVM) through filters. Testing now- OCT. Run 3 months of testing. How will people feel about this.. Safe/clean. Present prelim in Jan done in June.
* Microtransit Service and Feasibility Studies
* Work with GMT to make sure service times are viable. Reach out to Jamie Smith to participate. Pilot has slowed due to pandemic
* Feasibility study start tomorrow. Response to actual demand. Study finished by March of 2022. Slide delivered for final meeting
* MTI grant
	+ Launch new e-bike share
	+ 3 new lending libraries
	+ Locomotion to replace bike racks at schools (kids/staff)
	+ Working with older adults on the GO Vermont app
	+ Public school transit routes
	+ 14 applications received in 2021 (7 awards $300,000 Oct 2021)
	+ Reduction in greenhouse gases

2:20pm Member Updates

* Brenda from COVE; published a guide Have employees to help people get connected and stay in touch with rider to help through process. Grant through AOT for Justice access.
* If your stuck for long time need help for second half of ride. Cost sharing with E&D (providers; can anyone help?)
* Elaine; Medicaid has standards that will not go over an hour rate.
* Jane Kitchel; Vermonters will have many opportunities to express needs and wants
* Bonnie; we need to place transit according to “growth along routes not put routes where growth is…local match becomes skewed.”
* Ross; Smart growth is hard.

2:40pm Adjourn