

Public Transit Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present(alphabetical): Stephanie Beck, Michelle Boomhower, Rep. Mollie Burke, Adams Carroll, Clayton Clark, Chip Desautels, Tammy Fay, Caleb Grant, Sen. Wendy Harrison, Lucas Herring, Isaak Kaplan, Benjamin Lake, Ross MacDonald, Jim Moulton, Logan Nicoll, Dave Pelletier, Randy Schoonmaker, Rita Seto, Angela Smith-Dieng and Terence White

Minutes:

Review of Minutes:

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

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

Ross MacDonald welcomed all attending and opened with the success of the Tri-State Conference. The take aways being the future of transit, modes and technology, marketing, outreach, shared workforce concerns and the need for more cross-border projects.

Provider Spotlight: Green Mountain Transit presented by Clayton Clark. Public Transit is a Human Services job. GMT is dealing with some reduced services due to staffing but is managing and working to retain and attract new employees. Safety is a big concern at the transit center. Addressing the concern in a human service vs. enforcement way is crucial. GMT will be returning to fares for urban services. Much thought has gone into the fares and GMT is trying to limit financial impacts. They will explore more options for discounts and ways organizations and family can contribute funds to those needing help with the fares. Rural will remain fare free. More electric buses have been ordered and hopes are that reliability concerns will be less. Both electric buses currently are in service. 40% of the fleet will be electric in approximately 5 years. Work with the FTA and Vtrans has made the electrification possible.

Legislative Updates: Non-Federal Match Study-awarded to Steadman Hill Consulting. The study will broaden the approach and provide more details than the 2020 funding study. The goal is to recommend revenue streams for non-federal match for transit services. Report due end of December. Braided Service Assessment – Project awarded to Cambridge Systematics. To assess risks and benefits of the current service delivery model. The goal is to quantify impacts of current system and other delivery models and to assess other approaches. Report due end of December.

Electric Bus Presentation: Presented by Benjamin Lake of VEIC. Vermont electric bus strategy, GMT and MVRTD deployments, findings and lessons learned discussed. The zero-emissions transition plan examines ways to scale up the electrification program. Over \$37 million in low or no emission vehicle funding over the past 7 years. High level findings are electric buses can provide year-round service in Vermont, electric buses realize significant environmental benefits and are 4 times more efficient than

diesel buses, significant challenges with reliability and days in service, lack of adequate staff needed and fuels savings not yet realized.

Age Strong Vermont Presentation: Presented by Angela Smith Dieng with the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. Why a multisector plan on aging- aging demographics, policy and culture. Vermont does not have the resources currently to address the aging population. Age Strong Vermont strives to build a future where all Vermonters thrive at all stages of life with equity at the forefront. Transportation objectives: encourage residential growth zones, expand the O&D program and increase access with transit friendly communities. Launch and implement a plan in 2024.

Member Updates: No comments or discussions.