

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2020 at 1:30 pm

Via GoToMeeting Online Meeting Platform

Present:

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|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Currier, VTrans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Kern, CVCOA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jordan Posner, GMT |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Gallagher,
GMT | <input type="checkbox"/> Ursula Margazano,
Gifford | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonnie Waninger,
CVRPC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Johnke, VCIL | | |

Guests: None.

INTRODUCTIONS

Hellos were shared.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PROJECTED TRANSPORTATION USE AND NEEDS

Jordan shared that FY20 ridership is ~65% lower than previous, with ridership higher in Washington County than Franklin County. GMT returned the additional funds received through the mid-year adjustment because those funds are no longer needed. GMT has seen a slight increase in requests for trips to Dartmouth and Boston over the past two weeks. If another adult day service opens in Central Vermont or current residents need transportation to Burlington or Randolph, there may be additional need. Some providers are switching from fixed route service to on demand service. He does not project an uptick in use until at least the end of FY21.

Jeanne shared that senior centers are meeting with DAIL this week. She does not anticipate meal sites resuming operations this fiscal year. VCIL and CVCOA are using volunteers to assist their clients with grocery shopping.

For FY21, Jordan said GMT asked for ~level funding. Jeanne noted CVCOA priorities would be serving meal sites, maintaining Ticket to Ride using a dollar cap (in the

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application), and using innovative strategies, such as providing Free Wheelin' with support as needed.

SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Ideas shared for modifying services included:

- Transporting people to public Wi-Fi locations to assist with social interactions
- Pilot Jeanne's idea to give people a dollar limit they manager rather than a number of rides based on cost limits.
- Transport goods/services to the person (Meals on Wheels, groceries, medications, etc.)
- Use grant funds to reimburse volunteer mileage.
- Incentivize family and friend support (trusted individuals) via gas cards.
- Use the microtransit technology to dispatch drivers for E&D and NEMT services.
- Modify transit services so that shopping trip times match grocery store hours for vulnerable populations.
- Extend the Tuesday shopper into more rural areas (Roxbury, Woodbury, Worcester, etc.)

The team discussed how payment would be provided safely and securely if using volunteers for grocery shopping. Challenges included:

- Conveying, coordinating, and understanding grocery lists and their limitations. Ex. substitutions.
- Payment - Most CVCOA clients use cash, not credit cards, and would hesitate to hand a volunteer a blank check.
- Delivery – Volunteers feel poorly about leaving groceries on the stoop for older adults. (may want to carry them in)

The group briefly discussed whether a cash pool approach could be used with an agency acting as the middle person. VCIL connects the volunteer and peer, who review the grocery list together and discuss substitutes, etc. Peers also can order online, which may allow them to use their EBT card.

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Donna noted that many volunteers have not returned to service yet as they are in high risk COVID categories. Jordan noted that GMT had been gearing up a campaign to recruit volunteers prior to COVID. A safety protocol handout will be needed.

Dan provided an update on microtransit implementation. It is moving forward. Operations are expected to start in fall (~November).

VTrans is building a six-month budget. It will evaluate dollars provided to transit providers at that time.

NEXT STEPS

Regular meeting date – Thursday, July 16 at 2 pm. Initial agenda – VTrans presentation of E & D survey results, microtransit update, paratransit planning project follow up

State E&D Summit – scheduled for July 10. Will be held virtually. Current planning team is VTrans. Jeanne and Peter are interested in participating to plan the summit if outside parties are interested. Bonnie will contact Katharine Otto and Jackie Cassino to suggest it.

ADJOURN

The meeting ended at 2:50 pm.