

## Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

### REDPAC Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm

#### *Remote Participation via GoToMeetings*

Join via computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/328806029>

Dial in via phone: United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122); Access Code: 328-806-029

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<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/328806029>

### AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>
	<b>2:00</b>	<b>Introductions</b>
		<b>Adjustments to the Agenda</b>
	<b>2:05</b>	<b>Updates, All</b>
5	<b>2:45</b>	<b>Draft Ride Guide</b> (enclosed) Review/comment on text of draft guide
9	<b>3:00</b>	<b>REDPAC Work Plan, Bonnie Waninger, CVRPC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review transit dependent demographics by town</li> <li>• Brainstorm formal/informal transportation services operating in the region and develop contact list</li> </ul>
	<b>3:25</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b> Set date and initial agenda.
	<b>3:30</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or [chartrand@cvregion.com](mailto:chartrand@cvregion.com) at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

## Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Via GoToMeeting Online Meeting Platform

#### Present:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <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,<br>Gifford  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonnie Waninger,<br>CVRPC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Johnke, VCIL   |  |   |

Guests: Jackie Cassino, VTrans

#### Introductions

Hellos were shared.

#### Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

#### E & D Survey Results

Jackie Cassino from VTrans presented survey results and answered questions from REDPAC members. She provided a recap of the survey purpose and discussed lessons learned. Central VT had a 23% survey return rate. The number of surveys returned from Project Independent clients was low (7%).

*Demographics:* In Central VT, 55% of respondents lived in Barre City, Barre Town and Montpelier. Another 16% lived in Berlin, Northfield, and Waterbury. The aged 65-84 years demographic represented 60% of respondents.

*Service characterization:* 61% of respondents were net promoters of the service. Respondents characterized service strengths as timely and courteous. They characterized areas for strengthening as timeliness of ride confirmation, driver attitude, and location of and frequency of service.

## Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

95% of respondents characterized service as meeting their needs fairly to extremely well overall. 64% reported GMT staff are always respectful. 92% said it was fairly to extremely easy to access GMT service. 71% of respondents use services a few times a month (29%), a few times a week (21%), or once every few months (21%).

Respondents expressed varied things that would make GMT transportation services easier to access.

*Rider Input:* The majority of respondents prefer to use volunteer driver services. 88% agreed or strongly agreed that GMT services is important to maintaining their health and well-being.

*Action Resulting from the Survey:* VTrans will request that E&D Committee follow-up with riders about their experiences

### CVRPC Transportation Services

#### REDPAC Work Plan Introduction

Bonnie Waninger discussed the new VTrans approach to E&D Committees. She briefly reviewed work plan elements. REDPAC's "How to Add a New Partner 101" draft has been shared as a statewide resource.

Peter Johnke noted that he has Ticket to Ride information that may help frame text for the workplan. The REDPAC discussed participation by groups not engaged with REDPAC currently.

#### Paratransit Planning Grant

Waninger reviewed outcomes from the Transit 4 All planning grant. The Committee discussed implementation actions for the upcoming year for CVRPC assistance, including:

- Creating a "welcome packet" or Ride Guide for new riders/clients.
- Inventorying bus stop facilities (eventually paired with ridership needs).

## Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

### Microtransit Update

Dan Currier provided an update on progress and current implementation schedule. A Request for Proposals has been released. GMT will provide the trips and vehicles. Marketing and branding will occur in fall 2020. Service is anticipated to start in 2021.

VTrans will request E&D committee input on marketing and branding and request assistance with marketing the service.

REDPAC observed that the microtransit services may create inequity among urban and rural transit users.

### Green Mountain Transit Update

Jordan Posner updated REDPAC on the grant application submitted by GMT. GMT requested \$56,000 more for Washington County than last year. Funding requested included \$15,000 for Free Wheelin' for senior meal access, \$15,000 for CVCOA Ticket to Ride program, and \$24,000 for E&D Ticket to Ride. Cash match remains the same as previous years. REDPAC requested that GMT engage REDPAC in "rejiggering" the budget this year.

Posner reported that ridership for May and June decreased by 70%, then increased by 20% for July. Ridership appears to be leveling off.

REDPAC discussed adult day services. Jeanne Kern noted that people are inquiring about potential use of the Morrisville site. Medicaid said the trip may not meet its requirements; it will only pay for high need miles, with limitations to go to a provider. Individuals can request a waiver, however, waivers are not granted very often.

### Next Steps

The REDPAC scheduled its next meeting for September 30 at 2 pm. The agenda will include REDPAC member updates, review of a Ride Guide draft, and continued discussion of workplan development.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Note: This is a text-only document. Final formatting and graphics will be included after the REDPAC is comfortable with the text.

## Quick Guide

### The Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Committee (REDPAC) Central Vermont Region—2020

#### What is the Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E and D) Transportation Program?

Every year the transit providers like Green Mountain Transit apply for state funding so they can assist elders and persons with disabilities travel from their homes to medical appointments, local adult day facilities, senior meal sites, and essential shopping. This service is door to door and supplements the regular transit service in the area, filling in gaps left by other transportation programs, including Medicaid. Drivers can be both paid and volunteers and drive a variety of vehicles – from minibuses with wheelchair access to normal cars.

#### Who is eligible for a ride?

Anyone who is aged 60 or over, and/or has a disability as defined by the American with Disabilities Act.

#### What area does this committee cover?

Our committee serves Washington County and the Towns of Orange, Washington, and Williamstown in Orange County — the area show on the map. There are other committees for other parts of Vermont.

#### How is the program funded?

The program receives a block grant from VTrans each year that is part of the “Section 5310” funding from the Federal Transit Administration. A particular amount of money is given each year, with an opportunity for mid-year adjustments in January. Rides are not reimbursed per user per trip. Once the grant is spent down, the transit operator must cover any additional costs. For the purpose of the grant, the fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

#### What kind of services does the E&D Program provide?

The program provides trips for:

##### SAMPLE TEXT

- dialysis at 2 per week
- cancer at 3 per week
- out of town medical trips at 3 per month, and limited to within 25 miles of GMT service area.
- Montpelier-Barre in-town dial-a -ride - unconstrained
- shopping and senior meal trips by XXX Taxi – unconstrained

Other trip purposes are eligible through the grant, but additional funding must be secured and leveraged to meet these needs.

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## What does the Committee do?

The REDPAC is primarily responsible for discussing the level of service that the transit providers provide given the amount of funding remaining for the year. Maximizing the amount of service provided can be complex, particularly when needs of the local elders and persons with disabilities varies considerably from month to month.

## How does the committee operate?

The committee meets quarterly. Meetings are usually held on Wednesday afternoons. Meeting dates are scheduled via email or at the previous meeting. Recent meeting agendas and minutes are available at <https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/> or from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, [cvrpc@cvregion.com](mailto:cvrpc@cvregion.com).

## Committee Members

The meetings are generally facilitated by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. The committee has representatives from the following organizations and institutions:

- Green Mountain Transit (GMT)
- Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)\*
- Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA)\*
- Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC)
- Adult Day
- Senior Centers
- Medical groups — Central Vermont Medical Center Community Health team, Plainfield Health Center, People’s Health and Wellness, ???
- Local Transportation Groups - Free Wheelin’, ???
- Street Outreach team
- ???

\*Designates partners who contribute towards match funding, either cash or in-kind.

## Useful Abbreviations / Definitions

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AHS	Vermont Agency of Human Services
CVCOA	Central Vermont Council on Aging
CVRPC	Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
E&D	Elders and Persons with Disabilities
FTA	Federal Transit Administration

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- GMT Green Mountain Transit
- NEMT Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation
- NMM Non-Medicaid Medical
- RCT Rural Community Transportation
- RPC Regional Planning Commission
- VTrans Vermont Agency of Transportation
- XYZ All additional organizations, such as hospitals, adult day centers, health centers, etc.

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E&D Grant – Transportation providers working with human service agencies apply to VTrans annually for grant funds to cover operating costs associated with providing transportation to elders and person with disabilities. The grant application process begins in March, culminating in a grant agreement between VTrans and the transportation provider for a fiscal year that begins on July 1. The grant reimburses for 80% of actual operating costs, with the remaining 20% either coming from human service partners or in-kind. Local agreements are entered into between the transportation provider and human service agencies to detail the scope of transportation services to be provided

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FTA – Federal Transit Administration. A component of the U.S. Department of Transportation that regulates and helps fund public transportation. FTA provides financial assistance for capital and operating costs and sponsors research, training, technical assistance and demonstration programs.

Human Service Agency - A government or not-for-profit organization that provides services for essential needs such as medical care, income support, housing, education, training, and public health, typically for people requiring help due to age, disability, low income or similar reasons.

Human Service Transportation - Transportation provided by or on behalf of a human service agency to bring people participating in the agency’s programs or services to those programs or services.

Local Match - The state or local funds required by the Federal government to complement Federal funds for a project. For public transportation, the Federal government may provide 80 percent of the necessary funds for the purchase of a vehicle if the State and transit provider provide 20 percent in matching funds. A match may also be required by states for joint state and local efforts.

Section 5310 - A Federal program authorized under 49 USC Section 5310 and administered by the US Department of Transportation to provide small buses and vans to eligible agencies which provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons.

Volunteer Driver – Individuals who provide transportation services using their own vehicles and donating their time to transport riders. Volunteer drivers receive reimbursement for mileage at a federally-established rate.

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**Additional Resources**

- i Green Mountain Transit - All E&D rides are scheduled through GMT via its Berlin office by calling (802) 223-7287. For additional information about GMT, visit <https://ridegmt.com/>.

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3 **Contacts for additional information**

- 4 · About services provided, contact [Name] with [Org] at [phone] or [email]
- 5 · About the committee, contact Bonnie Waninger, Central Vermont Regional Planning
- 6 Commission, 802-229-0389, [waninger@cvregion.com](mailto:waninger@cvregion.com).



## Transit Dependent Demographic Groups by Town

Town	2018 Population	Residents Aged 15-19	% of Residents Aged 15-19	Residents Aged 65+	% of Residents Aged 65+	Residents Living Below the Poverty Line	Total Population with Known Poverty Status	% of Population Below the Poverty Line
Barre City	8,711	434	5.0%	1,587	18.2%	2,262	8,515	26.6%
Barre Town	7,750	422	5.4%	1,460	18.8%	697	7,697	9.1%
Berlin	2,816	175	6.2%	738	26.2%	233	2,552	9.1%
Cabot	1,328	77	5.8%	291	21.9%	251	1,316	19.1%
Calais	1,556	135	8.7%	283	18.2%	154	1,556	9.9%
Duxbury	1,251	88	7.0%	165	13.2%	83	1,242	6.7%
East Montpelier	2,586	154	6.0%	547	21.2%	103	2,586	4.0%
Fayston	1,244	82	6.6%	288	23.2%	75	1,227	6.1%
Marshfield	1,635	128	7.8%	268	16.4%	132	1,613	8.2%
Middlesex	1,626	93	5.7%	346	21.3%	79	1,623	4.9%
Montpelier	7,547	471	6.2%	1,471	19.5%	774	7,520	10.3%
Moretown	1,800	87	4.8%	291	16.2%	99	1,790	5.5%
Northfield	6,061	786	13.0%	905	14.9%	316	4,498	7.0%
Orange	1,004	91	9.1%	194	19.3%	64	997	6.4%
Plainfield	1,431	91	6.4%	233	16.3%	168	1,396	12.0%
Roxbury	744	29	3.9%	161	21.6%	59	739	8.0%
Waitsfield	1,713	69	4.0%	371	21.7%	68	1,711	4.0%
Warren	1,613	66	4.1%	379	23.5%	126	1,613	7.8%
Washington	1,105	95	8.6%	192	17.4%	127	1,098	11.6%
Waterbury	5,141	274	5.3%	666	13.0%	554	5,099	10.9%
Williamstown	3,464	118	3.4%	618	17.8%	347	3,464	10.0%
Woodbury	934	36	3.9%	192	20.6%	70	934	7.5%
Worcester	990	60	6.1%	160	16.2%	104	984	10.6%
Region	64,050	4,061	6.3%	11,806	18.4%	6,945	61,770	11.2%
Vermont	623,989	43,161	6.9%	125,201	20.06%	67,034	600,334	11.2%

Data Source: Age - S0101; Disability: B18101; Poverty - S17101 ; Household Vehicles - DP04; From ACS 2018

## Transit Dependent Demographic Groups by Town

Town	Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle	Total Occupied Housing Units	% of Housing Units with No Vehicle	Residents Aged 18-64 with a Disability	Total Civilian NonInstitutionalized Population	% of Residents Aged 18-64 with a Disability	Largest Transit Dependent Group	Second Largest Transit Dependent Group
Barre City	743	4,031	18.4%	1,016	8,609	11.8%	Poverty	Age 65+
Barre Town	70	3,173	2.2%	382	7,735	4.9%	Age 65+	Poverty
Berlin	80	1,112	7.2%	244	2,537	9.6%	Age 65+	Disability
Cabot	31	577	5.4%	74	1,328	5.6%	Age 65+	Poverty
Calais	12	643	1.9%	98	1,556	6.3%	Age 65+	Poverty
Duxbury	4	529	0.8%	49	1,251	3.9%	Age 65+	Age 15-19
East Montpelier	39	1,120	3.5%	126	2,580	4.9%	Age 65+	Age 15-19
Fayston	16	545	2.9%	44	1,244	3.5%	Age 65+	Age 15-19
Marshfield	14	619	2.3%	121	1,635	7.4%	Age 65+	Poverty
Middlesex	19	690	2.8%	45	1,626	2.8%	Age 65+	Age 15-19
Montpelier	439	3,726	11.8%	566	7,538	7.5%	Age 65+	Poverty
Moretown	35	768	4.6%	85	1,800	4.7%	Age 65+	Poverty
Northfield	148	1,981	7.5%	280	5,973	4.7%	Age 65+	Age 15-19
Orange	27	424	6.4%	134	1,004	13.3%	Age 65+	Disability
Plainfield	29	577	5.0%	110	1,431	7.7%	Age 65+	Poverty
Roxbury	5	314	1.6%	57	744	7.7%	Age 65+	Poverty
Waitsfield	18	809	2.2%	81	1,713	4.7%	Age 65+	Disability
Warren	54	701	7.7%	68	1,613	4.2%	Age 65+	Poverty
Washington	18	473	3.8%	130	1,105	11.8%	Age 65+	Disability
Waterbury	172	2,123	8.1%	361	5,120	7.1%	Age 65+	Poverty
Williamstown	63	1,428	4.4%	334	3,464	9.6%	Age 65+	Poverty
Woodbury	11	396	2.8%	76	934	8.1%	Age 65+	Disability
Worcester	7	431	1.6%	76	990	7.7%	Age 65+	Poverty
Region	2,054	27,190	7.6%	4,557	63,530	7.2%	Age 65+	Poverty
Vermont	18,061	262,767	6.9%	382,851	618,064	61.9%	Age 15-19	Disability

Data Source: Age - S0101; Disability: B18101; Poverty - S17101 ; Household Vehicles - DP04; From ACS 2018