

REDPAC Meeting

Wednesday, June 9th, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Remote Participation via Zoom

Join via computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81855948415?pwd=QVd6N25CTVdoYlZlZWd2J4K0lJUZnNjQT09>

Dial in via phone: United States: ([929](tel:9294362866)) 436-2866;

Meeting ID: 818 5594 8415; Passcode: 545934

Download the app at least 5 minutes prior to joining the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/download>

AGENDA

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>
	2:00	Introductions
		Adjustments to the Agenda
	2:05	Program Review and Updates, All <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current service levels, service quality concerns, budget balances, funding issues, and matters that will improve services to consumers.
	2:20	REDPAC Workplan, Christian Meyer & Elena Juodisius (enclosed) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review/comment on final text.2. Approval of document/with amendments.3. Defining FY22 REDPAC activities.
	2:40	Ride Guide (enclosed) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review/comment on final text and format.
	2:45	Quick Guide to REDPAC (enclosed) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review/comment on final text and format
	2:55	Next Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Set date and initial agenda.
	3:00	Adjourn

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 at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2021 at 10:00 am

Present:

Jeanne Kern (CVCOA), Peter Johnke (VCIL), Donna Gallagher (GMT), Jordan Posner (GMT), Zoe Neaderland (VTrans), Christian Meyer (CVRPC), Elena Juodisius (CVRPC)

Introductions

Hellos and introductions were shared for CVRPC new Senior Transportation Planner Christian Meyer.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Minutes

The Committee made no changes to the minutes.

Program Review and Updates

MyRide: GMT shared and the committee discussed changes to MyRide

- MyRide scheduling can now accommodate 15 minute or less pickup times.
- Currently extending service to cover part of Berlin (Hospital Hill, Airport Road) and Barre (Route 302).
- Created virtual bus stops on Main and State Street area of Montpelier to accommodate pick-ups in high traffic area, requires some people to walk within a ¾ mile area. Accommodations to avoid excessive walking can be made by calling the call center.
- Accommodations for trips shorter than 1/10th mile (as crow flies), or for curbside pickup in downtown Montpelier can be arranged through the call center.
- Call center is appreciated as many people don't like using app. Capacity for buses is currently held at 75%.

E&D Transportation: GMT updated the committee:

Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

- Will be high need for volunteer drivers – have lost several drivers who will not come back since COVID. Over the summer, Seven Days will profile stories of rural volunteer drivers. This could help in an effort to recruit more.
- COVID Policy changes: GMT is now allowing more than 1 rider in vehicle, all are still required to wear masks.
- Jordan reported that 30% of the budget has been spent, typically would have been 65%, and he has no concerns about overspending. While generally trips per rider are capped, low spending this year has allowed individuals with greater demand to get the rides they need.
- GMT submitted grant to VTrans, will notify once funding is secured. VTrans agreed to cover 100%, not subject to typical 20% local match [volunteer hours + Medicaid + ~5% from CVCOA]

General Public Transit Updates from GMT

- Barre City currently has on-demand My Ride on top of fixed route, very uncommon. Discussion of moving to only MyRide, Paratransit, some other option.
- No fares will be charged for the coming year.

Senior Centers and Adult Day: Jeanne said Senior Centers are considering plans to reopen for congregate meals once vaccination efforts are completed and re-opening plans are deemed safe. This may impact E&D demand. Project Independence, adult day center, closed permanently and there is currently no adult day program in Central Vermont (2 other communities in the state have permanently lost adult day programs).

Free Wheelin': Christian shared that he had spoken to Michael Bransfield of Free Wheelin' and they are not interested in E&D Funding for FY22, as they have funding lined up.

REDPAC Workplan Review

Elena walked through the draft workplan prepared for the Central Vermont E&D Committee, using guidance from VTrans.

The committee reviewed the mission and purpose and agreed it well represented the communities served, efforts to coordinate mobility in general beyond E&D services, and with the goal of engaging older adults and people with disabilities in the community.

Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

Partner roles were discussed including ensuring all understood. Jeanne clarified that CVCOA and VCIL are partners as they represent user groups across the region, and are not place-specific. CVCOA contributes funding, and VCIL is not required to.

GMT will continue to submit grant as lead, but will keep committee updated and informed on timeline. GMT will also share reporting required of VTrans with committee.

Annual Projects discussed included follow-up from E&D rider survey with participants who offered contact information for follow up, methods to be determined at a later date. Brief discussion had on assessing unmet need, both of current and potential riders, and creating ongoing procedures for assessing and responding to community needs.

Optional workplan activities were reviewed. The ongoing need for volunteers, not just in response to COVID, was discussed. Jeanne suggested volunteer recruitment could be a statewide effort from VTrans, and Zoe offered to post on VTrans social media. Donna shared that most volunteers are recruited through Front Porch Forum, one from newsletter. As many drivers are older, senior center newsletters may be venue to reach. Suggestion was made to offer incentives for time spent volunteering, such as free class at community college, coupons for Ben and Jerry's. Donna mentioned one driver is volunteering in order to complete required hours, may be others.

Next Steps and Meeting Date

The REDPAC scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 2 pm. The agenda will be to discuss and approve with adjustments the FY21 Workplan, Ride guide brochure, and Quick Guide to REDPAC document. These documents will be shared with the committee prior to the meeting.

Meetings will be held via zoom. Remote meetings will continue for the REDPAC committee due to COVID and commute challenges for several members.



MEMO

Date: June 03, 2021

To: Central Vermont REDPAC

From: Elena Juodisius, Assistant Planner

Re: Review and Approval of Work Plan, Quick Guide to REDPAC and Ride Guide

☒ Please review the REDPAC Work Plan and prepare to discuss and accept with amendments during the June 9th meeting.

In accordance with the Human Service Transportation Coordination Guidance for Public Transit Providers for SFY2021, E&D committees and partners are required to create a regionally specific E&D Committee Annual Work Plan. Utilizing the work plan template provided by the VTrans Public Transit section, CVRPC has developed a draft work plan which was reviewed and discussed on the May 14th, 2021 REDPAC Meeting. CVRPC requests that partners and committee members review the document in preparation for discussion and consideration for approval at the June 9th REDPAC meeting. A final work plan must be accepted by the committee before June 30, 2021.

☒ Please review the Quick Guide to REDPAC and prepare to discuss and accept with amendments during the June 9th meeting.

The Quick Guide to REDPAC is a required item from the REDPAC work plan. The purpose of this document is to educate future REDPAC partners and committee members on the purpose of the committee and key terms and references that may be useful. The draft as shared is the text only, the final document will be lightly formatted. Please review the document, with the goal of approving with amendments during the June 9th REDPAC meeting.

☒ Please review the Ride Guide and prepare to discuss and accept with amendments during the June 9th meeting.

The Ride Guide is a required item from the REDPAC work plan. CVRPC has created a tri-fold brochure to educate potential riders about the E&D program. This document was based on comments from REDPAC committee members that a 2-page brochure was appropriate for the audience. Please review the document, with the goal of approving with amendments during the June 9th REDPAC meeting.

A longer FAQ document for case managers and newly enrolled riders was also prepared and shared in the January 2021 meeting and can be discussed as well.

Contact:

Christian Meyer, Senior Transportation Planner; meyer@cvregion.com

Elena Juodisius, Assistant Planner; juodisius@cvregion.com

1 Central Vermont Elders and Persons with Disabilities
2 Committee
3 Work Plan

4 DRAFT as of 05/18/2021
5

6 I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

7 Central Vermont Elders and Persons with Disabilities Committee (REDPAC) provides
8 oversight and guidance for Green Mountain Transit's programs to assist elders and
9 persons with disabilities. The E&D committee serves Washington County and the
10 Towns of Orange, Washington, and Williamstown in Orange County. The program
11 get users out of their homes to medical appointments, to local senior centers, to
12 senior meal sites and for essential shopping. These services supplement regular
13 transit services in the area, filling in gaps left by programs like Medicaid. The
14 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides grant funding through the Section
15 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Transportation
16 Program to support the program.

17 Mission: REDPAC expands transportation choices to help elders and people with
18 disabilities remain connected with their communities.

19 Purpose: REDPAC aims to ensure people remain engaged with their communities
20 by meeting their social and physical well-being needs.

21 II. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

22 Current partner organizations for REDPAC are:

23 **1) Green Mountain Transit (GMT)**

24 a) Green Mountain Transit provides safe, convenient, accessible, innovative
25 and sustainable public transportation services in the northwest and central
26 Vermont region, to enhance the quality of life for all. GMT provides a
27 variety of public transportation services including local routes, commuter
28 routes, demand response medical shuttles, and service to elders and
29 persons with disabilities.

30 b) Contacts: Donna Gallagher, Broker Services Manager, Berlin -
31 dgallagher@ridegmt.com

1 c) Jordan Posner, Paratransit and Broker Services Manager -
2 jposner@ridegmt.com

3 **2) Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC)**

4 a) Central Vermont Regional Planning commission assists member
5 municipalities with providing effective local government and working
6 cooperatively to address regional issues. As part of the E&D Committee,
7 CVRPC will be the lead agency to steer the committee and coordinate
8 logistics between GMT, VTrans, CVCOA and other partners to achieve
9 deliverables.

10 b) Contacts: Bonnie Waninger, Executive Director – waninger@cvregion.com

11 **3) Central Vermont Agency on Aging (CVCOA)**

12 a) CVCOA is one of five Area Agencies on Aging serving seniors and their
13 families in Vermont. They are the leading expert and advocate in healthy
14 aging for Central Vermonters and provide resources to age in place. CVCOA
15 serves adults 60 and older living in Central Vermont, their caregivers,
16 partners and families without discrimination and regardless of income.

17 b) Contact: Jeanne Kern, Co-Interim Executive Director, Director of
18 Community and Volunteer Services - jkern@cvcoa.org

19 **4) Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)**

20 a) VCIL is an organization of people with disabilities working together for
21 dignity, independence, and civil rights.

22 b) Contact: Peter Johnke, Deputy Director – peter@civil.org

23 **5) Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTRANS) – Public Transit Division**

24 a) VTrans is the oversight and fiscal agent for the Elders and Persons with
25 Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program. Vermont’s E&D Transportation
26 Program plays an important role filling gaps in existing transportation
27 services for older adults age 60 and above as well as individuals with
28 disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

29 Vermont’s public transit providers serve as regional transportation brokers
30 and work with human service agency partners to coordinate E&D trips
31 together with Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) provided
32 through Medicaid, contracted service with community organizations and
33 institutions, and transportation for the general public.

34 b) Contact: Dan Currier, Public Transit Coordinator –
35 dan.j.currier@vermont.gov

36 **6) Add: other human services organizations/entities, municipalities, interfaith**
37 **community? E.g., adult day Centers, senior centers**

1 III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2 COMMITTEE FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3 1) Assist transit provider with preparation of grant applications for submission to
4 the Agency of Transportation (VTrans). Prior to grant submission, discussion
5 between GMT and partners agreeing on funding needs will occur.
- 6 2) Allocation of funds - Allocations are currently assessed based on the level of
7 demand by a partner. The E&D committee will ensure there is transparency of
8 funding allocations between partners as well as a collaborative nature to the
9 committee. If a partner’s needs require increased allocation, this request will be
10 discussed at a meeting where all partners are at the table for decision making.
11 The committee will continue to find ways to streamline the process.
- 12

13 PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES

14 **1) CVRPC Role**

- 15 a) Organize and facilitate regular E&D Committee meetings quarterly (at a
16 minimum).
- 17 b) Committee leadership: Meeting facilitation and communication with
18 partners will be completed by CVRPC. RPCs are responsible for ensuring
19 these meetings take place and engage the full spectrum of providers of
20 services and representatives of those needing rides.
- 21 c) Facilitate the development of Regional E&D Committee work plans, goals
22 and objectives.
- 23 d) Help VTrans with centralized tracking of some E&D basic information.
- 24 e) Facilitate E&D Ridership Survey follow up- method will vary by region but
25 could include interviews, focus groups, etc.
- 26 f) Ensure compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law for meeting
27 announcements, minutes, etc.
- 28 g) Assist VTrans with organizing the annual E&D Summit, as requested.

29 **2) VTrans Role**

- 30 a) Update E&D Committee Guidance and relevant documents.
- 31 b) Develop E&D Committee work plan template, inclusive of sample goals and
32 objectives.
- 33 c) Develop guidance for E&D Ridership Survey follow up.
- 34 d) Distribute and review guidance document, and sample work plan at a
35 regularly scheduled TPI meeting.

- e) Provide information about what basic E&D information needs to be tracked centrally.
- f) Attend E&D Committee meetings to assist with E&D tasks as needed.
- g) Organize an annual E&D summit.

3) Public Transit Provider (GMT) role

- a) Provide transportation, including coordination with other transportation programs, such as Medicaid. GMT staff continues to coordinate with partners and clients on a regular basis to be most efficient and cost effective. If a more significant issue arises, the committee will discuss and strive for consensus on modifications to policies or procedures.
- b) Attend and participate in the regular E&D Committee meetings quarterly (at a minimum). Provide relevant information needed by the committee.
- c) Assist the RPC in developing and implementing the REDPAC work plans, goals and objectives.
- d) Periodic reporting to partners on ridership, budget status, and other topics. At each meeting, GMT will report on service usage since the previous meeting and status for the fiscal year. The report will include statewide data for comparison and assist with future evaluation in programming/planning at the public transit partners level, regional and state level. GMT will share tracked E&D data with committee, including items i) and ii) listed below.
- e) Assist VTrans with centralized tracking of E&D data, including but not limited to:
 - i) Number of riders broken up by E&D Partners
 - ii) Number of trips based on trip purpose and trip mode
 - iii) Number of denied rides and reason and/or trip purpose constraints
 - iv) Cost per trip, mile, hour by trip purpose and trip mode
 - v) Rider complaints with subset of driving or customer service related
 - vi) Number of regionally coordinated trips with other Vermont transit providers
- f) Assist RPC with E&D ridership survey which includes interviews, focus groups.
- g) Increase community outreach and marketing efforts to better educate the public on the E&D program. Invite community members to E&D committee meetings to better understand the transportation needs within the community.
- h) Increase volunteer recruitment efforts to reduce trip costs.

- 1 i) Maximize regional trip coordination through Paratransit Dispatch software
- 2 technology and statewide shared scheduling databases.
- 3 j) Maximize vehicle ridership capacity through more efficient Mobility
- 4 Management tools.
- 5 k) Develop contracts, MOUs, or other agreements with partner organizations.
- 6 GMT has a standard platform for partner agreements. After discussion
- 7 between partners and GMT, GMT will draft an agreement with updated
- 8 needs and will send it to partners for review and execution annually.

9 **4) Partner Role – CVCOA and VCIL**

- 10 a) Assist GMT with preparation of grant applications for submission to the
- 11 Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) by providing necessary data
- 12 upon request.
- 13 b) Discuss funding needs with GMT and other partners at REDPAC meeting prior
- 14 to grant submission. If a partner’s needs require increased allocation, this
- 15 request will be discussed at a meeting where all partners are at the table for
- 16 decision making. The committee will continue to find ways to streamline the
- 17 process.
- 18 c) Participate and engage with the E&D committee.

19 **IV. COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

20 **1) Meeting Schedule**

- 21 a) The E&D committee meets quarterly, with any additional meetings as
- 22 needed. Meetings are usually held on Wednesdays at 2 pm. Meeting dates
- 23 are scheduled via email or at the previous meeting. Recent meeting agendas
- 24 and minutes are available at [https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-](https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/)
- 25 [agendas-staff-reports/](https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/) or from the Central Vermont Regional Planning
- 26 Commission, cvrpc@cvregion.com.

27 **2) Meeting logistics:**

- 28 a) Meetings are held at over video meeting, unless otherwise noted. Virtual
- 29 meetings are held over GoToMeeting or Zoom platform. All meetings are
- 30 organized by CVRPC.
- 31 b) E&D meetings are to be held in accordance with Vermont Open Meeting Law.
- 32 c) CVRPC will prepare meeting agenda soliciting topics from the E&D group.
- 33 Some agenda topics will remain constant (e.g. ridership and service status).
- 34 d) CVRPC will email the E&D group with the agenda, previous meeting minutes
- 35 as well as a calendar invite for the meeting.

1 e) The meeting will be posted on CVRPC's Event Calendar:
2 <https://centralvtplanning.org/meeting-and-events-landing-page/calendar/>

3 f) Information about the E&D committee are found here:
4 <https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/>

5 g) Post meeting, meeting minutes will be emailed to the E&D committee and
6 posted on the CVRPC transit page noted above.

7 3) Meeting participation:

8 a) All E&D meetings are open to the public.

9 b) Participation of E&D partners is required

10 c) General public, current riders and interested parties will be actively invited
11 to participate as part of work plan.
12

13 V. ANNUAL AGENDA

14 1) Assistance with transit provider's preparation of grant application to VTrans at
15 end of fiscal year. The grant fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30.

16 2) Allocation of funds to partner organizations.

17 3) Adjust allocations among partners throughout or toward the end of the year as
18 needed. Allocation changes are discussed at a committee meeting for partner
19 consensus.

20 4) Oversee adjustments to priorities among eligible trip types (critical care medical,
21 non-emergency medical, adult day health, congregate meals, shopping,
22 social/personal/wellness, other) and adjustments to trip limits, if applicable.
23 Adjustments to trip limits are determined at a committee meeting with partner
24 consensus.

25 5) *Description of and schedule for reporting to partner organizations*

26 6) *Description of plan for communicating with partner organizations*
27

28 VI. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

29 1) **Required items**

30 a) Maintain and amend as needed mission and purpose statements.

31 b) CVRPC will work with REDPAC members to update the annual workplan,
32 including goals and objectives and the actions required to achieve them, and
33 anticipated schedule for activities for the coming year.

34 c) Work with CVRPC to distribute customer satisfaction survey to current riders
35 of E&D services in FFY20. RPCs will work with the REDPAC to facilitate follow-

1 up with FFY20 E&D Rider Survey respondents who opted-in to provide
2 additional information on their experience by June 30, 2021. Conduct survey
3 update annually thereafter using a smaller sample of riders.

- 4 d) Assess unmet need among E&D target populations in the region (Sources:
5 2018-19 Transit 4 All project, 2019-20 E&D rider survey results, 2020 DAIL
6 Needs Assessment of Vermonters Age 60+ and Their Family Caregivers
7 regional data, 2020-21 Mobility interviews, REDPAC knowledge)
- 8 e) Develop and implement procedures for monitoring how needs are being
9 addressed, and needs that are currently unmet
- 10 f) Prepare an overview of the regional E&D committee for use in bringing in
11 new partners (Quick Guide to REDPAC).
- 12 g) Create a 2-page Ride Guide brochure on E&D transportation in the region,
13 along with a longer document with information for community partners and
14 case managers with who to call, what to expect, etc.
- 15 h) Participate in biennial statewide E&D meeting.

16 **2) Optional Activities**

- 17 a) Work with VTrans to prepare short video documentation of E&D riders'
18 stories.
- 19 b) Identify existing alternative transportation services for planning and care
20 coordination as part of Mobility Assessment.
- 21 c) Convene mobility partners for gap analysis and planning workshop
- 22 d) Plan and implement events, activities to increase awareness of
23 transportation options other than E&D services in the region. Examples
24 include talks at senior centers, attendance at a caregivers training, talks at
25 high school with classroom of people with disabilities, and participation in
26 events sponsored by partners and other local organizations for older adults
27 and people with disabilities to share transportation information.
- 28 e) Implement travel training for E&D riders to encourage use of fixed route
29 services where appropriate
- 30 f) Involve partner organizations in recruitment of volunteer drivers
- 31 g) Develop measures in addition to currently required statistics to track
32 progress towards accomplishment of committee's agenda items and
33 achievement of its stated goals and objectives for the year

34 **VII. ANNUAL REPORTING**

- 35 1) In addition to currently required statistics that are identified in annual grant
36 agreements between transit providers and VTrans (unduplicated riders,

- 1 unduplicated riders traveling to dialysis appointments, one-way trips by service
2 category and mode, and unit costs), the committee will use the following
3 measures to track progress toward accomplishment of committee's agenda
4 items and achievement of its stated goals and objectives for the year.
- 5 a) Number of trips and number of unduplicated riders provided for each
6 partner four (4) times a year to coincide with committee meetings.
 - 7 b) Assessment of rides tracking spreadsheet that collects (by town, trip
8 purpose, etc) four (4) times a year to coincide with committee meetings.
- 9 2) Work with CVRPC to report measures to VTrans, following procedures and
10 schedules that will be developed by VTrans

E&D Transportation

E&D transportation is a program to support community members through affordable transportation to medical appointments, access to fresh food at the grocery store and social visits with friends and family. In Washington and Orange Counties, Green Mountain Transit (formerly CCTA) provides the service.

The E&D transportation program is specifically designed to serve individuals who live more than 3/4 of a mile away from a bus route. We use a combination of lift-equipped vans, sedans and minivans, along with volunteer drivers who use personal vehicles to get you where you need to go.

GMT Wallet Card

Take this card with you.
Missed your ride home?
Please call (802) 223-7287 Option #1

To enroll in the program or to learn more, contact:

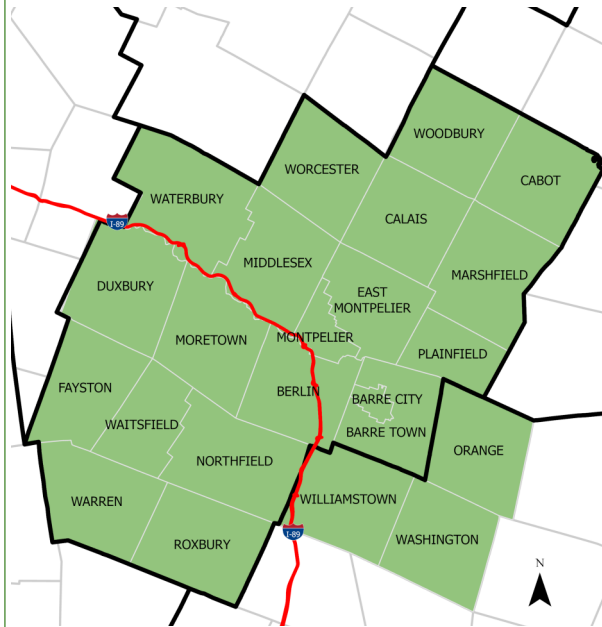
GMT

6088 VT Rt. 12,
Berlin, VT 05602

(802) 223-7287 Option #1

Email?
Website?

Central Vermont E&D serves our community members living in Washington County and Orange, Williamstown and Washington in Orange County:



Central Vermont Elders and Persons with Disabilities Transportation

Ride Guide

Transportation for older adults and people with disabilities





Let us Take You There

E&D Transportation is available if you are:

60 years of age or older
and/or
Living with an ADA
defined disability

*There is no income
requirement, application, or
physical exam required.*

To determine eligibility and start riding, call GMT (Green Mountain Transit) at (802) 223-7287 Option #1 and the operator will work with you to determine your eligibility.

What can I use the rides for?

There is a set number of one-way rides available for each person, and you can choose how to use your trips. The best way to determine the current ride parameters is to call the GMT office at (802) 223-7287 and choose option 1.

Some examples of trips you can take are:

- Medical appointments (including critical care, and long distance trips to specialists)
- Shopping (Groceries, department stores, etc.)
- Social Events (visits with family and friends, Religious services, Recreational opportunities, etc.)
- Meal Programs
- Adult Day Services
- Job-related trips*

*E&D transportation is not able to take you to work every day. If you live within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of a bus route, it may be possible for the bus driver to add your house as a stop.

Additional Information

Door-to-Door: Upon request, drivers and volunteers can provide door to door service, meaning that if you need assistance they will accompany you from your door to the vehicle, and from the vehicle into the door of your destination.

Free of charge: There is no charge to use E&D transportation in Central Vermont. If you would like to make a donation, you can send a check to our Berlin office at GMT, 6088 VT Rt. 12, Berlin, VT 05602

Who are the drivers? We use a combination of buses, lift-equipped vans, sedans and minivans, along with volunteer drivers who use personal vehicles to get you where you need to go. Volunteer drivers are verified by federal and state background checks, have a clean driving record and complete a vehicle safety inspection.

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—2021

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

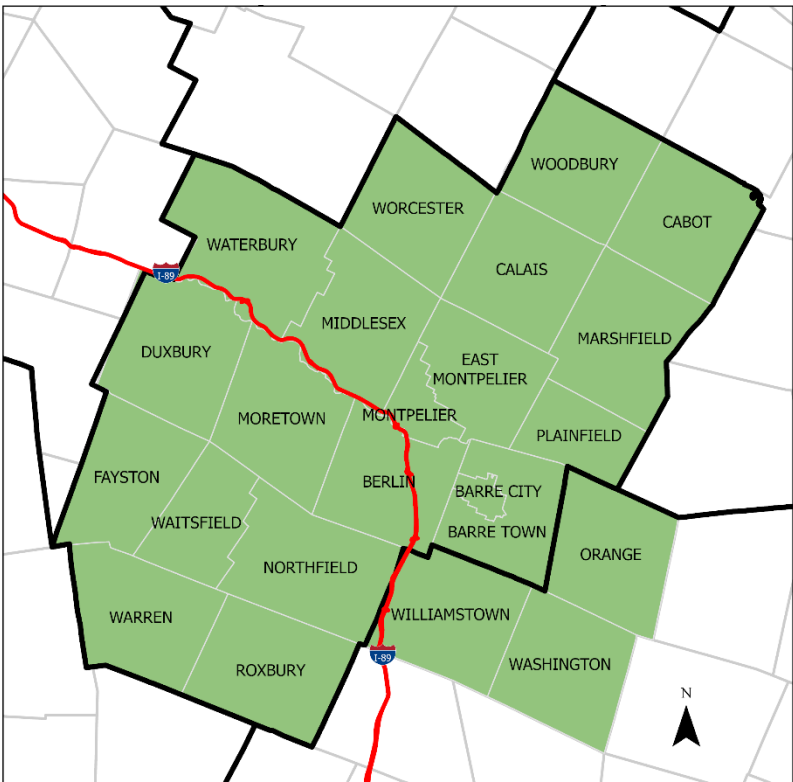
Every year the transit providers like Green Mountain Transit apply for state funding so they can assist elders and persons with disabilities travel from their homes to medical appointments, local adult day facilities, senior meal sites, and essential shopping. This service is door to door and supplements 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 shown on the map. There are other committees for other parts of Vermont.



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

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How is the program funded?

The program receives a block grant from VTrans each year that is part of the “Section 5310” funding program 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 critical care, non-Medicaid medical needs, and personal trips. Trips are limited to a set number of one-way trips per month, determined by the amount of available funds. Riders can chose how to use their rides among eligible uses, which include trips to social activities, medical and wellness appointments, shopping, meal programs, and more. Trips are limited to local trips for social and shopping trips, but include out of town medical trips when local facilities cannot address medical needs (ex. Access to specialists). Travel is limited to Dartmouth and Burlington.

What does the Committee do?

The REDPAC aims to ensure people remain engaged with their communities by meeting their social and physical well-being needs. 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. The REDPAC aims to improve the service through identifying limitations and engaging in planning and coordination to enhance the ability of elders and persons with disabilities to remain connected with their communities.

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,

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

1 cvrpc@cvregion.com.

3 **Committee Members**

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

- 7 - Green Mountain Transit (GMT)*
- 8 - Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)
- 9 - Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA)*
- 10 - Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC)

11
12 *Designates partners who contribute towards match funding, either cash or in-kind.

14 **Useful Abbreviations / Definitions**

15	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
	GMT	Green Mountain Transit
	NEMT	Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation
	NMM	Non-Medicaid Medical
	RCT	Rural Community Transportation
	RPC	Regional Planning Commission
	VCIL	Vermont Center for Independent Living
	VTrans	Vermont Agency of Transportation

16
17 E&D Grant – Transportation providers working with human service agencies apply to
18 VTrans annually for grant funds to cover operating costs associated with providing
19 transportation to elders and person with disabilities. The grant application process
20 begins in March, culminating in a grant agreement between VTrans and the

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1 transportation provider for a fiscal year that begins on July 1. The grant reimburses
2 80% of actual operating costs, with the remaining 20% either coming from human
3 service partners or in-kind. Local agreements are entered into between the
4 transportation provider and human service agencies to detail the scope of
5 transportation services to be provided as well as other details including how the
6 required 20% local match will be met.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 31 **Additional Resources**

- 32 • Green Mountain Transit - All E&D rides are scheduled through GMT’s Customer
33 Service by calling (802) 223-7287 and selecting Option 1. For additional

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1 information about GMT, visit <https://ridegmt.com/>.

- 2 • VTrans E&D program info at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit/E-and-D>
- 3 • State of Vermont Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan. 2014 Update.
4 [http://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/planning/documents/planning/Human](http://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/planning/documents/planning/Human%20Service%20Transportation%20Coordination%20Plan%202014.pdf)
5 [%20Service%20Transportation%20Coordination%20Plan%202014.pdf](http://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/planning/documents/planning/Human%20Service%20Transportation%20Coordination%20Plan%202014.pdf)
- 6 • Windham Region Mobility Study. Coordination of Transportation Services to
7 Improve Mobility for all of the Windham Region’s Residents. November 2012.
8 [http://windhamregional.org/images/docs/publications/windham-region-mobility-](http://windhamregional.org/images/docs/publications/windham-region-mobility-
9 study.pdf)
10 [study.pdf](http://windhamregional.org/images/docs/publications/windham-region-mobility-
11 study.pdf)
- 11 • Southern Windsor County A to B Mobility Project. [http://swcrpc.org/a2b-mobility-](http://swcrpc.org/a2b-mobility-
12 project/)
13 [project/](http://swcrpc.org/a2b-mobility-project/)

13 **Contacts for additional information**

- 14 • About services provided, contact Donna Gallagher with GMT at 802-262-6182 or
15 dgallagher@ridegmt.com.
- 16 • About the committee, contact Christian Meyer, Central Vermont Regional Planning
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