

Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Present:

Donna Gallagher(GMT), Peter Johnke(VCIL), Amanda Carlson (Capstone), Ana Bulnes (UCMMC), Daniel Currier(VTrans), Jeanne Kern(CVCOA), Jordan Posner(GMT), Judi Daly (UVMMC), Gavin Bodnar (CVRPC), Christian Meyer (CVRPC)

Public Comment

None

Program Updates

GMT - Jordan Posner briefed the group that ridership is seeing an uptick across their service areas. Additional details will be shared at the September 17 MyRide advisory committee meeting.

Masks will be required until at least January 2022, per federal requirements.

The transit fare is now set to \$2 though all rides remain full subsidized.

Job access recovery centers – providing rides to work for a couple weeks

Adult day centers have begun starting up. Both Twin Valley and Waterbury are opening back up

VTrans - Daniel Currier discussed the opportunity to expand the conversation in the REDPAC to cover the broader topic of mobility. This would mean going beyond E&D services to include job access, expanded partnerships, coordination, volunteers, and more pots of money. This would position the REDPAC to be the first place of call for all types of mobility questions.

Judi Daly discussed the issues she is seeing in getting rides for dialysis patients at the University of Vermont Medical Center. If a patient is dependent on GMT for rides, options are limited, and there are cases every year, perhaps a dozen, when patients are not able to get a ride to an appointment or home from an appointment and this can have serious health implications. The medical center works to make sure all rides are scheduled during those hours when rides are most available for GMT dependent patients. There are three dialysis shifts running from 6AM – 9:30PM. She is looking for any other options she can pursue to support the patients' transportation needs.

There are no medically certified taxies in Central Vermont to rely on as a back-up.

Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

Amanda Carlson joined the group from Capstone to discuss their ongoing transportation initiatives. As an anti-poverty organization, they are working towards launching a car sharing program for individuals with no access to a vehicle. A pure car sharing program was found to be infeasible because the clientele does not necessarily have licenses to drive. Therefore, they are pivoting to look at hybrid opportunities with both car sharing and on-demand services offered. Cars will be Capstone owned. Fares would vary from fully subsidized to market rate depending on the individual. They are trying to bake in flexibility to allow for the program to be tweaked and improved and allow for vehicles to have several uses across the day. They are currently fundraising for vehicles now. There are no handicap accessible electric cars, so there is some debate about which vehicles will be used. Currently their timeframe is to launch in roughly 9 months.

Jeanne Kern thought, based on the proposal for increased coordination, the need to coordinate and publicize services is all the more important. If the ride guide and quick guide are not yet widely distributed, she requested they be distributed.

Daniel Currier updated the committee that the RFP for further study of on-demand services in several GMT areas is underway. He expected operations to begin in September 2022.