

## Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021 at 2:00 pm

### Present:

Donna Gallagher(GMT), Peter Johnke(VCIL), Amanda Carlson (Capstone), Daniel Currier(VTrans), Jeanne Kern(CVCOA), Jordan Posner(GMT), Gavin Bodnar (CVRPC), Zoe Cartwright (Creative Workforce Solutions), Christopher Cole (Consultant), Christian Meyer (CVRPC)

**Minutes** from September 8, 2021 were accepted as presented.

REDPAC meetings are held quarterly, on the second Wednesday of the month at 2PM. **Daniel Currier** made the **motion, seconded by Amanda Carlson, to adopt the 2022 meeting calendar as presented.** Meetings will be held 3/9/2022, 6/8/2022, 9/14/2022, and 12/14/2022.

**Zoe Cartwright** introduced herself and the interesting work **Creative Workforce Solutions** is undertaking address workforce transportation needs. As they work to connect employers with job seekers. Zoe is documenting specific issues that individuals face with regard to securing transportation to reach their jobs, such how to utilize transit if you live beyond walking distance, how do you find a Drivers Ed class once you have left high school, or how many of the region's largest manufacturers are hard to reach from with transit. Zoe will continue to connect with the REDPAC to look for opportunities to collaborate.

Some discussion occurred around identifying funding sources that could be used for transit that are more flexible than FTA funding. The **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program** was identified as one such program. Daniel Currier will be having conversations in the coming weeks with his FHWA counterparts on exactly this subject.

**Daniel Currier** kicked off the conversation on bringing in additional resources and partnerships into the REDPAC to broaden its focus to regional mobility for all residents. This shift would allow the REDPAC to think about complementary programs that would include ridership for both a broader portion of the population as well as open additional opportunities to the clientele the REDPAC has traditionally served. This would mean growing the work of the REDPAC, not dividing up its existing resources into smaller pieces.

**Christopher Cole** discussed **Capstone's** goal to systematically address equity of transit services beyond the geography currently served by transit and the important role a community of partners will play in this process. As previously discussed in the REDPAC Capstone is rolling out the **Electric Vehicle Mobility and Equity Program**. This program will offer a new resource for individual looking for transit. It is expected to begin operations in fiscal year 2023.

The group then discussed the prospect of an expanded role for the REDPAC in the diverse and complementary services. **Jeanne Kern** thought it made sense. It would lead to more transportation options all around.

## Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

**Peter Johnke** thought this would bring the group closer to addressing some of the other issues being discussed elsewhere in region, like afterhours transit needs at the medical center.

Amanda Carlson pointed out that she thought there were overlapping needs and clients.

**Jordan Posner** of **GMT** briefed the group Central Vermont was underspending its E&D transit funds. This is due to a number of factors such as meal sites being closed, but the number one contributor was the availability of E&D-like services through MyRide. This was increasing MyRide demand while simultaneously allowing limited funding to be stretched further. This does not necessarily indicate that the budgeting model need be adjusted.

Jordan continued with several service updates:

- 1) That rural transit (which includes all portions of the Central VT service area) will remain fare free (including MyRide) for the foreseeable future.
- 2) As COVID-19 variants have emerged, such as delta, this has not affected the steady return to full ridership.
- 3) The mask mandate has been extended
- 4) GMT needs volunteer drivers!

Under the open discussion, **Gavin Bodnar** gave a sampling of the findings from the recent mid-cycle transit survey. A summary report for REDPAC review will follow.

The meeting **adjourned at 3:05PM**