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Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Minutes
Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Attendees:						
X	Barre City	Michael Hellein		X	Moretown	Joyce Manchester
X	Barre Town	Stephanie Magnan (Chair)				Dara Torre, Alt
X		Sebastian Arduengo, Alt			Northfield	Thomas Davis
	Berlin	Robert Wernecke				Patrick Demasi, Alt
	Cabot	John Cookson		X	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
X	Calais	David Ellenbogen			Plainfield	Bob Atchinson (Vice Chair)
		Karin McNeill, Alt			Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
X	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush		X	Waitsfield	Don LaHaye
		Bill Whitehair, Alt.			Warren	Michael Bridgewater, Alt
	E. Montpelier	Gina Jenkins		X	Washington	Peter Carbee
	Fayston	Donald Simonini		X	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
	Marshfield	Robin Schunk		X	Williamstown	Richard Turner
	Middlesex	Ronald Krauth		X	Woodbury	Chris Koteas
	Montpelier	Dona Bate			Worcester	Bill Arrand
Staff:		Christian Meyer				
Guests:						

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Chair Stephanie Magnan called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Roll Call

- Roll was called and a quorum was not present

Adjustments to the Agenda

- Agenda items 2 and 3 were moved to after the presentation by GMT to allow for additional committee members to join the meeting.

Public Comments

- None

Staffing announcements

- None

1 **Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Funding Discussion**

- 2 • Jamie Smith, GMT director of marketing and planning, joined the committee to provide
3 a summary of services GMT offers communities in the CV region, including some of the
4 more visible services like the fixed route bus services and MyRide, but also some of the
5 less obvious services, like the rides for elderly and disable persons, and non-emergency
6 medical trips. Continuing, Jamie discussed the current method by which GMT receives
7 funding from municipalities, including the *Fair Share* formula used to derive town-by-
8 town funding requests, and how this system has halted any rural increases in funding
9 over the last 15-20 years. She then explained that VTRANS is increasing the goal for local
10 contributions to 20% of total funding. Currently all CVRPC municipalities are
11 contributing below the 20% threshold. While transit districts across the State may have
12 some differing funding models, broadly, this is a problem statewide. Discussion then
13 turned to the *2021 Transit Financing Study* and how a statewide funding model could be
14 set up to address some of the issues with the current system.
- 15 • Discussion ensued with committee members inviting Jamie to join their select board
16 meetings to share some of this information directly and suggesting strategies to move
17 the local GMT allocation from a special article to be part of the municipal budget. Joyce
18 Manchester questioned the state funding sources versus using local property taxes to
19 fund service. Jamie noted state funds came through the transportation bill. Committee
20 members requested a copy of some of the materials Jamie had shared, including rides
21 provided in the previous fiscal year by town. Lee Cattaneo noted that he feels that when
22 the choice riders and riders of necessity are pooled into one program it can make it
23 difficult to discuss the need for additional funding. Alan Quackenbush commented that
24 it is of utmost importance to solve this issue because public transit will need to be part
25 of solution to address climate change. Michael Hellein asked if there were something
26 TAC members could directly do to facilitate this discussion in their towns. Staff noted
27 that they can help share this information with their local leadership, and the TAC or RPC
28 can author a letter to support for any policy it feels would best serve the region. The
29 committee agreed that this is an issued to address together and that it is not an urban
30 or rural issue. Jamie closed by discussing some of the innovative programs that are
31 being developed, such as the Capstone Community Rides program.

32 **TAC Member Round Table**

- 33 • Joyce Manchester asked staff if there would be any conflicts with alternates being
34 elected to state offices. Staff will double check.

35 **Adjourn**

36 The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.