



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC ELDERS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (E&D) TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, May 10, 2023, 11:00 AM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 239 820 319 213, Pass: CpxDkJ | Call: 1-802-440-1368, ID: 598 674 540#

In-Person: The Opera House, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

MEMBERS PRESENT

Yvonne Wedin	MVRTD	Dan Currier	VTrans
Laurier Knauer	Castleton Community	Ethan Pepin	RRPC
Betty Spooner	Bridges & Beyond	Devon Neary	RRPC
Maryesa White	One-2-One	Nic Stark	RRPC
Tammy Brown	One-2-One	Jessie Butterfield	VCIL
Diane Drake	ARC		

1) INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA

Called to order at 11:05 AM. Pepin asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include a item regarding driver recruitment after the open to the public section. Motion to approve amended agenda by Spooner seconded by Drake. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Drake, seconded by Butterfield.

2) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None present.

3) DRIVER RECRUITMENT

Nic walked the committee through the current recruitment plan for Everybody Rides. Stark talked about how seniors and retirees were the primary demographic being targeted, along with a push to college students to encourage volunteering community service. Allocated a budget of \$500, research showed most effective services would be Facebook and Front Porch forum. Stark also talked about how PegTV has been very receptive to helping promote the system and even offered to help produce a promo. Maryesa asked if each partner would be showcased in marketing, since they are distinct. Pepin noted that the general processes for recruitment are similar across partners. Stark asked about how best to direct recruited drivers, saying that one URL or phone number would be preferred. Spooner noted that the hospital has a few extra requirements, and

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they could not share the results of the background checks with other partners. White offered to route drivers through One-2-One, but noted that there might be issues with partners not feeling equitable sharing of volunteers. Stark suggested that MVRTD might be able to be the primary phone to call. Wedin said she wasn't sure and would check with dispatch, but noted she liked giving all the numbers and asking potential drivers to choose for themselves.

Pepin noted that one issue with this was that too many numbers and organizations could confuse potential drivers in the same way that it confuses potential riders and asked the committee how they felt about centralizing the driver pool with MVRTD to remove barriers. White asked why the marketing campaign could not involve a custom campaign for each organization since they are different. Drake noted that it makes more sense for MVRTD to be the hub for driver recruitment. Betty said she wasn't sure if this would be a good idea and said that One-2-One might be better to operate recruitment. White agreed. Carrier noted that VTrans was not concerned with a centralized number and noted that the number VTrans directs people to was MVRTD. White said she wasn't sure if MVRTD had the information and was pushing it to partners. Wedin said she did not know since she was involved in dispatch but would try to find out and/or ask a dispatcher to join. Wedin did suggest distributing recruitment materials to companies to include in their retirement packages. Pepin noted that without the perspective of MVRTD dispatch, it would be hard to decide and deferred a decision regarding driver recruitment to the June meeting.

4) FY23 BUDGET

Pepin asked Yvonne if the official budget had been submitted to VTrans yet. Yvonne said it had been sent to VTrans. Carrier said that the line item for E&D has been approved. Pepin asked if individual partner sums were included in the budget, Wedin said they were not but would share. Pepin said the allocation would be discussed at the next Committee meeting. Pepin showed the current budget, noting that the budget was still underspent and said that the committee would look to do a similar transfer as before and allocated funds from underspent partners to overspent partners. Pepin asked underspent partners if they expected to ramp up spending in the coming months. Drake said that she would be looking to cut the balance in half by the end of June. Knauer said that she did not expect the rate to change substantially and thought there would be money left over to share with SVCOA. Pepin said that he would follow up within the week and distribute a new budget proposal for partners to view, and then sign a MOU to transfer funds.

5) FY24 WORKPLAN

Pepin discussed how the goal of the state was to evolve this Committee into a Regional Mobility Committee which would include Recovery & Jobs Access as well as Medicaid transportation. Pepin suggested including more partners who could better speak to those other trips including job centers and addiction treatment centers. Pepin suggested VT JobLink and Affiliate Job Center,



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as well as BROC and Turning Point Rutland. Pepin noted that the committee should be sensitive to geographic spread of partners given the cluster of medical facilities and employment centers in Rutland City. Spooner asked for clarification regarding the Regional Mobility Committee. Pepin explained again that the Committee would be evolving to include other micro transit programs and looking to add partners to represent those new ride services. Wedin noted that hireability Vermont and turning point were the only two organizations that MVRTD has been working with Recovery and Jobs Access. Pepin noted that partners would not be ride providers but provide a more holistic view of the region's needs. Spooner asked whether Recovery and Jobs access could provide rides to employment and if she could refer callers to that program. Wedin said that she could direct riders towards that program. Knauer noted that she had concerns with adding more partners since they wouldn't be interested in operational questions that the committee takes up. Spooner agreed. Pepin emphasized that this was guidance coming from the state, so while the committee had latitude to shape the regional mobility structure, the shift in focus would be occurring. Pepin suggested that perhaps a subcommittee could be utilized to keep the current operational discussions among E&D providers. Currier noted that this was the direction the state wanted to move in, but said it was currently being piloted in Washington County, so the final form of this committee is still up in the air. Currier said that this would involve opening more collaboration on funding and would not place burdens on existing providers. Currier said that there were lots of opportunities for this committee to shape the committee membership in the coming years, but that ultimately this was the direction things were going in and he hoped the committee members would embrace it. Knauer said she was already working with Recovery and Jobs Access and Medicaid. Wedin agreed and said they had a great collaboration with Knauer and emphasized that this would not be a takeaway from anyone. Pepin noted that there was already existing collaboration to be built on, but there was more work to be done.

Pepin then talked about priorities for the upcoming work plan and noted that driver recruitment and marketing should be the primary goals of the committee moving forward given that these efforts are more of a continual effort not a single project.

6) PARTER UPDATES

One-2-One: Brown has nothing to report.

Castleton Community Seniors: Knauer said it was about the same, few new partners. Knauer said new driver had to take a week off due to a death in the family.

ARC: Drake had no news.

Bridges and Beyond: Spooner talked about how MVRTD has been great to work with and has been able to accommodate riders that Bridges could not. Spooner asked if she should be pushing

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riders asking for shopping trips to MVRTD. Wedin said partners should always check with MVRTD as often they have drivers who are doing long distance trips to the hospital who end up waiting for hours while the rider is getting medical treatment.

VCIL: Butterfield asked if the driver recruitment information could be shared with her so she could distribute it to her church. Pepin said he would provide this.

7) ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Butterfield, seconded by Drake. Adjourned at 12:13

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