



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Barrows asked to amend the agenda to add an item for the election of officers. Motion by Atherton to approve June 29th Agenda as ammended. Second by Wyman. Approved by voice vote.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Wyman to approve the May 25th Minutes. Second by Atherton. Approved by voice vote.

4) Election of Officers

Motion by Atherton to elect Barrows Chair of Committee. Seconded by Courcelle. . Approved by voice vote.

Motion by Courcelle to elect Atherton Vice-Chair of Committee. Seconded by Barros. Approved by voice vote.

5) OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

6) Microtransit – Ethan Pepin, RRPC Transportation Planner

Pepin gave a presentation on Microtransit. This presentation described microtransit as small-scale on demand transit that is designed to fill service gaps of fixed route transit systems. Pepin further described examples in the Rutland region of existing microtransit. These include Older Adult & Persons with Disabilities (OA&D formerly E&D) and Medicaid Transportation, MVRTD subscription service, Recovery and Jobs Access program. Pepin next discussed the modernization of microtransit technology. He described the use of modern software that enables real-time routing. The current systems in the Rutland region are run by a phone operator that hand calculates microtransit dispatches. Pepin stated that Vermont will be adapting QRYDE software to enable computerized routing of microtransit, which will significantly increase the efficiency and regional synchronization. Pepin described the value of microtransit to provide mobility access; these include improved physical and mental health through access to needed services and increased ability to maintain social activities. Additionally, microtransit allows people to access jobs that would otherwise be unavailable. Pepin concluded by describing how the current microtransit programs are working to form the Regional Mobility Committee (anticipated FY2025) to coordinate services across the region through cross-sectional collaboration. One success story is that through a collaborative effort OA&D was able to transport people, with limited access to direct service, to the MVRTD transit center from where the bus brought these people to the Veggie Van Go mobile food shelf. After receiving their food distribution, MVRTD brought these folks back to the transit center and OA&D microtransit then brought them to their homes. Barrows asked about ridership numbers for OA&D eligible people. Pepin responded that good data does not currently exist but through the Regional Mobility Committee and QRYDE we will be able to accurately track ridership in the future. McClure asked if there was service available in the county for transportation to recovery services. Pepin clarified that the Recovery and Jobs Access program supports transportation in our region. Sotirakis noted that 27.6% of VT population is age 60+ with 13% of age

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65+ living alone and that the median income of people 65+ is \$42,542. Pepin noted that census data shows Rutland region to have an older than average population as compared to the rest of Vermont, and that 16% of people in the region have an ADA qualified disability. Pepin reiterated the importance of transit to support this population. Holland related similar issues of access to mobility services in the NWRPC region. She believes the Regional Mobility Committee is well situated to increase access to transportation through public outreach and improved capacity. Barrows and Pepin discussed opportunities to coordinate necessary inter-region transportation to medical centers.

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pepin announced a federal Rural Technical Assistance grant which provides a 0% match for scoping, feasibility studies, and preliminary engineering projects. Pepin recommends applying for this grant if the towns have a well planned projects.

Gildrien announced the upcoming VT EVSE Incentive Program. He stated that the Dept. of Housing and Community Development has been appropriated \$7M to invest in EVSE charging implementation grants. He further described the eligibility, award amounts, and requirements of the grant program. Barrows suggested this may be a good program for the local housing trust to install EVSE in their multiunit residences. Atherton asked if this program is due to high EV adoption in multiunit dwellings. Gildrien responded that the program is based on a pilot that is designed to provide access to multiunit residents due to barriers related to split incentives. McClure described an example of a friend that lives in a multiunit home and must park a 15 minute walk away from her home because she is not permitted to install an EV charger. Potter mentioned that there is free EV charging located in the Rutland City parking garage.

TOWN UPDATES

Brandon: Wyman stated that the town is working on a culvert project on Arnold District Rd.

Chittenden: Sotirakis stated that the town just began accepting bids for a culvert project.

Clarendon: Potter said there is ditching on West Tinmouth and that the culvert project is the largest anticipated project in the town.

Mendon: Courcelle stated that the town is searching to fill all road crew positions. And that the Rte 4 Scoping study and Alternative Transportation Corridor had a hybrid public meeting.

Pawlet: Sobotka said road crews is continuing to work on Whip Hill road project

Pittsford: Atherton described the temporary replacement of the existing sidewalks as the largest town project.

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Tinmouth: Johnson talked about the town using ARPA funds to purchase speed control devices.

Rutland City: McClure noted that they are supporting an application for the VTrans Small-Scale Safety Improvement Grant and currently working on the installation of additional EVSE in the city. She also discussed increased parking ticket pricing and parking meter infrastructure updates.

West Rutland: Barrows stated that the town is finishing a back roads grant and mentioned a housing development project.

8) ADJOURN

Barrows motioned to adjourn, Atherton seconded. Approved by voice vote. Adjourned at 7:01.

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