**RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION** 

## OLDER ADULTS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024, 11:00 AM

### **MEETING DETAILS**

Virtual: <u>Teams Meeting</u>, ID: 239 820 319 213, Pass: CpxDkJ Call: 1-802-440-1368, ID: 598 674 540# In-Person: The Opera House, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

### ATTENDANCE

(X = in person) (V = virtual attendance)

ORGANIZATION	NAME	
ARC Rutland Area		
Bridges & Beyond	Betty Spooner	Х
Castleton Community Seniors (CCS)	Laurie Knauer	Х
Marble Valley Regional Transit District	Deanna Wetherby	۷
(MVRTD)	Kristy Bloomer	
One-2-One/RSVP	Maryesa White	۷
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging		
(SVCOA)		
Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)	Dan Currier	V

**Staff:** Ethan Pepin, Transportation Planner - Rutland Regional Planning Commission

### **MEETING MINUTES**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS Meeting called to order at 11:04 AM. Introductions were made.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MAY 8th AGENDA Motion by Spooner to approve the agenda. Second by Laurie. Approved by voice vote.
- 3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 10th MINUTES Motion by Bloomer to approve the minutes. Second by Butterfield . Approved by voice vote.
- 4. OPEN TO PUBLIC No public Comments
- 5. PARTNER UPDATES

Spooner had no updates. Knauer reported that she was picking up a few more passengers from Poultney, noting that a recent newspaper article on the service helped get the word out. White



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reported that she got an inquiry from Rutland Regional Medical Center, which said that information about the ride service provided to patients was no correct and that they received it from Marble Valley. Bloomer noted that she was unaware of any issues. White stated that the information was delivered as part of patient discharge papers and that she asked them to correct it and requested MVRTD double check information distributed to medical centers. Butterfield had nothing to report. Bloomer noted that she had received surveys about the program and was working to get them out. Some drivers left, but new volunteers have been found. Wetherby said she had sent Pepin updated budget details about FY25 just before the meeting started. Pepin explained that the details were about the proposed breakdown of program funding between partners, and the proposal reflects partner requests to the best ability possible. Currier gave an update on the current survey process stating that the State's consultants finalized the surveys and distributed them to partners. Currier stated that they were trying to push people to a digital survey via a QR code. White stated that she felt online surveys were not useful for her clientele, many of whom struggle with using computers. Currier stated that printed surveys were still an option as well as a call center option. Currier further noted that there was no due date for the surveys at present. Butterfield expressed that she was happy to see a call center option for those with vision impairments. Currier stated that the survey was developed with accessibility in mind. Currier also noted that VTrans was trying to distribute the survey in other languages if necessary. Pepin asked if the partners knew of any riders who did not speak English. Bloomer said there were a few, but they work through a translator. Currier stated that the OA&D Summit would be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> and registration was open. Pepin said he had shared the information and that there would be a virtual attendance option. Currier said that that information was incorrect, and the option would not be offered anymore, although it had been included in all the outreach materials sent out to RPCs to promote the summit.

### 6. FY25 WORKPLAN

Pepin introduced the proposed workplan and explained the changes from the FY24 Workplan. Pepin explained that VTrans expected the Committee to evolve to a 'Regional Mobility Committee' model that included more community partners and worked on other ride programs, like Jobs Access/Recovery & Medicaid transportation. The workplan reflects those planned changes. Pepin asked Currier about other Region's that had already moved to this model. Currier said there were several that would be good to connect with. Pepin also asked Currier about the implementation of new routing software, QRyde. Currier explained that it was slated for December 2025, and that partners would not be expected to adopt it. Spooner asked about when this changed, since she had been told it would be required. Currier explained that the implementation was slow, and so they were focused on transit providers. Pepin asked about comments on the plan and requested changes. Spooner noted that the item regarding QRydge should be removed since Currier said that would not happen in SFY25. Pepin removed the item. Knauer asked Currier if 'excursions' were an eligible trip type. Currier said that would be a question for Marble Valley. Bloomer said they would be. Currier said he wanted to address a question from last meeting's minutes about wether funding would be cut if not used. Currier said the funding would not be cut, and any unused funds go back into the program for the next year.



7. ADJOURN

Motion by Spooner to adjourn. Second by Knauer. Approved by voice vote. Adjourned at 11:41 AM.

Respectively submitted by Ethan Pepin