

GMCN Public Meeting  
July 17, 2008

Daniel Wagner opened the meeting with welcoming remarks, explaining the purpose of the meeting. The attendees then introduced themselves. He then provided the overview of the meeting, including the Short-Range Public Transportation Process. Wagner discussed the state's transit map, explaining that the demand response routes are not shown on the map.

Wagner continued with the State's investment/trends in federal and state funding for operations of public transit, which shows continuous increase, commenting that Vermont is on top tiers of providing funding in this area in the nation. He provided an overview of governance, operations, the service area and types of services provided. He then discussed fares, fleet and Green Mountain Community Network's current facility located in Bennington. He showed the ridership chart, indicating it only included deviated fixed route service. Donna Baker of GMCN added that service should be only viewed since 2007, when actual operations started under GMCN organization. Wagner then discussed GMCN's operating budget, pointing out the various funding source received.

Wagner then highlighted the next steps of the process and availability of materials on the project website. He also pointed out that comments can also be sent in through the mail or website, whichever is easier for the public. He then opened the discussion.

- VT 211 can provide general public data on call volume about transportation issues in the State.
- United Way representative noted additional people are using public transportation; however some continue to be afraid to use it because they don't know how to use it. There is need for training. Baker said there is a travel training program with United Counseling/CRT, RSVP and local schools for a pilot project.
- Transportation across borders is a factor. There is lack of intermodal transportation for travel across borders/states. VTrans officials noted that Yankee Trail is available; GMCN connection to Greyhound and Amtrak in Rutland.
- United Counseling clients use the free, on-demand system for door to door service although there is public transportation that costs \$.50 is available. Is there a possibility of a monthly pass? Discussion of implications to Medicaid rules followed. County would like to transition people, making a monthly pass available that allows them unlimited travel throughout town. A discussion about the need for streamlining the state regulatory process followed. Wagner and Chadwick explained the CCTA model. Chadwick emphasized that any proposals should be discussed in advance with VTrans & OVHA prior to implementation.
- The Regional Commission is doing a map of downtown and GMCN will mark their Medicaid trips to determine coordination with available deviated fixed service to accommodate the existing riders.

The meeting adjourned