



**Tri-Valley Transit
dba Stagecoach Transportation
Orange/N. Windsor E&D Partner Meeting
April 1, 2021 – 1pm to 3pm via Zoom
DRAFT MINUTES**

Attendees – Jim Moulton, Tri-Valley Transit, Jade McClallen, Stagecoach; Mike Reiderer, Stagecoach; Rita Seto, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission; Jeanne Kern, Central Vermont Council on Aging; Deanna Jones, Thompson Senior Center; Gretchen Pembroke, Clara Martin Center; Tim Bradshaw, VTrans; Katharine Otto, VTrans; Wendi Germain, Senior Solutions, Mark Bradley, Bugbee Senior Center.

Regrets – Gifford Adult Day; Upper Valley Services; Scotland House Adult Day

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

Rita called meeting at 1:05pm and roll called those present.

2. VTrans – any updates from Tim Bradshaw

Tim confirmed he will be TVT's VTrans Public Transit Coordinator permanently replacing Stephanie Reilly (she's been reassigned to focus on contract tracing). Tim has been managing the Rides to Wellness grant with a pilot at Gifford and Porter. Unfortunately, it started last year during pandemic and so the results have not been accurately reflecting the hoped outcome. This grant will carry over until FY23 as things begin to resume. This aims to improve collaboration between TVT and community partners.

Tim and Jim working on FY' 22 and anticipates the grant request to be level funded at pre-Covid award.

3. Ticket to Ride updates from Partners

Jim reported TVT starting to have increase in number of Ticket to Ride rides due to combination of the safety protocols put in place as well as the vaccinations occurring. TVT will also be increasing the number of rides cap per person from 4 to 6 which was welcomed by partners. Jim also reported TVT working on a microtransit concept pilot with VTrans which is like "uber on steroids" a combination of demand response and dial a ride through a smart phone app or calling the TVT office to schedule a ride. There is a pilot in Montpelier at the moment and there's discussion of potentially working with Thompson Senior Center for the Woodstock area. This pilot study will see if it's feasible in the long run. Deanna noted at the moment, TSC no longer has their van and rely only on volunteer drivers to provide local rides to the



Woodstock area. For out-of-town rides like medical appoints, they've been referring to TVT Ticket to Ride. Jeanne asked how microtransit will impact E&D funding and rides for this group? The feasibility study will help review the impacts (pros and cons) for the decision making.

Deanna updated that TSC continues to provide Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meal delivery. Rides remain in the local area. Senior centers are expected to reopen for group activities. Activities are currently one on one. The biggest thing is waiting for staff to get vaccinated.

Wendi reported that Senior Solutions has a new ED – Mark Boutwell. There's excitement among staff for new energy. Wendi is still learning the ins and outs of the E&D group and how to utilize us as a resource. It's recommended that TVT staff chat with Jeanne, Wendi and Mark as a onboarding Q&A session.

Gretchen reported Clara Martin relying on TVT for client rides, mostly for rides to vaccinations. They will look to do analysis on how much overall transportation they provide vs. what they do to supplement TVT rides. Clara Martin is preparing for the "new" in person allowances.

Mark reported that since Covid hit, the Bugbee van has sat unused. Typically, the van transport folks to and from the senior center for activities. Mark looks forward to seeing how E&D group can be a resource for Bugbee.

4. Food Access study - Jim

Jim reported that during Covid, food access was extremely important. Under Covid, FTA relaxed rules and allowed "food transport" as eligible activity. TVT looking to partner with CAPSTONE and supervisory union to pilot a study looking at food access/deserts. They'll start with Chelsea Senior Center and Meals on Wheels and will include CVCOA in discussion. Jeanne requested before senior centers re-open, for TVT to reassess the transportation models to Chelsea and Quintown if it's best use of dollars or needs improving by providing a different model.

5. E&D final workplan review – Rita

Rita did a quick review of the final draft of the E&D workplan. A minor revision of moving the ridership report to partners to a different section apart from the meeting times. Rita will review final reporting requirements with Mike ACRPC to be consistent.

Wendi asked group if there are standardized intake forms for new riders to track the number of unduplicated riders? There are none at this time.

It was also noted that Adult Days are getting permission to reopen with guidance. The biggest hurdle is re-hiring staff (e.g. Scotland Adult Day).



6. FY'22 Expectations

As noted, VTrans/TVT anticipates level funding pre-Covid award amounts.

7. Meeting with VTrans/TVT/RPC

TVT, VTrans, TRORC/ACRPC will be meeting in a few weeks to discuss improvements on coordinating between the 2 E&D groups for TVT and provide support/recommend resources so that the workplan is less onerous.

8. Next Meetings

June 2021 / September 2021 – Rita will send Doodle poll for June.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

Submitted by: Rita Seto, TRORC