Attendees – Mike Reiderer, Stephanie Stearns, Jade McClallen and Jim Moulton, Tri-Valley Transit; Rita Seto, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission; Alana Phinney, Central Vermont Council on Aging; Amanda Jordan Smith (left 1:05pm), Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center; Mark Bradley, Bugbee Senior Center; Dan Currier, VTrans; Matthew Arancio, VTrans.

Regrets – Gifford Adult Day; Scotland House Adult Day; Deanna Jones, Thompson Senior Center; Gretchen Pembroke, Clara Martin Center; Katharine Otto, VTrans; Tim Bradshaw, VTrans; Wendi Germain, Senior Solutions; Jared Pendak, Upper Valley Services.

Meeting Minutes

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

2. Amendments to the Agenda
   None

3. New E&D Partner Guidance
   a) Example guidance from Green Mountain Transit
   b) added E&D service for Special Needs Support Center
   Jim reviewed the TVT organization chart and affiliation key on how partners are affiliated to the E&D group. One of the biggest items is when new partners approach TVT E&D group for transportation services and/or funding. There is no clear guidance on how to incorporate a partner into the group. VTrans had forwarded a New E&D Partner guidance document created by Central Vermont as an example for future E&D groups to potentially use. Jim reported that the Special Need Support Center (SNSC) has approached Tri-Valley Transit (TVT) about providing transportation from Upper Valley area schools to a centrally located afterschool program operated by the organization. The program allows children with disabilities to participate fully in an afterschool enrichment program who are often excluded from these opportunities because their support services end with the end of the school day. SNSC is in a strong position to serve these students and has developed this program to offer that support.
The program will be held at The Wilder School in Hartford, VT, where students will be dropped off. Students will be picked up at Bernice Ray Elementary School in Hanover, NH and Marion Cross Elementary School in Norwich, VT. Elementary Schools are dismissed at 3:00 and it is expected that caregivers will pick up children at the end of the program. TVT proposes that this service is eligible for E&D program funding as it directly supports youth with disabilities in the community that we serve. SNSC would provide local matching funds to contribute to the program. Jim reported that we are not spending down E&D funds across TVT and SNSC can provide 20% local cash match which is significant. TVT verified eligibility with VTrans staff and this would be a pilot service. SNSC has not been formally invited to the group as typically an organization is looking for additional VTrans funding.

TVT is looking to create a consistent guidance that can be used for both Addison and Orange/Northern Windsor E&D groups. This can lay out what circumstances and how they may get integrated into the funding pie.

Rita and Mike (from Addison County) will coordinate efforts to compile a TVT guidance along with a 1 page executive summary. These will be sent out to E&D group for comments and incorporate back for review at next E&D meeting in April. Alana (CVCOA) asked when the service will start? Mike reported that the rides began 2 weeks ago. There are currently 4 students with special needs being transported and have a potential to expand to 10 students.

4. VTrans
   a) E&D trip cancellation/denials
   b) community driver campaign

Dan reported that VTrans is looking to collect data on trip cancellations and denials from each transit provider (looking at time periods and what reasons). Stephanie reported that in October in the ONW region, there were many drivers out and had the highest cancellation/denial trips with 88, Nov had 69, Dec had 46 and Jan had 37 out of total rides (July to Oct averaged 355 monthly rides).

VTrans is looking to promote a new statewide initiative: Community Driver Campaign (vs. individual public transit organizations trying to solicit volunteer drivers). There is a call center at GO Vermont that can dispatch volunteer drivers.

5. TVT
   a) Microtransit updates
   b) Volunteer R&R

Mike reported that TVT began a new study in Randolph with initial assessment of existing conditions. They are finalizing projected service and cost with a potential
timeframe starting in 2024. Middlebury microtransit is underway with a launch date of July 1. Woodstock area was also reviewed initially for microtransit but the demographics did not seem to support further study.

6. **Partner Roundtable** - a chance to share useful insights about the programs

**CVCOA** – Alana reported she is still onboarding and she hoped to check in with all the senior centers in the next few weeks. There was also discussion regarding the Bradford Circulator and possible change to the deviation mileage from 3 miles to 1 mile and whether to require a volunteer driver instead of a client/rider is outside that zone.

**Bugbee** – Mark reported they’re trying to work with TVT on merging driver volunteers to maximize efforts. Bugbee had stopped their van services but without advertising that halted service, there have not been any requests for van services. They are focusing on developing a Life After Driving pilot where they form cohorts for transit-friendly riding group.

**MAHHC** – Amanda quickly reported before she left that the microtransit service in Windsor will be starting on Monday Jan. 23, 2023 and everyone is excited!

The meeting adjourned at 2:07pm.
Next meeting April 2023

Submitted by: Rita Seto, TRORC