

Public Transit Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Regional Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Friday, October 16th, 2020
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting Notes:

Attending: Christine Howe (SeVT), Randy Schoonmaker (SeVT), Timothy Bradshaw (VTrans), Chris Company (WRC), Colin Bratton (WRC), Otis Munroe (SWCRPC), Wendy Germain (Senior Solutions)

9/18/20 Notes Approval: Notes from previous meeting approved with no changes

Business:

- Mobility & Transportation Innovations Grant (MTI)
 - The MTI grant program is a recently announced initiative from the Vermont Agency of Transportation that will provide funding for a variety of projects that improve mobility and transportation access for transit dependent Vermonters as well as projects that reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles and lower greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The focus of the grant is on the creation or expansion of Transit Demand Management projects, such as micro transit initiatives, as well as the creation or expansion of First Mile/Last Mile programs.
 - Funding is available at three different levels; A: \$10,000, B: \$50,000, C: \$100,000
 - The discussion was led by Randy Schoonmaker from SeVT and Tim Bradshaw of Vtrans. The potential of a Micro Transit program in Southeastern Vermont was discussed, using the pilot program in the Capital Region as a basis. However Vtrans intends Microtransit as a replacement for rather than a supplement to traditional fixed route service, and currently the fixed route service in the region is operating at near capacity levels. There is little reason to make significant changes to the service that is already operating very successfully.
 - A First Mile/Last Mile program operated together with the ADA service could be a good option to explore to improve access for transit dependent populations in our region using funding from Category A or Category B MTI grant. A Vtrans cost estimate study would be the starting point for such a proposal.
 - Randy Schoonmaker motions for SeVT to approach Vtrans with a proposal for First Mile/ Last Mile ADA program cost estimate study.
 - Motion approved Unanimously.
- Fiscal Year 2021 Budget
 - SeVT as well as Senior Solutions approve of FY '21 Budget proposal from 9/18 meeting.
 - Other Budget issues:
 - Bellows Falls Senior Center reopened last week for the first time since the beginning of Covid crisis.
 - SeVT has provided 1 trip thus far for the BF senior center and anticipates a significant uptick in trips in the coming weeks.
 - Budget must be updated to include adequate funding for Bellows Falls Senior Center
 - Rockingham Meals program has also reopened and has used 17% of its allocated funding in the first month, however it is anticipated this number will fall in the coming months.
 - Wilmington Meals program is yet to reopen and is unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future.
 - Social Trips have been included in FY '21 budget, however since the program started last month we are yet to make any social rides.

