**Minutes**

**Public Transit Elders and Persons with Disabilities Regional Committee Meeting**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Friday, July 15, 2022**

**10:00am – 11:30am**

**Attending:** Otis Munroe (MARC), Tim Bradshaw (VTrans), Christine Howe (SEVT), Heather Robertson (The Gathering Place), Sue Pollard (Springfield Adult Day), Amanda Smith (MAHHC), Wendi Germain (COASEV)

**Minutes Approval:** Sue made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21 meeting. Christine seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Spending and Budget:** Christine reminded the Committee that FY23 funding is returning to 80% federal and 20% local match after FY22 started at 100% federal funds.

Christine reviewed FY22 spending. Capacity increased steadily throughout FY22 and that’s expected to continue into the beginning of FY23. Discussion followed on allocating funding between E&D and Medicaid based on misclassified clients as well as Medicaid requirements.

Christine gave an overview of the proposed FY23 budget.

The following were notable changes from FY22:

* Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) is a new E&D Committee partner. MAHHC’s Rides to Wellness program funding is ending once carryover funds are spent so a new source of funding separate from SEVT’s E&D funding has been located.
* The Wilmington Meals and Shopping budget was increased to reflect a lack of volunteer riders and therefore increased cost.
* The Gathering Place’s budget was increased since their capacity has been increasing and is expected to continue to. The budget is still not yet back at pre-COVID levels.
* Springfield Adult Day’s budget was increased to reflect higher costs due to having geographically dispersed clients.

There was a discussion on in-kind versus cash match. Aside from non-emergency medical trips, in-kind match has been avoided to allow the budget to go further. The upcoming Windsor Microtransit pilot was discussed as an alternative to E&D-funded rides within Windsor.

*Christine made a motion to approve the draft FY23 E&D budget as presented pending adjustments made throughout the year by the Committee. Second by Sue. The motion passed unanimously.*

**VTrans Updates:** Tim shared VTrans’ appreciation for the work done by MAHHC through the Rides to Wellness pilot. Tim covered efforts to expand the E&D Committee to a Mobility for all Committee. Finding volunteers continues to be difficult, particularly in light of COVID, inflation, and high gas prices. VTrans is investigating ways to incentivize volunteers but tax implications are challenging.

**Partner Updates:**

*Mount Ascutney Regional Commission:* Otis informed the Committee of an upcoming Mount Ascutney Region Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on the Transportation Equity Framework that VTrans and a consultant have been working on.

*Mount Ascutney Hospital:* Amanda shared that MAHHC is continuing to help with medical, shopping, and social trips. Demand has remained high. MAHHC continues to require masking and other safety precautions which has helped retain volunteers. They have about 130 active volunteers including nearly 50 drivers. Gas prices have made an impact. A top priority is maintaining the volunteer network and fostering a sense of community. Wendi asked about successful volunteer appreciation efforts. Amanda mentioned the importance of personal touches and that MAHHC is going to donate recognition funds to the community in the volunteers’ names. Volunteers have expressed the desire to spend funds on the community rather than the volunteers.

**E&D Summit Debrief:** All who attended expressed appreciation for the work that went into the summit. There was discussion on the frequency of future summits and the possibility of a remote/hybrid option to improve accessibility. Tim mentioned that the notes and resources from the summit are now up on the website (<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit/E-and-D>).

**Next Meeting:** October 21, 2022. Christine proposed holding an additional meeting between January and Aprilto review spending trends. Tim suggested inviting the Agency of Human Services and recovery centers to the next meeting in the context of the move to a Mobility for All Committee and the Recovery and Jobs Access program.

*Motion to adjourn by Christine, 2nd by Sue. Motion passes unanimously.*