

**Mount Ascutney Regional
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2023

A meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held via Zoom and in-person at 6:00 pm.

Attendance

TAC members present: Kristi Morris, Springfield; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; John Saydek, Cavendish; Diane Foulds, Windsor; Peter Hudkins, Chester; Sharon Bixby, Ludlow

Others present: Otis Munroe, MARC; Christine Howe, SEVT

Kristi Morris opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

All present members of the TAC and guests introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to approve the February 22nd minutes. Second by John Saydek. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Updates and Announcements

Christine shared an update on the Windsor microtransit pilot. Poor weather and some technical issues led to a slow start but ridership has trended upwards over time. The majority of trips are for shopping and personal trips with medical coming in third. Earlier in the month is busier than later, likely due to when benefits become available. Early and late week days are also busier than the middle of the week. Any software glitches should be addressed now. Diane asked about expectations. SEVT wants to see more rides but is happy with where ridership is considering how early it still is. Diane recommended using front porch forum to help spread the word. She's also heard feedback requesting shopping trips to Claremont and Lebanon. Christine will look into opportunities to connect the Micromoo to the Springfield to Claremont shopping trips. Diane asked about using electric vehicles. The vehicles and charging infrastructure are still a few years out but are on the horizon. Christine shared pictures of the new vehicles that will soon be taking over service. The vans are all wheel drive and have a capacity of 8 passengers without wheelchairs.

Kristi shared an update on recent legislative activity. The House passed a Senate bills to help prevent catalytic converter thefts, expand workers comp eligibility to volunteer firefighters. The Affordable Heat Act passed the House. This is a controversial bill. The bill requires the Public Utility Commission to put together a plan that will come back to the Legislature before any rules can be implemented. Peter asked if firewood dealers would be covered by the bill. They would not. A discussion followed about heat pumps and heating in Vermont, workforce, and power grid capacity and resilience. The Springfield charter went through. The housing and land use bill (S.100) is attempting to streamline permitting and increase allowable densities in areas served by water and sewer.

Otis shared that the FFY24 TPI Workplan is coming soon. Weathersfield is applying for a scoping study for pedestrian improvements in Perkinsville. GIA letters of intent are due May 5. Park Your Carbon week is coming up in May. VTrans and DHCD have sent out a survey to gauge interest in hosting EV chargers. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grants are coming soon. Fieldwork season is coming soon and Otis asked that towns get requests for traffic counts in. Wayne asked about reclassifying Harris Road from class 3 to class 2. Peter asked about adding a park and ride in Gassetts.

5. Future agenda items & next meeting date

- a. Next meeting: May 24, 2023.
- b. Topic: TBD

9. Adjourn

Sharon Bixby made a motion to adjourn. Second by Diane Foulds. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.