

**Public Transit Elders and Persons with Disabilities Regional Committee Meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Friday, April 23rd, 2021**  
**10:00am-12:00pm**

**Attending:** Otis Munroe (MARC), Tim Bradshaw (VTrans), Christine Howe (SeVT), Sue Pollard (Springfield Area Adult Day), Maggie Lewis (The Gathering Place), Colin Bratton (WRC)

**Approval of 2/26/21 Minutes:** Motion by Christine Howe, 2nd from Otis Munroe. Approval of minutes passes unanimously.

**Overview of Budget:** Thus far the E&D program is on track, having spent approximately 70% of our FY '21 budget. This is exactly where we should be at this point in the year. The social trip program has started and is thus far going well. At this point there is no need to limit the number of trips per customer, but if usage increases there may be a point where some limitations would need to be imposed. It is unlikely this will happen before Covid restrictions have been substantially relaxed. Service efficiency will increase once restrictions are lifted, allowing the transit providers to carry more customers per trip than we are currently. It is expected we will return to more normal service levels by July, but at this point we do not know when, if ever, transit usage will return to pre covid levels.

The Adult Day Centers are still closed, but are scheduled to reopen in the near future. The Springfield Area Adult Day is scheduled to reopen June 5th, and the Bellows Falls Adult Day Center is scheduled for reopening sometime in July.

**VTrans Updates:** Significant additional funding has been allocated to the E&D program by VTrans using funds received from Federal Government. This funding will allow the service to continue to be fair free through FY '22, and will also provide for significant upgrades and repairs to the fleet of vehicles.

It is unclear what the future of public transit will look like post covid, and VTrans is preparing for a significant shift in service and usage. In particular VTrans is focused on promoting micro transit post covid, and is in the beginning stages of undertaking micro transit feasibility studies and ultimately pilot programs around the state. It is important that E&D and Medicaid Riders be included as part of these micro transit programs. We will have more information about what this will look like for our region as the feasibility studies get underway.

**Partner Updates:** Currently the Springfield Adult Day Center is operating as a covid clinic. Currently they are planning to return to Adult Day service by June. There will need to be increased collaboration with transit providers once adult day services have restarted to ensure maximum possible level of service.

The Gathering Place in Brattleboro is scheduled to reopen by early July at which point collaboration with transit providers will be an important piece of returning to service. Currently Adult Day Centers around the State are receiving increased financial assistance due to covid capacity restrictions. There is no time frame at this point for when funding levels may return to normal.

**Other Business:** The E&D rider follow up survey has been extended one year by VTrans, from June 30th 2021 to June 30th 2022 to allow for better incorporation of best practices for interviewing and addressing the needs of people with dementia and other vulnerable populations. There is a desire to provide training to Regional Commissions and other partners on best practices in outreach to elders.

Senior Center partners feel they need more time to review the draft of the Committee work plan. We will reconvene in May to review the work plan draft, and hopefully adopt the work plan pending partner approval.

**Motion to Adjourn from Christine Howe, 2nd by Colin Bratton. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Next Meeting:** Friday May 14th, 2021 10:00am-12:00pm.