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**Public Transit Advisory Council**

**December 16, 2021, 1:00pm – 2:45pm**

Meeting Minutes

1:00pm Welcome – Ross MacDonald, VTrans Public Transit Program Manager

 Review and approval of the September 2021 PTAC minutes

* **Approved and accepted**

 COVID-19 Operations and Updates. Ridership, safety precautions, etc.

* Please see PT Ridership chart. Final review will be in March meeting
* Dan -53% decline due to Covid then the ridership waivered due to new variances
* Please see ridership chart #2 monthly scale. Waivered from 400,00 March before Covid then again waivered with the Covid variances. Ridership has leveled out at the new Covid level.
* (Van AT) Where is VT with national levels?

Vermont is in-line with the national numbers

* Sept – Oct high costs in PT due to Covid trends
* Tim - VT still has uptick in Covid positives. PT is doing its due diligence to keep people safe
* Mask mandate extended to March 2022.
* Improving passenger amenities rider experiences
* Researching and received quote to fund and use Transit Royale for notifications and alerts. We will start working with this app in FY23.
* Jamie Smith GMT -

 GMT Microtransit Pilot Project – 1-year review.

* Jamie Smith GMT – My Ride flexible rt schedule service (please see PPT for hours)
* VIA Micro transit app; this system is used worldwide. Pick up at your home. Designated pickup locations as well.
* See PPT for depiction of app
* Driver can see passenger on app to help with timing
* Clear communication of how to use app
* Can call call-center or book online, and app (most are using call ctr)
* See PPT for metrics on service since Jan of 2021
* Avg Aggregation is where there is room for improvement
* Most people are booking trips 1-3 hours ahead of time.
* 7am to 9am are the highest utilization times.
* Seeing uptick every month since start of the program
* Please see PPT for top public origins and destinations
* Developing marketing for State House
* Reeducation campaign to help people with ridership
* App users will receive a VIA survey.
* (Representative Burke; Shared a story of legislative colleague using the service)
* Ross – Received request for other communities to start the program switch from mt Peter Johnke also wishes to expand the services.
* Peter Johnke – uses the app and helps along all the improvements. Talk about change of having to think ahead for using the app/possible big shift for passengers. Is there a hope that additional bus for peak hours? Jamie - Still up in the air for expansion.
* Conor O’Dea – Would this be possible with fixed transit or is it to help fixed transit to take over the microtransit? Jamie – the offers a more flexible approach and a possible campaign using testimonials.

 Capstone Basic Mobility for All Pilot

* Identifies barriers for challenges and limitations for Capstone clients.
* Trying for Miro transit for obtaining vehicles and drivers as a resource for on demand trips for Medicaid, elderly, persons with disabilities. How will this help outline the communities that are falling through the cracks.
* Pilot project scope for April for GMT to put in application for FY23.
* Is anyone interested in this process and joining these efforts for the basic mobility for all pilot?

 FY ’23 Budget Review

* Financial operations are joining the meeting to answer questions. 20% match for 5311 funding of vehicles. The formula funds may have up to a 37% increase. Or use FHWA funds options.

 Electrification Plan – Update

* Future applications for LoNo are expanding by a large %. Renamed current plan to zero emissions plan.
* How long/much would it take to electrify fleet? Want to use buses until useful life is up.
* Please see PPT Scenario charts. Work with GMT to aggressively electrify their fleet (they heave half of our fleet) may be able to switch out their fleet and use the same plan with all other providers.
* Need new facility and possible build to suit electrification from ground up.

 Intermodal Connectivity Study

* Evaluation between train, ferries, intercity, and local/commuter systems (PLEASE take survey that was sent out)
* Study broken down into recommendation types.
* Please see PPT for 7 overarching recommendations
* See PPT for station service recommendations, prioritization considerations
* Want to be finished with study by January.

 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Transit’s Role

* Please see link on PPT to see Climate Action Plan.
* Transportation is the largest contributor of greenhouse gasses.
* How do we promote bikes, walking, electrification of buses, using public transit?
* PT will stay fare free through fy22.
* We are receiving intercity funds to help.
* We will respond to climate action plan as well as environmental plan.
* Representative Jane Kitchel – Environmental plan (TCI-P) falling apart? States withdrawing? Ross - Yes this is what we have heard as well
* State management review to begin. April-May we will be doing on site visits.
	+ Avg of three findings; national avg is 11 findings.

 Member Updates

* No member updates

2:35pm Adjourned