

Minutes of the May 12, 2021  
Southeast Vermont Transit Board of Directors Meeting  
Via Video

Matt Mann called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

**Board Members:** Joel Bluming, Wendy Harrison, Randy Capitani, Scott Tucker, Matt Mann

**Members of the Public:** none

**Staff Present:** Randy Schoonmaker, Christine Howe, and Keith Johnson

**Guest Present:** Tim Bradshaw, VTrans,

**Public Input:** None

**Review of Minutes:** Review of April minutes.

**Amend Agenda:**

**Old Business:**

**Coronavirus Update:** Matt asked about the air purification systems being procured from VTrans. Tim explained that they just received an approval from FTA to move forward with the procurement. The timeline would be later than the fall to have them in the vehicles, due to the length of research. Tim will know more about the timeline in the months to come and update the board.

**Ridership:** The fixed route in Rockingham is off about 34% but demand response and Medicaid are bringing the numbers up to 24% off. Wilmington continues to be off 72% and that number will remain the same. The total company is off 56% overall. Matt asked if the remainder of transit companies saw the same percentage and Tim confirmed they are all off 40 to 50% across the board. Tim explained the TSA is who we are governed by, not Governor Scott so the capacity changes are up to the providers comfort levels. The mask mandate for public transit is still in effect until Sept 13 unless the TSA eases that mandate. Joel asked if the increases capacity in GMT has shown any increase to COVID cases. Tim reported the Vermont statistics and noted that Vermont is going down. Discussion ensues regarding ridership, and Wendy requested at some point to look at three years to get a better idea of trends. Randy presented the graph to include FY19 as well. Randy reviewed the Medicaid rides chart.

**Financial Overview:** Randy presented the executive summary from the finance committee meeting last Friday. Matt asked how the Medicaid costs were related to the number of rides. Randy explained how the number of rides increases costs. Christine gave an update on driver hires and volunteers. Randy reviewed the initial grant awards. VTrans has a very difficult task this year because the funding will start one way at certain levels then mid-year will have a review and maybe other

funding at a different funding level. Tim explained the funding further for FY22. He stated there will definitely be a mid-year consideration to make people as whole as we can. All capital requests for SEVT have been granted. Randy discussed what we had for a grant budget, versus the initial award and what the difference shows at this time. We are asking the board to allow us to continue the plan that we have, and trust VTrans to work out the best deal we can. In December if there is no more funding we will make cuts then. Randy would like this to be decided next month, June, so that we can communicate to the staff and be competitive to attract staff. The request is to continue with the budget initially approved by the board and discuss mid-year with VTrans. Randy C asked for a worst case scenario of what we would have to cut if the negative 16% was not made up midyear from VTrans.

### **Partner Updates:**

**Mount Snow:** Dave Moulton has kept us up to date for Mount Snow as they begin planning on next winter.

**Stratton:** We are going to meet with Stratton in the next couple of weeks. Matt asked for an update on Stratton. Randy explained that Stratton has lost some lodging that they owned for employees. There is more renewed interest in getting places set up in Manchester and that has renewed interest in that route. Potentially this coming winter, but there are many moving parts.

**Okemo:** We will hold off on meeting with them until we know how we are going to be staffed.

**NEMT:** This was covered under the previous ridership discussion.

**Route 30 Study:** Tim updated the board that we awarded the contract for the consultants. Next step is a kickoff meeting and getting a steering committee together. Joel discussed that there is a good select board in place in Jamaica now. Matt feels that some employers should be reached out to, example is Grace Cottage, Windham Central, and Stratton. Perhaps also having a Jamaica town representative.

**Strategic Plan Update:** Randy presented the Strategic Plan update. Randy cleaned up the plan to show the overall goals and updated the goals. Randy asked the board to review the goals and we can review more in detail at a future meeting. Randy reviewed the headings of the goals. Wendy wants to discuss more ridership goals and understand how the goals are decided upon. Matt wants to hear from the board if they would want to see one topic each month on the agenda this would allow to stay on progress. Randy will put it on the agenda each month.

**Adjourn:** Due to a board member leaving early the meeting must adjourn. Matt adjourned meeting at 6:03 pm.