



FY2021 UPWP Committee - Meeting 1 ***January 23, 2020***

Members Present:

Catherine McMains, Committee Chair
John Zicconi, Board
Michael Bissonnette, Board
Jaqueline Murphy, Board
Sharon Murray, Board
Amy Bell, VTrans
Annie Costandi, CWAC
Karen Adams, CWAC
Eric Vorwald, PAC
Justin Rabidoux, TAC
Barbara Elliot, TAC

Staff:

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

Eleni Churchill, CCRPC
Regina Mahony, CCRPC
Marshall Distel, CCRPC
Christine Forde, CCRPC

Others:

Annie Bourdon, CarShare VT
Karen Yacos, Local Motion
Allegra Williams, Local Motion
Jamie Smith, GMT
Chris Damiani, GMT
Leah Soderquist, United Way
Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur, VEIC
Laura Jacoby, Old Spokes Home
Gregory Rowangould, UVM TRC

1. Welcome & Introductions

Committee Chair Catherine McMains opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and introductions were made.

2. Orientation to the UPWP Process and Format

Marshall Distel provided an overview of the UPWP process and detailed how the UPWP Committee will be assisting with the development of the FY21 CCRPC Work Program. The partner organizations were then introduced.

3. GMT Transit Planning Tasks

Jamie Smith and Chris Damiani outlined GMT's transit planning tasks that were underway in FY20 and introduced the FY21 tasks. Jamie described the NextGen plan and how following 18 months of planning, substantial service changes were implemented and launched in June 2019. Jamie described the service changes and also discussed efforts related to GMT's rollout of the new transit app and mobile ticketing. Chris provided an overview of ridership and how it matches national trends. Future projects related to technology-based service enhancements and a comprehensive services guidelines policy were also shared. The \$402,340 funding request represents a level funding ask from FY20.

4. Presentations from Partner Organizations

CarShareVT: Annie Bourdon provided an overview of CarShare Vermont, which has a mission to provide a convenient and affordable alternative to private vehicle ownership, while also enhancing the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of our region and planet. CarShare Vermont is one of only a few remaining independent carsharing operators in the U.S. Over 1,000 members from all over the greater Burlington area are served by a fleet of 18 vehicles. Annie

highlighted 2019 statistics by describing how 40 new members were added each month, an EV was added to the fleet and CarShare members reduced their VMT and associated emissions by 35%. Examples of past UPWP projects were provided, as well as an overview of the three FY21 requests: Continuation of the Park It Pledge as a permanent program offering; Development of community-supported shared mobility models; Exploring universally accessible carsharing.

Justin Rabidoux thanked Annie for her presentation and offered a statement about how the UPWP Committee has struggled in the past to discern value with regards to some of the partner organization programs. However, he pointed out how the CarShare statistics have made it easier for the Committee to see the progress made by Annie's organization.

Michael Bissonnette echoed Justin's comments and asked about CarShare Vermont's rural projects. Annie explained previous initiatives in rural areas struggled due to a lack of density and users but expressed hope in new initiatives where carsharing technology could be implemented within a shared vehicle rather than a new vehicle owned by CarShare Vermont.

Local Motion: Allegra Williams from Local Motion outlined how Local Motion has been providing their services to enhance walking and biking in Chittenden County. Local Motion supports municipalities, businesses, commuters, schools and local bike-walk advocacy groups through education and technical assistance. Their work focuses on identifying methods to encourage more people to choose walking and biking as a mode of transportation. Local Motion's work areas were outlined, and some examples of recent projects were also provided.

Old Spokes Home: Laura Jacoby provided an overview of Old Spokes Home. The organization is committed to making bikes affordable as an everyday transportation option for all members of the community. The organization also trains junior mechanics and expand job opportunities to these teens. Laura outlined how the Everybody Bikes Program has offered subsidized bikes, repairs and accessories for over 1,500 income-qualified customers. Laura also outlined how FY21 UPWP funds are requested to complete a neighborhood mobility audit to identify transportation investments that will improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access for traditionally underserved residents within Burlington's Old North End.

Justin asked about the survey outreach portion of the scope and whether any work products from the City of Burlington may overlap with the work that is proposed. Laura explained how the City continues to ask Old Spokes Home for data related to their clients, which has yet to be collected. This proposal comes from the struggle to get New American voices heard in the community.

Karen Yacos echoed the challenge of adequately reaching out to New Americans in the community through the work that has been conducted by Local Motion, and mentioned how the City has inadvertently ignored their voices in some projects because New Americans have not had a seat at the planning table.

John Zicconi also expressed how residents in developing nations are often discouraged from speaking out, or even punished for doing so. These previous experiences in New Americans' former home countries may be a barrier that has kept them from participating in projects within our communities.



VEIC: Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur gave a presentation to the Committee about VEIC, which is a sustainable energy company with a mission to enhance the economic, environmental, and societal benefits of clean and efficient energy use for all people. Jennifer outlined how VEIC has been assisting Chittenden County municipalities with energy planning and EV adoption. VEIC has supported municipal policies for siting and simplifying EV charging installation, public and workplace EV charging assistance, planning for EV adoption among fleets, and consumer EV education and outreach, including demonstration events. For FY21, VEIC will be focused on EV charging and energy planning with local EV education and outreach focused on the expansion of EV charging at multi-unit dwellings.

Charlie Baker highlighted the significant gap between the proportion of Chittenden County renters not having access to charging infrastructure versus the State's energy goal.

Neighbor Rides: Leah Soderquist presented on behalf of United Way, which has partnered with the CCRPC to create a collaborative volunteer system to support the transportation needs of older adults and persons with disabilities (E&D) in Chittenden County. Leah started out by describing how United Way has worked on various transportation-related initiatives across our region. The Neighbor Rides program is a UPWP-funded initiative that utilizes volunteer drivers and their personal vehicles to provide cost-effective and convenient rides to older adults and persons with disabilities in Chittenden County. During the last two years United Way has worked in conjunction with CCRPC and GMT to conduct a holistic evaluation of Chittenden County's E&D program. The United Way E&D outreach model is now being used by VTrans in other regions of the state. For FY21, United Way's tasks propose to identify and prioritize gaps in the current Neighbor Rides system to help Chittenden County increase volunteer utilization.

UVM TRC: Gregory Rowangould provided the Committee with an overview of the UVM TRC. In the past, the TRC has mainly concentrated on nationally focused projects. New research needs will focus on local and regional projects. Gregory shared numerous examples of projects from New Mexico to show the Committee what the TRC hopes to accomplish in our region. For FY21, the TRC would like to use UPWP funds to develop a comprehensive understanding of how bicycle planning and transportation infrastructure decisions in Chittenden County can be improved through the evaluation of existing and the collection of new bicycling data.

CATMA: Marshall handed out an overview presentation for CATMA, which is a non-profit, membership-based, transportation management association serving Chittenden County. They administer and manage customized transportation demand management programs that offer members better and more sustainable options to get to work, ways to save money, reduce parking challenges and congestion, and cut carbon emissions. For FY21, CATMA will formalize its service as a Regional Mobility Management Center, while continuing to expand its growing Employee Transportation Coordinator Network and Membership.

5. Overview of Program Tasks

Following the partner organization presentations, Marshall provided a brief overview of the FY21 summary spreadsheet of project requests. Eleni Churchill, pointed out that the Chittenden County Freight Plan listed and highlighted in the current summary spreadsheet will be removed from the updated version of the spreadsheet as this project will be delayed until after VTrans

completes the State Freight and Rail Plans. UPWP Committee members were asked to scan the applications and send questions or comments to Marshall by 2/3.

6. Next Steps & Adjourn

The date for second meeting was originally scheduled for 2/27. However, due to numerous Committee member conflicts, Marshall will poll the group for a new date to hold the second meeting.

Catherine adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall Distel