



Chittenden County O&D Advisory Committee Wednesday, September 27th 10:00am Meeting Minutes

Participants: Marshall Distel (CCRPC), Morgan Prouty (SSTA), Chris Damiani (GMT), Nick Foss (GMT), Tim Bradshaw (GMT), Erica Marks (Age Well), Kathrynn Titus (Cathedral Square), Melinda Scott (Williston)

1. Introductions

Marshall Distel welcomed partners to the quarterly meeting.

2. O&D Rider Caps and Trip Restrictions – South Burlington

Prior to the meeting, Dan Currier reached out with regards to O&D rider caps and trip restrictions. He had been coordinating with a rider that lives in South Burlington who expressed displeasure with the number of rides being offered for non-medical trips. While Dan was not at this meeting to elaborate on the issue, there was a brief discussion on this. Erica Marks noted that Age Well wouldn't be able to change the ride caps for a single rider, since the ride caps are based on the budget.

Marshall will connect with Dan to hear more about the rider's concerns.

3. GMT Updates

Chris Damiani conveyed that the resumption of GMT fares will be pushed back from the original start date of January 2024. GMT is still awaiting some items from their technology vendor.

Chris also noted that the GMT Bus Buddy Program will be returning. While it originally went away during the pandemic, a new AmeriCorps Vista staff member was brought on at GMT to restart this program from scratch. GMT may coordinate with the O&D Committee and other partners to solicit input on how this program can best be structured for the future. During the pandemic GMT received many calls regarding this program, but due to a lack of staff capacity they were unable to keep it running. With new staff capacity, GMT is looking forward to restarting this program.

4. SSTA Updates

Morgan Prouty began by addressing the rider cap concern. South Burlington is a community where it is sometimes necessary to have one-on-one conversations with riders about their specific ridership needs. Morgan offered her assistance to Erica and Dan to follow up with the individual rider if needed.

Morgan also noted that SSTA is in the process of training several new drivers. Fortunately, in the past couple of months, SSTA has not had to reduce E&D services due to a lack of drivers. SSTA is now back to full service capacity.

There was then a brief discussion between Morgan and Tim Bradshaw regarding paratransit scheduling software.

5. Other E&D Partner Items



Marshall provided an update on the upcoming E&D ridership survey and noted that Local Motion would be invited to the next committee meeting in December.

There was a brief discussion about Age Well ridership data for FY23. Chris and Morgan will collaborate to provide Erica with those numbers.

Melinda Scott provided an update on the Williston Microtransit Study. The report has been finalized and will be distributed to partners. Due to the significant projected cost of the service options, the Town will likely not be able to move forward with the service in the near term. Melinda is awaiting guidance from VTrans on the next steps, and the potential for opportunities to conduct a pilot.

Chris noted the GMT will be conducting a regional microtransit study. This may ultimately provide opportunities to develop service models where municipalities would be able to share the cost.

Nick Foss provided an overview of the FY24 O&D budget. The program was awarded \$1.45 million of federal funds to support services in Chittenden, Washington, Franklin, and Grand Isle County. For FY24, \$581,784K (\$531,784 available for rides), or 40%, of the \$1.45 million of federal funds awarded has been allocated to support Chittenden County, as well as \$81,784 of state funds.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13th