



community rides vermont

Tackling rural poverty and isolation through
increased mobility and access

A NEW NONPROFIT DEVELOPED BY
CAPSTONE COMMUNITY ACTION



**who
we are**



Capstone Community Action is an anti-poverty organization headquartered in Barre, Vermont.

Established in 1965, Capstone has a successful history of launching nonprofits, social enterprise initiatives, and innovative social justice programs, most recently **Community Rides Vermont**, a 501(c)(3) established in September 2022.

Our Mission:

We are dedicated to creating resilient households and communities and to advancing justice in social, economic and environmental policy. We empower individuals with the tools and resources to move beyond poverty. Through advocacy and community collaboration, we champion positive social change.

Our Services:

- Head Start
- Crisis Housing Assistance
- Food Security
- Financial Coaching & Business Development
- Weatherization
- Transportation Services



An urban transportation solution scaled for rural Vermont

Community Rides Vermont is an on-demand ride service using electric vehicles to address unmet transportation needs along the back roads and between the small villages of Central Vermont.

An anti-poverty and climate justice initiative, this innovative service weaves together public funding and market-rate revenue to provide reliable and clean transportation that's accessible to low-income Vermonters.



**unmet transportation
needs**

the problem

Low population density makes traditional public transit inefficient and expensive in rural America.

Low-income Vermonters struggle to access basic needs such as healthcare, jobs, and educational opportunities compared to those with adequate, reliable transportation.

Vehicle ownership comes with its own challenges:



High vehicle miles traveled



Winding, steep, rough roads



Vehicle maintenance and fuel costs



Salt and snow deterioration of vehicles

Quality of life is impacted by limited public transportation options.



“**Well, basically, I can’t do pretty much anything.** The most I can use [the local bus service] for is doctor appointments. The bus only runs from 10:30 to 2:30, so that doesn’t give you a lot of hours Monday through Friday... so I can’t go to church, I can’t go to a movie, I can’t go to dinner or a community dinner... I can’t go any place. My whole life is basically just going to the doctor and going food shopping. I feel like my life is very limited because of the limited amount of transportation there is in Vermont.”

Female resident of Randolph, VT

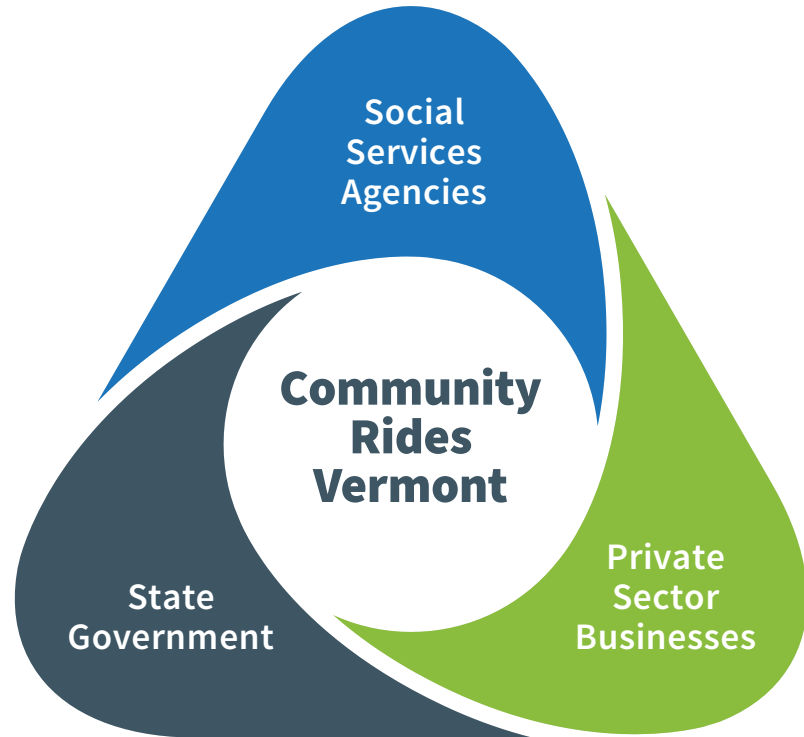


**the
solution**

the solution

We're bridging public and private sectors to solve public transportation needs.

Community Rides Vermont is a new service at the intersection of nonprofit, government, private pay ride hail and private businesses, merging resources across sectors with emerging technologies to solve the transportation needs of rural Vermonters.



We're serving those with limited transportation options.

MTI-funded local market research has revealed that the most common barriers for not utilizing current public transit options are that it **takes too long** and **it's too complicated**.

Common barriers for not using taxis or ride-hail services are that they're **too expensive**, and **not accessible at the rider's home**.

Common barriers for those not owning a car are a **lack of driver's license** and it's **too expensive to own and maintain a vehicle**.
(15% of survey respondents live in a zero-car household.)



OUR VISION

**Launching with a fleet of 4-8 electric vehicles,
Community Rides Vermont will provide flexible
rides via a mobile app and phone center.**



**Fast, easy,
reliable**



**Subsidies for
low-income riders**



**Car seats in
vehicles**



**Zero
emissions**



**Ability to make
multiple stops**



**Paid, trained
drivers**

Growing through Partnerships

- **Transit Providers**
- **Social Service Organizations**
- **Workforce Development Programs**
- **Medical Providers**
- **Mental Health Providers**
- **Housing Providers**



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Project Team

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