



PUBLIC TRANSIT
POLICY PLAN – RAIL
COORDINATION

ROSS MACDONALD
MARCH 27, 2024



AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION



MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY



- Bus Stop and Shelter Assessment
- Rail Connectivity Study
- Ethan Allen Express Planning
- PTPP – Specific Deliverable

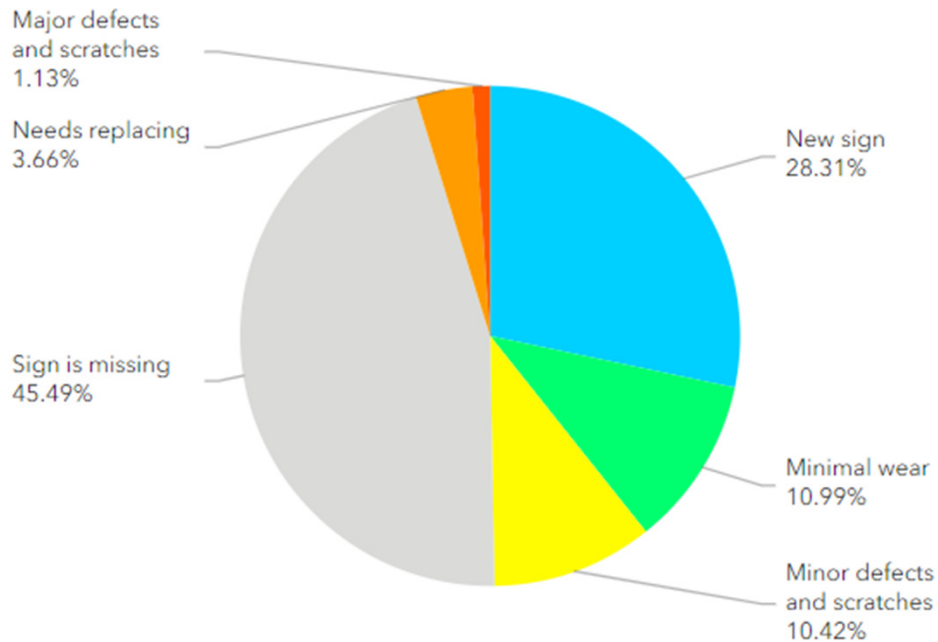
BUS STOP AND SHELTER ASSESSMENT

Inventory

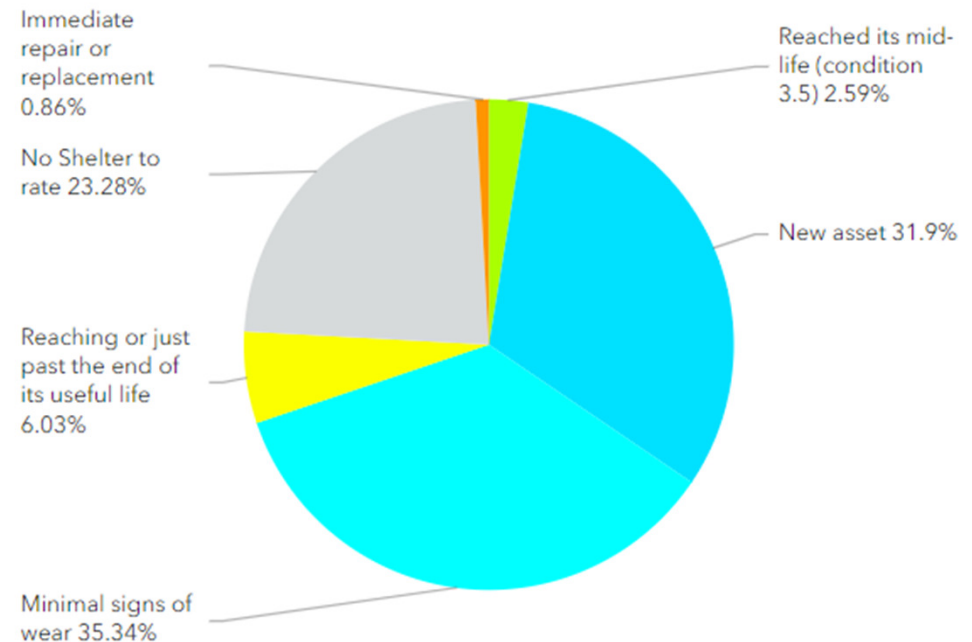
- Started 2022 in partnership with the Public Transit Providers and Regional Planning Commissions
- Inspecting over 2000 bus stops
- Communicate with VTrans about findings

BUS STOP AND SHELTER ASSESSMENT

Stop Sign Assessment – 530 Locations



Stop Shelter Assessment – 116 locations



RAIL CONNECTIVITY STUDY

Middlebury

Storrs Ave Southbound at Franklin St next to Davis Family Library

Modes Served

Intercity	VT Translines
Rail	N/A
Ferry	N/A
Commuter Bus	MVRTD & TVT
Local Bus	TVT



Signage	Amenities	Wayfinding Information
There is no signage marking the current station location.	There is no intercity information present.	While the area has other bus stops nearby, this location has no intercity wayfinding signage.

Local/Commuter Bus Connections

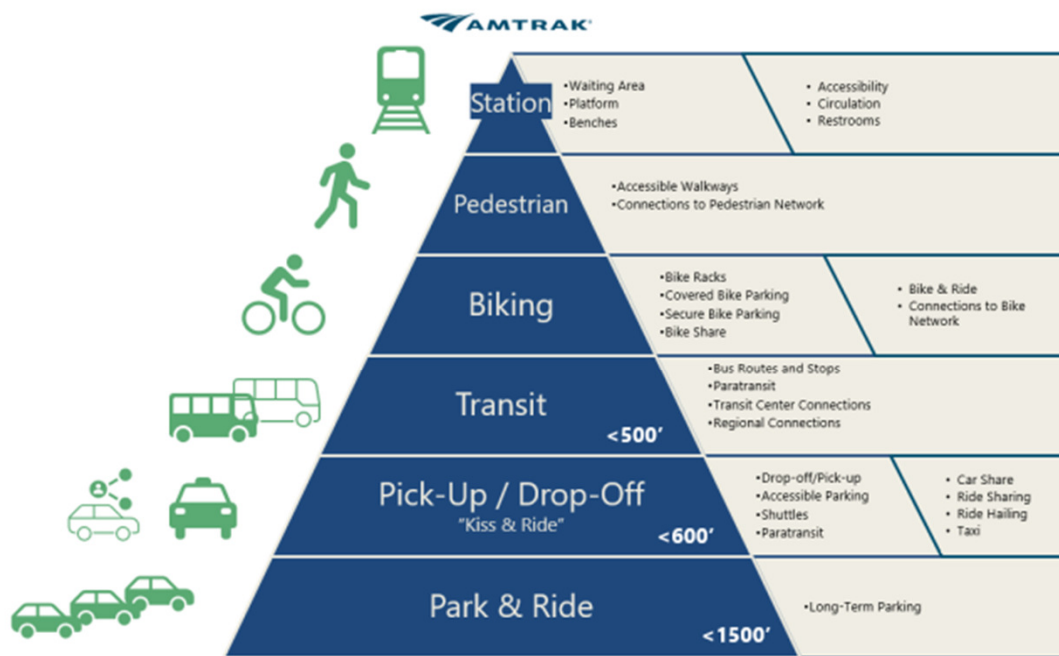
Local busses have a stop approximately 800 feet away. Several routes service the stop and there is a bus shelter and benches for waiting passengers.	Bus Stop Amenities	
	Bus stop sign	✓
	Information on bus routes servicing stop	✓
	Schedule information	✓
	Contact info (website, email, phone number or app) on how to get schedule info	✓
	Fare information	✗
Other	✗	
Intermodal connections and wait times between local/commuter bus		
Weekday Average wait time: 1:24 Less than 20 minute wait: 13 (20%) 21-60 minute wait: 19 (30%) 1-6 hour wait: 13 (20%) Trips with no connections: 19 (30%)	Saturdays Average wait time: 1:23 Less than 20 minute wait: 2 (5%) 21-60 minute wait: 9 (23%) 1-6 hour wait: 8 (20%) Trips with no connections: 21 (53%)	Sundays There is no Sunday local bus service.

Areas of concern/opportunities for improvement

2022 looked at 28 stations/stops

- Transit services available;
- Availability of schedule, fare, and location information for each service mode;
- On-site amenities;
- Wayfinding leading up to the stop/station/dock;
- Ease of connection between modes;
- Other general notes such as perception of safety, etc.; and
- Population demographics

ETHAN ALLEN EXPRESS PLANNING



Amtrak Connections Study – Burlington Ethan Allen Express

- Establishing connections to a multitude of transportation options
- Identify other services and amenities in the immediate area.
- Identifying the multimodal connections to the station and addressing gaps or barriers
- Fostering the connection to area amenities and services

Figure 2. Amtrak Station Access Hierarchy (adapted from WMATA Station Area Planning Guide)

ETHAN ALLEN EXPRESS PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation

- Accessibility
- Pedestrian
- Bike
- Multimodal Infrastructure
- Transit
- Pick-Up Drop-Off Zones
- Park & Ride / Long-Term Parking
- Union Station Information

Recommendation	Description	Modes	Primary Organization	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Transit					
Enhance Bus Shelters at Battery / College and Waterfront	Install lighting at each shelter. This may require utility for the Battery Street shelter whereas solar may be feasible for the Waterfront shelter.	Transit	Green Mountain Transit	City of Burlington	Short-Term

2024 PTPP SCOPE OF WORK DELIVERABLES

- Review and update recommendations from 2019
- O&D survey and program recommendations
- Update the e-bus replacement schedule
- **Intermodal Connectivity Review and Improvements**
- Consider “Mobility Plus” expansion
- PTAC structure and recommendations
- Consider combining Microtransit and other Demand Response services
- Safety and Security



PTPP Recommendations: Addressing Aging Vermont

Establish Working Committee with the Agency of Human Services

The PTPP recommends the establishment of a working committee focused on the issue of mobility for older Vermonters. The working committee would be led jointly by VTrans and the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) and include representatives from other state and regional organizations with a stake in issues of aging.

More Comprehensive Planning for Elderly & Disabled (E&D) Persons Transportation The PTPP recommends that VTrans host a statewide E&D meeting and develop a work plan that would be carried out by all E&D regions. The goal would be to replicate in all regions of Vermont the data collection process that has been undertaken in Chittenden County and to share best practices having to do with coordination, low-cost trips and volunteer management, among other topics.

Establish Personal Mobility Accounts

A Personal Mobility Account (PMA) would allow individuals to make use of demand response transit services for whatever trip purposes they desired. For this program to function, all Vermont transit providers would need to allow for a “client-pay” billing procedure, as private funds would supplement those available from the E&D program.



Expansion of Transit Access

Spur Growth of Volunteer Driver Programs

Streamline the background check process

Create a check box on Vermont vehicle registration forms to sign up as a volunteer driver

Establish non-monetary incentives for volunteer drivers

Increase marketing budget and collaborate with partner organizations

Share best practices

Expand Access to Healthcare

Work with hospitals and health centers to expand Rides to Wellness program statewide, incorporating funding from the healthcare sector to make the program sustainable, once it is established that there is a positive return on investment. Another area of emphasis to improve access to healthcare is to maintain ongoing communication between transit providers and primary care organizations.

Expand Access to Employment

Increase awareness of ridesharing options through Go Vermont Engage employers in helping to fund job access transportation

Create the “late bus” for shift workers Expand partnership with Good News Garage Create partnerships with TNCs where available

Expand Local Connections

Explore feasibility of expanding local connections such as bike share, scooters, microtransit and other types of feeder service.



Expand Access to Available Seats in Transit Vehicles

Transit providers should implement a policy that if a non-eligible rider has origin and destination locations within a short distance, say a tenth of mile, of where eligible riders on a van/volunteer trip are already scheduled to go, that non-eligible rider should be allowed to ride in the vehicle.

Support VPTA to Become a Viable Statewide Broker

Under this recommendation, VTrans will offer financial and organizational support for VPTA to enhance its ability to broker trips. This could include new software and training as appropriate.

Expand Funding Pool Overall

Seek to increase funding for public transit from federal, state, local, private and institutional partner sources.



Outreach and Raising Awareness

Continue Investment in Go Vermont

1. Increase marketing and promote links from others, 2. Create interactive map of bus routes, 3. Explore new program models and staffing structures for Go Vermont, 4. Consider a standalone app for Go Vermont

Document Stories of the Value of Public Transit

VTrans should produce a series of short videos in each of the regions of Vermont with current users of public transit explaining how it makes a difference in their lives. These videos could be incorporated into the Go Vermont website and shown at Town Meetings when local funding proposals are being discussed.

Encourage All Transit Providers to Establish an “Ambassadors” Program

VTrans recommends an “Ambassadors” program be an ongoing initiative for all transit providers. An Ambassador, who could be an agency staff member or a volunteer, would explain how to ride and then be available to ride one-on-one with anyone who feels the need for a companion for the first ride or two.

Continue and Expand Partnerships and Activities to Raise Awareness

VTrans should continue and expand efforts to develop reciprocal relationships with partner organizations so that all parties become more informed about existing and future services offered.

Create Informational Brochure: “How Transit Works in Vermont”