

Vermont Public Transit Program Overview

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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Vision Statement

“Public transit meets the basic mobility needs of all Vermonters including transit dependent persons, provides access to employment and other modes, mitigates congestion, preserves air quality and promotes efficient energy use, and advances the State’s economic development objectives – all in a safe, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible manner.”

VTrans Goals

*1) safe; 2) cost effective; 3) efficient;
4) innovative; 5) workforce development*

State Strategic Goals



Growing the Vermont Economy



Making Vermont an affordable place to live, work, and do business



Protecting vulnerable Vermonters



Dealing with the Opiate Epidemic

State Strategic Goals

Growing the Vermont Economy

- ▶ Public Transit supports extensive commuter services across the state both for year round and for seasonal employment
- ▶ Public Transit enables businesses and institutions to dedicate their campuses to increased productivity rather than additional parking
- ▶ Provides transportation to the vulnerable allowing them to access employment and services and reducing use of nursing homes, freeing up more money for disposable income
- ▶ Supporting the tourism industry by providing access for employees and skiers without needing parking space keeping congestion off the mountains

State Strategic Goals

Making Vermont an affordable place to live, work, and do business

- ▶ Commuter transit, carpools, vanpools, reduces the cost of transportation to work, school, training and recreation
- ▶ Supports development near but not in more expensive housing areas
- ▶ Provides access to businesses and services without devoting productive space for parking

State Strategic Goals

Protecting vulnerable Vermonters

- ▶ Public Transit collaborates closely with AHS to deliver riders to necessary services including providing access to safe programs for the elderly, disabled and low income individuals
- ▶ Provides transit access to day care programs and medical appointments
- ▶ Provides extensive training for transit drivers in various aspects of safety
- ▶ Conducts extensive background checks on all transit drivers

State Strategic Goals

Dealing with the Opiate Epidemic

- ▶ Provides extensive transportation to methadone clinics statewide
- ▶ Provides transportation for employment, medical care and mental health appointments

Vermont currently has a variety of Public Transit modes that serve the state:

- ▶ urban fixed route buses
- ▶ commuter routes
- ▶ rural daily or weekly services that are either fixed route or have deviation options
- ▶ demand response (pick up and drop off as needed usually at home and at destinations)
- ▶ intercity and intercity feeder service
- ▶ Go Vermont, vanpools, carpools and information
- ▶ Various IT systems and services to provide information and access to services



In-Town Transit



Express Commuter Runs



RT 7 at Rutland Multimodal Center



**MVRTD
1/2 price fares for veterans**



Public Routes



City Route



Ski area transit



College area bus

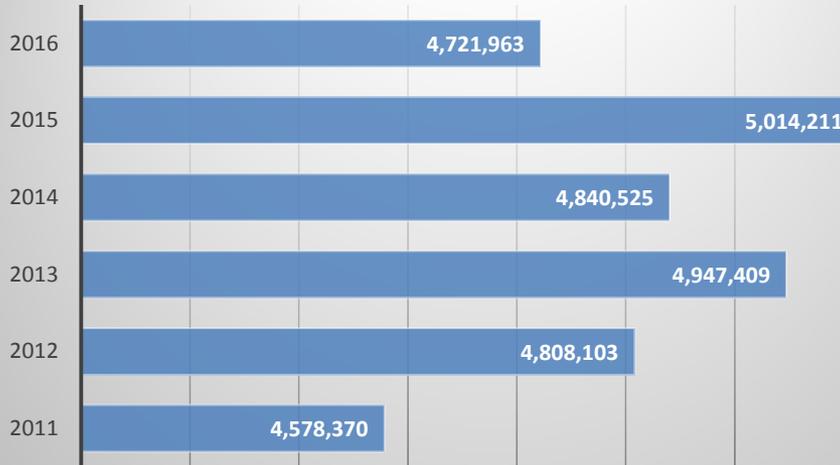


Volunteers in Action – Serving our most vulnerable and rural

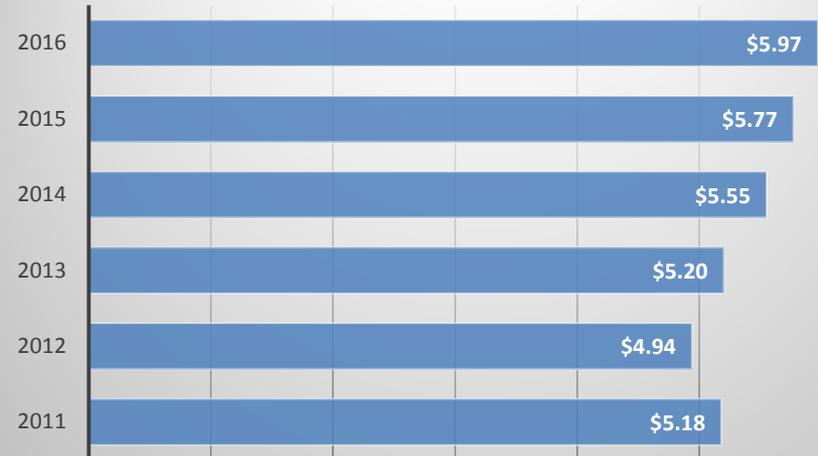
Volunteers are the bedrock of transportation for both the elderly, disabled and those receiving Medicaid in our rural areas of Vermont. In addition to those supported through VTrans and DVHA, there are many others who work to provide greater mobility to those in need across the state.

Performance Targets

Total Ridership



Cost Per Trip



| <i>Transit Program</i> | | ACTUALS | | | TARGETS | | Direction |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Type of Measure | Indicator | SFY 14 | SFY 15 | SFY 16 | SFY 17 | SFY 18 | |
| How much did you do? | Percent change in annual transit ridership | -2% | 4% | -6% | 2% | 2% | |
| How well did you do it? | Cost per Transit Trip | Not available | \$5.77 | \$5.97 | \$5.70 | \$5.70 | |
| Is anyone better off? | Total annual transit ridership | 4,840,525 | 5,014,211 | 4,715,154 | 4,850,080 | 4,947,081 | |

Transit Program: All three measures for the transit program show declining performance for FY 2016. This decline is attributed to the decrease in transit ridership. The decrease in transit ridership is attributed almost entirely to an exceptionally poor ski season which reduced the number of riders on services to the state's ski areas although the same factors that affect rail ridership, low gas prices, etc. also affect transit. Ridership on most other types of bus routes is up including the intercities. The new dispatch software has been installed and could result in greater access to rides for the general public.

2016/17 Accomplishments

- **Sustainable Systems** - Replaced Dispatch Software across the State (Northeast Kingdom the only one left), should enable more efficient and effective transit.
- **Additional Funding** - Won Three (3) nationally Competitive Grants worth \$4,575,000 to: replace vehicles; create a program to reduce medical no-shows and emergency room use; create a new app to make seats available on demand response vehicles statewide!
- **Transit trip planning** - three pilot projects for Real Time arrival and automatic vehicle location (AVL) (Did I miss my bus or is it just late?)
- **Intercity Connections** – continued growth in our intercities
- **New Park and Ride** in Rockingham to build commuter routes to WRJ/Lebanon/Hanover
- **Downtown Transit Center** in Burlington

2017/18 Projects

- ▶ New intercity route connecting southwestern Vermont to the AMTRAK train service in Albany, NY
- ▶ Initiate programs to reduce state/federal investments per trip
- ▶ Deliver and analyze real time pilots and determine best fit and statewide roll out
- ▶ Collaborate on roll out of trip planning programs which give all the options, scheduled and demand response bus, car/vanpool, ride share
- ▶ Safety plans
- ▶ Transit Asset Management Plans
- ▶ Continue to pursue additional funding for capital investments and energy goals
- ▶ Analyze and plan appropriate new connecting services with emphasis on underserved areas and increased frequency
- ▶ Improve coordination and information between local and intercity services and rail
- ▶ Create and roll out pilots on ride-hailing services such as Bridj
- ▶ Support greater intercity connections in the Northeast Kingdom
- ▶ Veterans Connectivity

Capital Needs - Vehicles, Facilities, Technology



Vehicles -

| | | replacement cost | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| replacement year | # of vehicles | fed | state | total |
| 2015 | 161 | \$ 20,652,000 | \$ 2,581,500 | \$ 25,815,000 |
| 2016 | 34 | \$ 3,524,000 | \$ 440,500 | \$ 4,405,000 |
| 2017 | 64 | \$ 5,596,000 | \$ 699,500 | \$ 6,995,000 |
| 2018 | 15 | \$ 1,860,000 | \$ 232,500 | \$ 2,325,000 |
| 2019total | 27 | \$ 3,652,000 | \$ 456,500 | \$ 4,565,000 |
| 2020total | 128 | \$ 14,104,000 | \$ 1,763,000 | \$ 17,630,000 |
| 2021total | 45 | \$ 8,904,000 | \$ 1,113,000 | \$ 11,130,000 |
| 2022total | 78 | \$ 9,840,000 | \$ 1,230,000 | \$ 12,300,000 |
| 2023total | 27 | \$ 4,840,000 | \$ 605,000 | \$ 6,050,000 |
| 2024total | 20 | \$ 4,200,000 | \$ 525,000 | \$ 5,250,000 |
| 2025total | 17 | \$ 4,600,000 | \$ 575,000 | \$ 5,750,000 |

Projects and Partnerships

- Media campaigns for public transit service, intercity, and carpools, and vanpools.
- VABIR/CWS – first mile, last mile assistance, employer/employee presentations
- CarShare VT – Program assistance and support for expansion to Montpelier
- Vermont Transportation Efficiency Network (VTEN) – group of advocates and transportation professionals working together to improve transportation options and efficiency in our communities.
- Business Outreach program - approaches and materials to promote efficient commuting and transportation plans.
- Webpages and advocacy for Vet Lift VT, Community (volunteer) drivers, Drive Electric Vermont, Upper Valley TMA, and more

Data

- Website visits – 31,293 (65,329 pageviews)
- Carpool Registrants – 4,811
- Vanpools in Operation – 16
- Calls/emails to call center – 686
- Number of Businesses Served – 43