

## 2020 House Budget Public Hearings

I am Bob Buermann from So Hero.

I have four items for budget consideration.

First, I represent So Hero on Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC). I encourage you to support and increase support to municipal and regional planning.

Municipal planning impacts economic and social areas from business development to community services.

Regional Planning Commissions coordinate many of the activities that other states do through county government. These include coordinating emergency planning, regional energy plans, area wide economic development, population health issues, and more.

Second, I represent Grand Isle County on the Green Mountain Transit Board of Commissioners. Public Transit is one area that impacts all area of our society. Pubic Transit gets people to work, school, shopping, medical appointments, and entertainment. Businesses expect transit to be available to their employees. Seniors need public transit to support aging in place. Teens need public transit to go everywhere. Public transit is a key element of the State Energy Plan.

GMT has completed a system wide efficiency analysis to supply as much transit as possible with existing funds, but it is not enough to supply services to the entire region. They have received minimal increases over the last ten years.

Third, I am chair of the So Hero Energy Committee. I'm requesting an increase for the Weatherization program. This is investment will reduce the costs of the low income heating support program. Improving the insulation in homes reduces the cost of energy and carbon pollution.

Fourth, I am a farmer with Lake Shore property. I encourage you to fully fund the Water Quality improvement programs with a long term funding plan.