

1 \* \* \* Public Transit Study \* \* \*

2 Sec. 11a. STUDY OF METHODS TO INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSIT  
3 RIDERSHIP IN VERMONT

4 (a) As Vermont plans for a future with reduced greenhouse gas emissions  
5 as determined in the State Energy Plan, improvements to transit service to  
6 enhance the use of mobility options and accessibility will be critical to  
7 achieving the State’s environmental goals.

8 (b) The Agency of Transportation shall, in consultation with stake holders  
9 such as the Vermont Public Transportation Association, the Public Transit  
10 Advisory Committee, human services agencies, hospitals, non-profit agencies  
11 that provide transportation to their clients, as well as any other stake holders  
12 that are identified, study methods to increase use of public transit in Vermont  
13 for both residents and visitors that:

14 (1) determines what factors limit the use of public transit, as defined in  
15 State statute, in Vermont including proximity to routes, availability of park and  
16 rides, quality of service delivered, first and last mile(s) hinderances, use and  
17 availability of ride-hailing services, availability and ease of use of volunteer  
18 resources, joint procurement of services among state agencies, and other  
19 factors as identified by the Agency;

20 (2) reviews the current research on what methods best serve to increase  
21 ridership, particularly in small cities and rural areas, including research

1 published by the Transportation Research Board and other national groups,  
2 data collected during the outreach for the Public Transit Policy Plan (PTPP),  
3 recent plans published by the Agency of Human Services, and other State  
4 agencies;

5 (3) assesses the status of current initiatives the Agency and others are  
6 undertaking to deliver increased service, the PTPP, opioid transportation,  
7 micro-transit project in Montpelier, automated vehicle location applications,  
8 trip planners, mobility management, and other initiatives;

9 (4) assesses how best to use the gap analysis results from the PTPP to  
10 take advantage of available seats on current transit routes and to determine the  
11 most effective new service investments; and

12 (5) identifies what infrastructure and delivery improvements might  
13 contribute to increased transit ridership, including use of micro-transit, rural  
14 route development and feeder route development by transit providers,  
15 transitioning to cleaner and more efficient vehicles, improved or new  
16 sidewalks and bike paths, improved bicycle storage facilities, road crossing  
17 enhancements, and reservations and ride availability applications.

18 (b) The Agency shall deliver a written report of its findings and any  
19 recommendations, including on where and how to make the most effective  
20 improvements in service and criteria to use to determine the priorities of

1 investments, to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or  
2 before January 15, 2020.

3 (c) The Agency shall evaluate recommendations for potential inclusion in  
4 its fiscal year 2021 budget proposal as a request for the funding necessary to  
5 achieve the recommendations determined by the working group pursuant to  
6 subsection (b) of this section. The request for funding shall be separate and  
7 distinct from the Agency's funding request for public transit.