



# Microtransit

SENATE  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2020



## Current Transit Program in Vermont

Approximately \$33 million annual budget - **68%** from state funds or “flexed over” from FHWA funds.

7 providers serving 255 municipalities from 15 facilities with 616 employees. Approximately 15,900 riders per day.

Our budget allows for some investments and innovations that would not be possible without the legislative and admin support. Trip Planner, Statewide AVL, Job Access program are examples.



# Current Transit Services in Vermont

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## Current Transit Services:

- Fixed Routes
- Deviated Fixed Routes
- Demand Response
  - Elderly and Disabled Program
  - Medicaid NEMT

## Route Classifications:

- Small town
- Rural
- Urban
- Tourism
- Commuter (express and rural)
- Demand Response

# On-Demand Micro-Transit

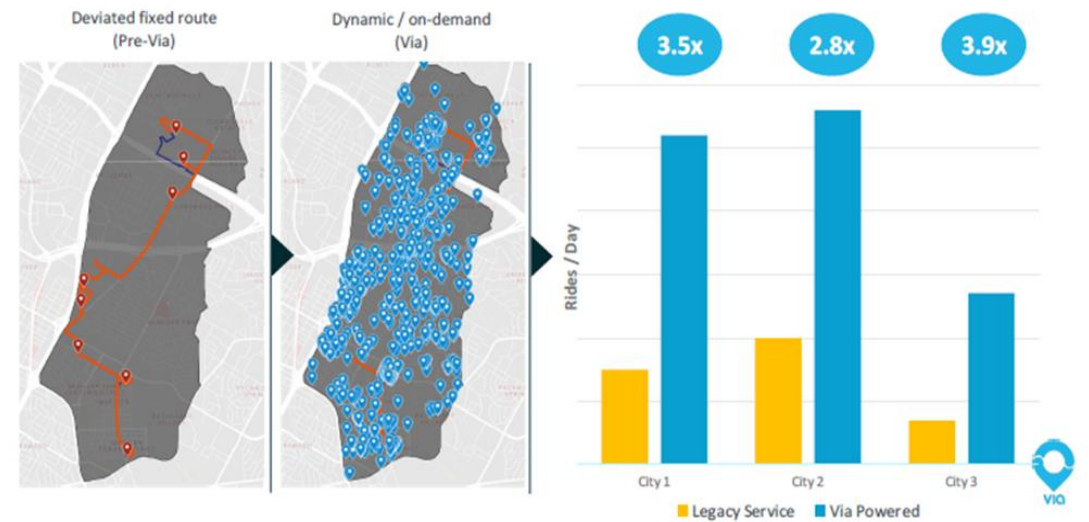
Real-time  
hailed,  
dynamically  
routed, public  
transit service  
within a  
designated  
region



Mini-Bus, Large Van

Called by an App  
or by Phone

Convenience drives demand



# Why would we consider this “new” type of Service?

- Aging population
- Current ridership
- Costs of transit service
- New technologies
- More flexible
- More Convenient?
- Successful Case Studies



Figure 2: Total Ridership

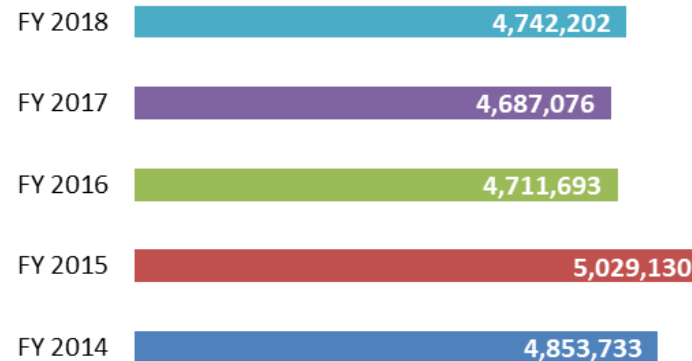


Figure 4: Cost per Trip



## Downtown Montpelier VT Parking Allocated Real Estate

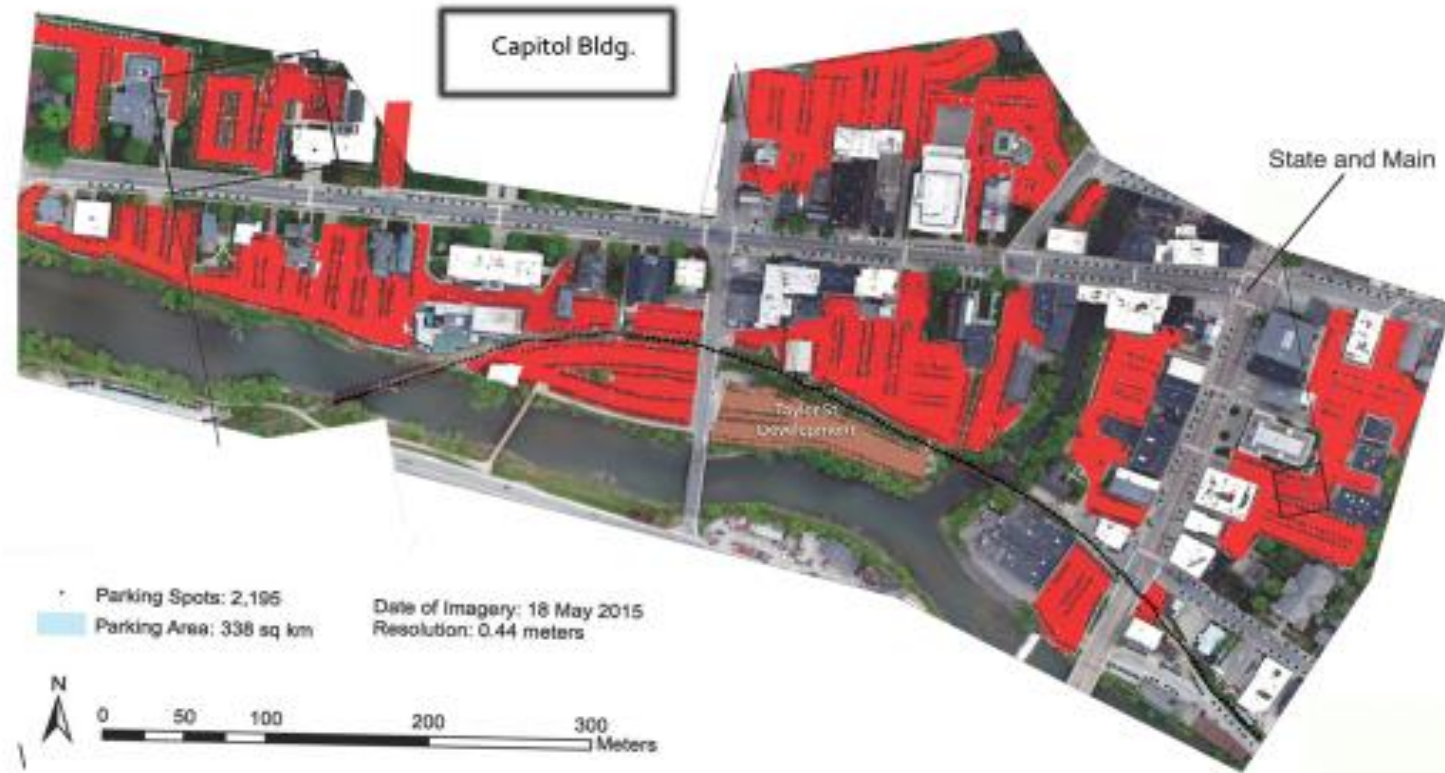
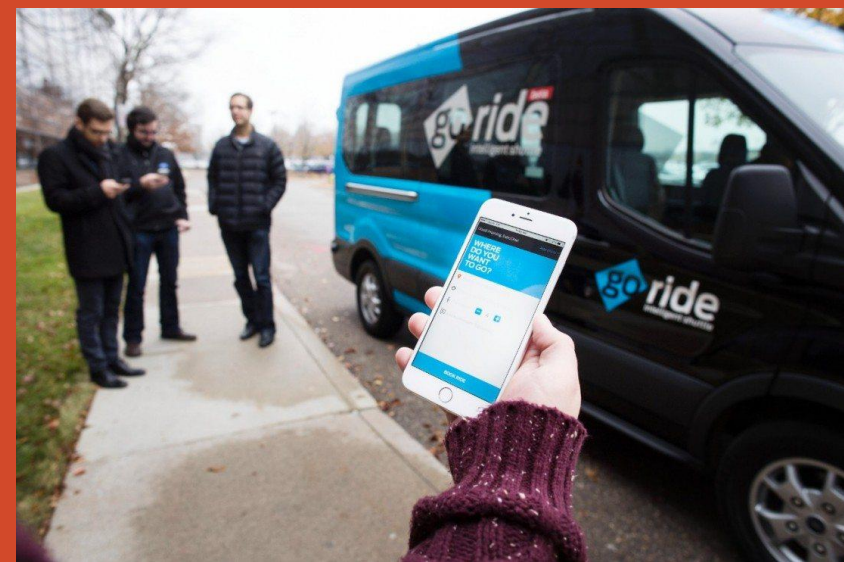


Image courtesy Jon Budreski Airshark  
Graphic adjustments Dan Jones

# THE VISION

- Fully consider this service with the Montpelier community
- Transfer current investment in “circulator”, “shuttle” routes and demand response services to Microtransit service
- Provide a better service (on demand)
- Serve more people for more purposes
  - Commuting
  - NEMT and E&D
  - Education
  - Aging in place



# Microtransit Working Group



## Participants

Sustainable Montpelier Coalition  
City Council Members and Planner  
Steadman Hill Consulting  
Central VT RPC  
Green Mountain Transit  
VT Center for Independent Living  
VTrans  
Capstone



# Microtransit Working Group



- RFI Assistance
- Microtransit White Paper
- Comprehensive Outreach Plan
- Nation-wide Pilot Project Assessment
- Simulation from Transloc
- Feasibility Study with Via
- Integrated Mobility Innovation Application

# Microtransit Projections

- ▶ 3-5 vehicles on the road to cover existing service plus 30% ridership increase.
- ▶ Requested \$912,912 for each of a two-year pilot. Added \$70k for outreach and marketing, \$36k per year for software, and \$35k for rural co-development project.
- ▶ If awarded, then outreach begins in February 2020 and service switch happens on 7/1/2020.
- ▶ If not awarded, then it will be up to the budget process (internal and with our providers) to see if this pilot becomes a priority for 2020 transit program.

## 7.3 Operating Model Summary and Recommendations

| Scenario                    | Weekly vehicle hours <sup>3</sup> | Annual Vehicle Hours        | Estimated hourly cost      | Estimated annual cost |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Operating model</i>      | <i>Vehicle hours / week</i>       | <i>Vehicle hours / year</i> | <i>Cost / vehicle hour</i> | <i>Cost / year</i>    |
| Software-as-a-Service       | 266                               | 14,000                      | \$60-70                    | \$840,000 - 980,000   |
| Transportation-as-a-Service | 266                               | 14,000                      | \$45-70 <sup>4</sup>       | \$630,000 - 980,000   |

# THANK YOU

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