

1 **[PROPOSED NEW SECS A–C:]**

2 * * * Zero Fare Public Transit * * *

3 Sec. A. 19 V.S.A. § 10g(p) is added to read:

4 (p) The Agency shall include the annual State contribution necessary for all
5 public transit in the State to operate on a zero-fare basis in the Transportation
6 Program it presents to the General Assembly under subsection (a) of this
7 section.

8 Sec. B. ZERO FARE PUBLIC TRANSIT IN FISCAL YEAR 2022

9 (a) Urban public transit. It is the intent of the General Assembly that public
10 transit operated by transit agencies that are eligible to receive grant funds
11 pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5307 in the State shall be operated on a zero-fare basis
12 with monies for public transit from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
13 Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (CARES Act), the Consolidated
14 Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, and the American Rescue Plan
15 Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-XXX, as practicable, during fiscal year 2022.

16 (b) Rural public transit. It is the intent of the General Assembly that public
17 transit operated by transit agencies that are eligible to receive grant funds
18 pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5311 in the State shall be operated on a zero-fare basis
19 with monies for public transit from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
20 Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (CARES Act) and the Consolidated

1 Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, as practicable, during fiscal
2 year 2022.

3 * * * Mobility and Transportation Innovation * * *

4 **Sec. C. MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION**

5 The Agency of Transportation shall provide financial assistance to support
6 innovative strategies and projects that improve both mobility and access to
7 services for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the use of single occupancy
8 vehicles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as practicable, during fiscal
9 year 2022. Financial assistance shall be provided with monies the State
10 receives for public transit from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
11 Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (CARES Act), the Consolidated
12 Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, and the American Rescue Plan
13 Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-XXX and through the \$793,400.00 authorization
14 for Go! Vermont

15 **[PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SEC 12:]**

16 * * * Public Transportation Electrification Plan; Mass Transit Authority Study
17 Committee * * *

18 **Sec. 12. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION PLAN; MASS**
19 **TRANSIT AUTHORITY STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORTS**

20 (a) Public Transportation Electrification Plan.

1 (1) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the State’s
2 public transit providers, shall prepare a long-range plan that outlines the costs,
3 timeline, training, maintenance, and operational actions required to move to a
4 fully electrified public transportation fleet.

5 (2) The Agency shall file the long-range plan required under
6 subdivision (1) of this subsection with the House and Senate Committees on
7 Transportation not later than January 31, 2022.

8 (b) Mass Transit Authority Study Committee.

9 (1) Creation. There is created the Mass Transit Authority Study
10 Committee to analyze the existing use of mass transit authorities and public
11 transit providers in the State and alternatives to the existing use of mass transit
12 authorities and public transit providers in the State and make specific
13 recommendations on how best to establish and structure a State transit
14 authority or better utilize existing transit authorities within the State, or both.

15 (2) Membership. The Mass Transit Authority Study Committee shall be
16 composed of the following members:

17 (A) two current members of the Senate, not all from the same
18 political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

19 (B) two current members of the House of Representatives, not all
20 from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House;

1 (C) two individuals employed by the Agency of Transportation,
2 including at least one individual employed within the Public Transit Program,
3 who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Transportation;

4 (D) two members of the Vermont Public Transit Advisory Council,
5 who are not members of the House or Senate or employed by the State, who
6 shall be appointed by the Vermont Public Transit Advisory Council from its
7 members;

8 (E) two members of the Vermont Climate Council, who are not
9 members of the House or Senate or employed by the State, who shall be
10 appointed by the Vermont Climate Council from its members;

11 (F) an individual 21 years of age or younger appointed by the
12 Committee on Committees;

13 (G) a representative of the passenger rail community appointed by
14 the Board of Directors of the Vermont Rail Action Network; and

15 (H) a representative of a group that represents individuals with
16 income sensitivity and diverse socio-economic backgrounds, appointed by the
17 Speaker of the House.

18 (3) Powers and duties. The Mass Transit Authority Study Committee
19 shall study the existing use of mass transit authorities and public transit
20 providers in the State and alternatives to the existing use of mass transit
21 authorities and public transit providers in the State and make specific

1 recommendations on how best to establish and structure a State transit
2 authority or better utilize existing transit authorities within the State, or both.

3 As part of its analysis of a potential State transit authority, the Mass Transit
4 Authority Study Committee shall, at a minimum, consider how a State transit
5 authority could be enabled to:

6 (A) utilize the existing transit authorities throughout the State;

7 (B) administer, develop, and contract for transit operations, including
8 with existing transit authorities, and micro-transit projects to improve system
9 efficiencies, increase ridership, and coordinate across multiple modes of public
10 transit;

11 (C) utilize funding opportunities, including bonding, public-private
12 partnerships, and federal funds to build upon the State’s existing public transit
13 systems and services;

14 (D) expand existing public transit operation to integrate bus,
15 community rail, commuter rail, and other transit options with Amtrak
16 passenger rail service;

17 (E) increase commuter travel options, reduce traffic congestion,
18 improve public health, and provide coordinated transit schedules; and

19 (F) enable public transit to play its essential role in ensuring that the
20 mandates of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020 are fully met.

1 (4) Assistance. The Mass Transit Authority Study Committee shall have
2 the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of
3 Transportation.

4 (5) Report. On or before January 15, 2022, the Mass Transit Authority
5 Study Committee shall submit a written report to the House and Senate
6 Committees on Transportation with its findings and any recommendations for
7 legislative action.

8 (6) Meetings.

9 (A) The member of the Mass Transit Authority Study Committee
10 who is an individual employed within the Public Transit Program and
11 appointed by the Secretary of Transportation shall call the first meeting of the
12 Mass Transit Authority Study Committee to occur not later than September 1,
13 2021.

14 (B) The Mass Transit Authority Study Committee shall select a chair
15 from among its members at the first meeting.

16 (C) A majority of the membership of the Mass Transit Authority
17 Study Committee shall constitute a quorum

18 (D) The Mass Transit Authority Study Committee shall meet at least
19 six times before January 15, 2022.

20 (E) The Mass Transit Authority Study Committee shall cease to exist
21 on June 30, 2023.

1 (7) Compensation and reimbursement.

2 (A) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
3 Assembly, a legislative member of the Mass Transit Authority Study
4 Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
5 expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23.

6 (B) Other members of the Mass Transit Authority Study Committee
7 who are not State employees shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
8 reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

9 (C) Payments to members of the Mass Transit Authority Study
10 Committee authorized under subdivision (7) of this subsection (b) shall be
11 made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Transportation.

12 **[PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SEC. 18:]**

13 * * * Effective Dates * * *

14 Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 (a) Sec. A (19 V.S.A. § 10g(p); zero fare public transit) shall take effect on
16 July 1, 2021 and apply to Transportation Programs commencing with Fiscal
17 Year 2023.

18 (b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2021.