

Public Transit Program



HOUSE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2021





Public Transit Program in Vermont - Vision

“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.”



Public Transit Program in Vermont (Funds and Services)

Approximately \$36 million annual budget - 68% from state funds or “flexed over” from FHWA funds.

FTA Formula Funds

FHWA “Flex” funds

State Funds

Local Funds

Fixed Routes w/ ADA Paratransit service

Deviated Fixed Routes

Vermont Elders and Persons with Disabilities Demand Response

NEMT (Medicaid) Demand Response

Intercity

Go Vermont



Current Transit Program in Vermont

Additional Service may include:

Meals on Wheels

Charter Services

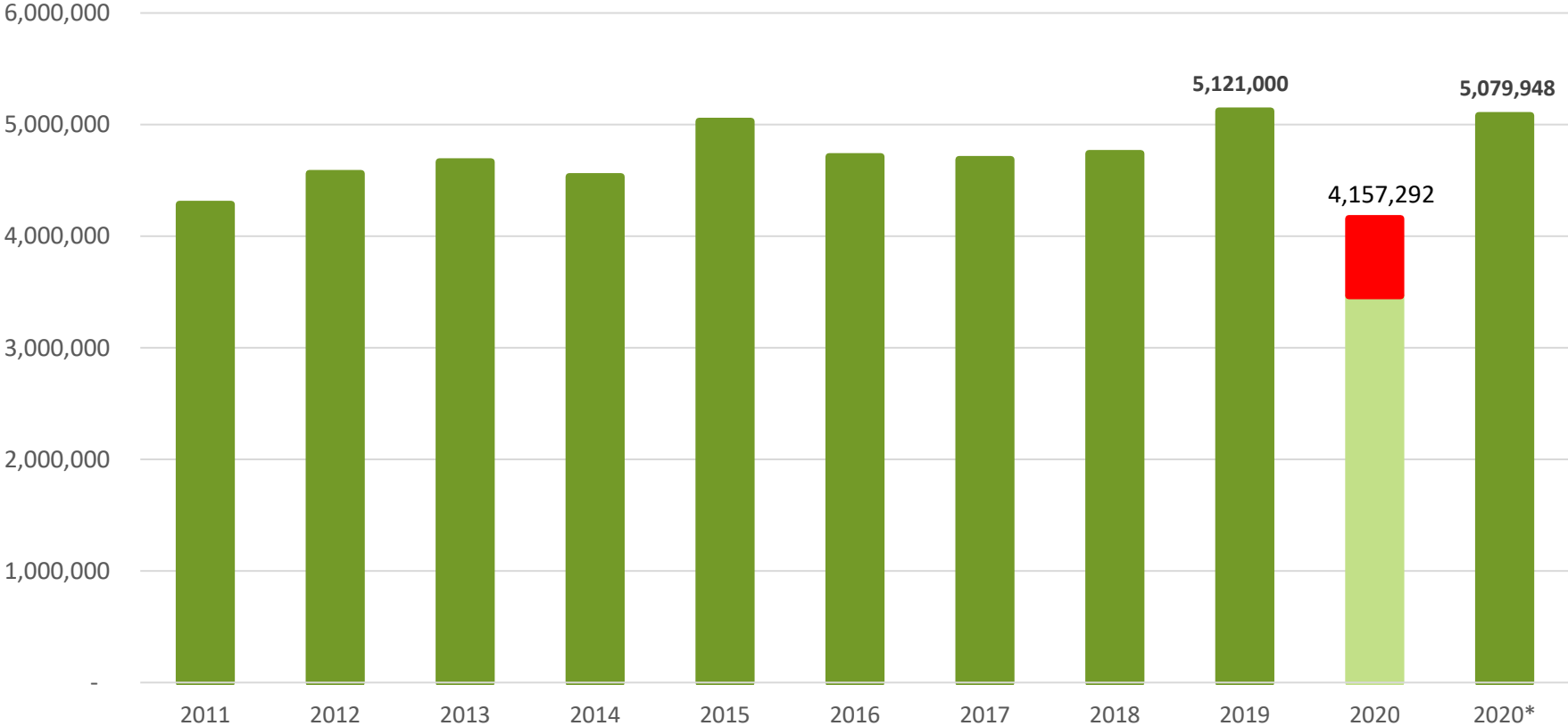
Emergency Response

7 providers serving 255 municipalities from 15 facilities with over 600 employees. Approximately 15,900 riders per day (pre-COVID)

Our budget allows for rural transit investments and innovations that would not be possible without the current legislative and administration support. Our Trip Planner, Statewide AVL, and Job Access programs are examples.

Ridership: Public Transit

Public Transit Ridership by State Fiscal Year



COVID-19 reduced ridership by nearly one million

- Mar-Jun Riders
- Jul-Feb Riders
- Annual Riders

*Represents theoretical FY20 ridership if pandemic had not occurred.

Program Elements to be Covered

- **COVID Impacts – Service and Costs**
- **TDM Grant Program**
- **Microtransit Pilot**
- **Electric Transit Vehicles**
- **Demand Response Pilots**



PT COVID-19 Survey - Ridership



Public Transit Ridership



PT COVID-19 Survey - Cost Impacts



Public Transit Costs Due to COVID-19



TDM Grant Program

- H.942 Sec. 16 - TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT AND MICROTRANSIT INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM
 - \$500,000 with a max of \$100,000 per grant award
 - Distributed by November 30, 2020
 - The purpose of this TDM program is to incentivize innovative strategies that improve both mobility and access for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles for work trips, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Status

Created “Mobility and Transportation Innovations”(MTI) Grant Program

16 proposals received, requesting over \$900k

\$500k awarded for 12 projects

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit/mti>

Partners include: Capstone, CarShare VT, CATMA, CCRPC, Local Motion, Town of Ludlow, Middlebury College, Old Spokes Home, Sustainable Montpelier Coalition, Sustainable Transportation Vermont, VT Natural Resources Council, Vital Communities and VEIC.

On-Demand Micro-Transit

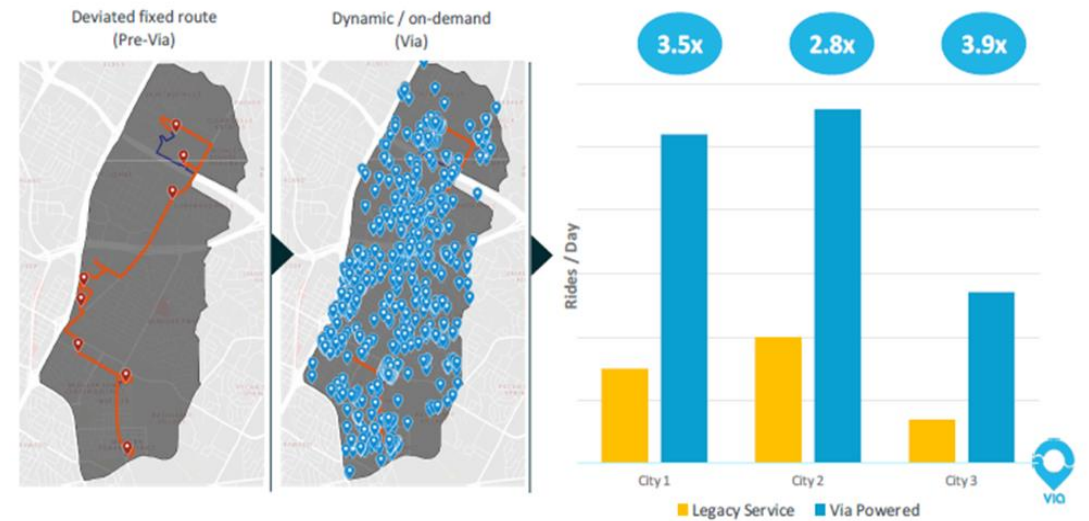
Real-time hailed, dynamically routed, public transit service within a designated region



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

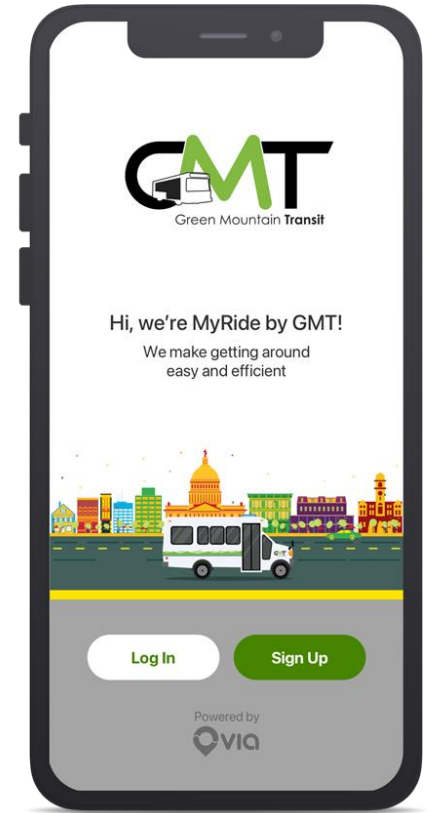


Figure 2: Total Ridership

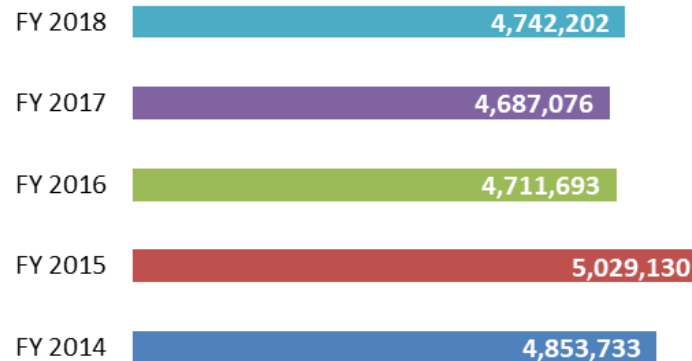


Figure 4: Cost per Trip

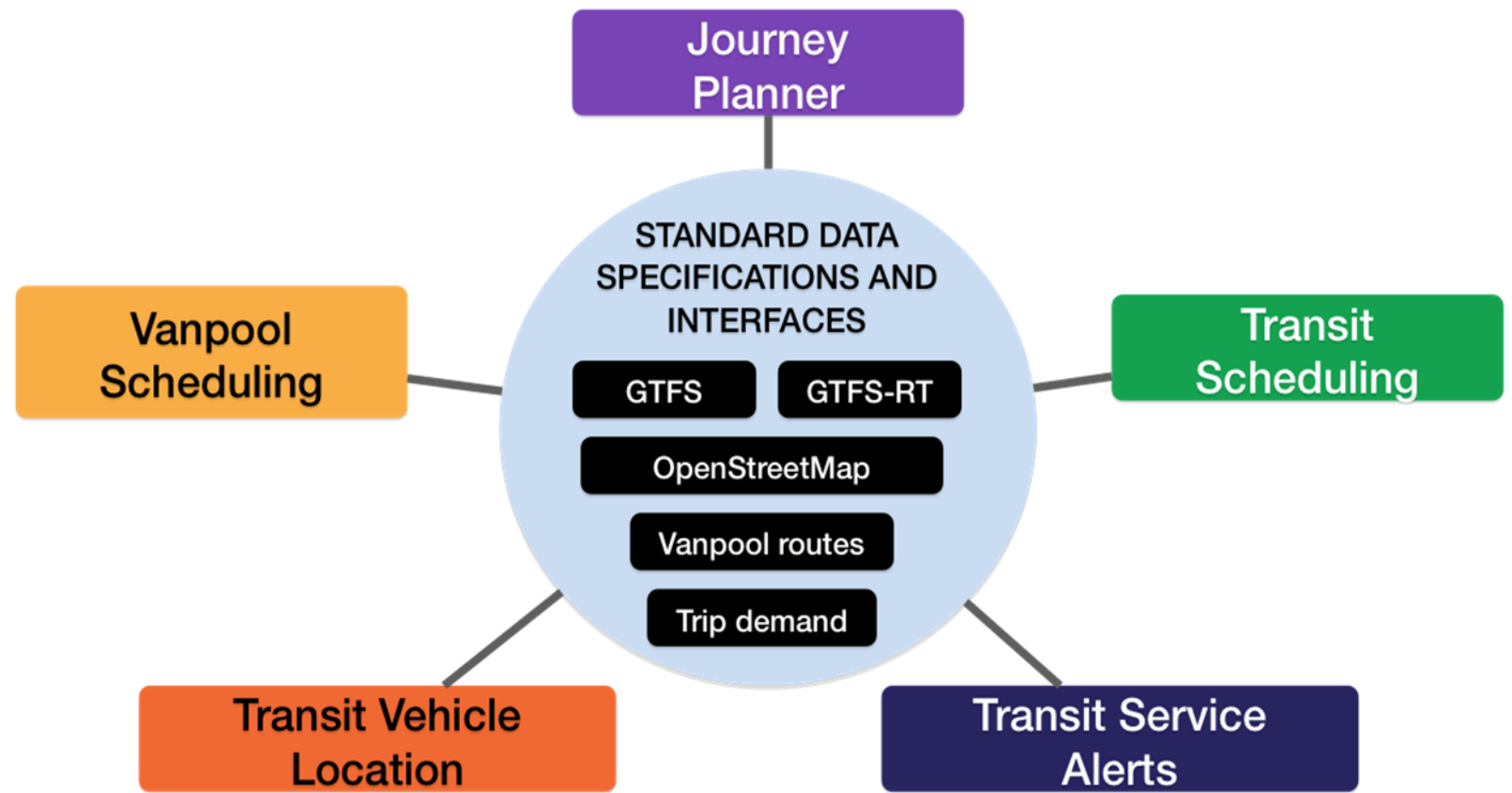


GTFS-Flex

- Open-Source
- Affordable
- Scalable

Products to Date

- Trip Planner
- Transit App/AVL



Standards Allow Interoperability

INTEROPERABLE TECHNOLOGIES ARE MODULAR AND CAN BE REPLACED EASILY.

Transit App/ Statewide AVL

- All providers, routes, and bus stops operating with the same AVL service.
- Open-Source Data(GTFS-RT)
- Basic Service expectation

transit

GO YOUR OWN WAY

iPhone



Android



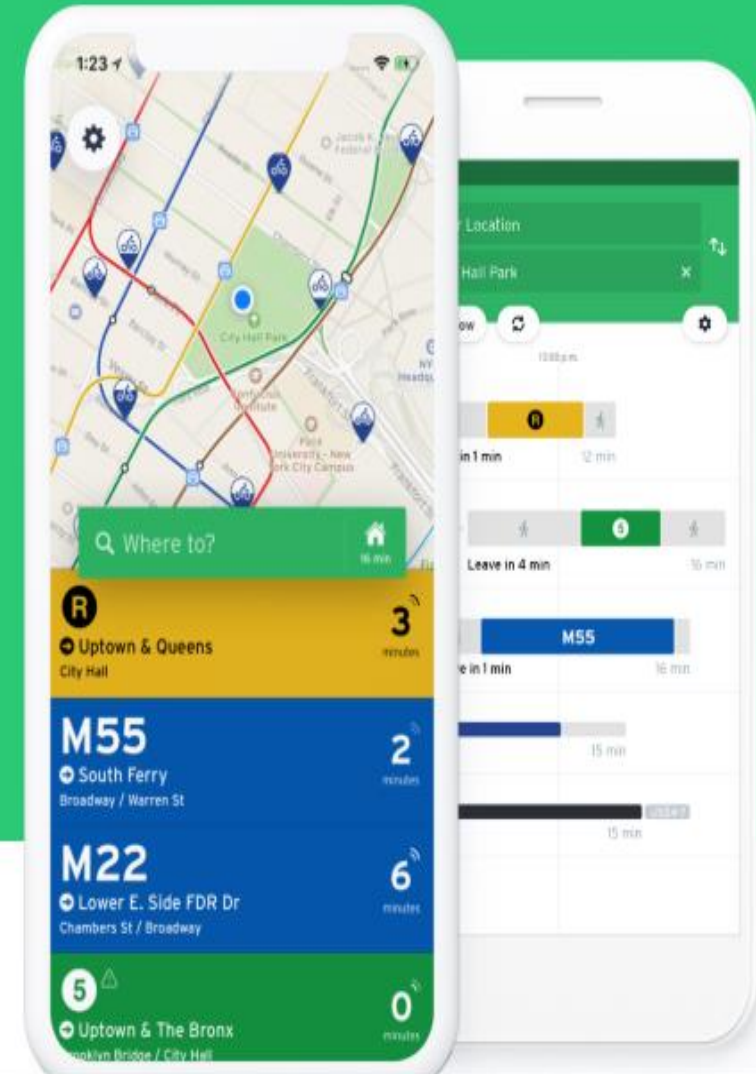
It's in the Name™

[Transit App](#)

Regions

Partners

Blog



FIND MY BUS



New Transit App helps track and plan your route.



E-Buses

The Path to Full electrification

- 4 consecutive Low and No awards. VW funds awarded for 2 large e-buses.
 - 14 total in service or ordered
 - \$10,039,312 total funds (80 Fed/20 State, Local)
- “Electrification Plan” in CY 2021
 - Performance to date (VT and National)
 - Vehicle costs – initial unit and operational
 - Funding scenarios
 - Operations and Maintenance
 - Risk assessment

Demand Response Pilot - Rides to Wellness

- Five successful pilots
- Working with additional medical facilities on training and implementation regardless of available seed money.
- Trip eligibility decision Roadmap developed to assist regional transit providers, health centers and our partners at 211 with triage of transportation requests.
- Pilot intended to bridge the gap for trips not eligibility under Medicaid and E&D programs.
- Approximately 1,600 trips provided since April 2018.



The advertisement features a header with the title "RIDES TO WELLNESS" in a serif font. Below the title are four icons: a purple location pin with a house, a green car, an orange van, and a blue bus, followed by a red location pin with a white cross. The main text is in a sans-serif font, with "Need a ride..." in large blue letters and "to your medical or dental appointment?" in smaller blue letters. Below this is a paragraph in black text: "Don't let a lack of transportation stop you from getting the care you need." This is followed by "Vermont 2-1-1" in red, and another paragraph: "can help connect you with resources to meet your medical transportation needs in the Windsor area." The call to action "Dial 2-1-1 today!" is in large blue and red letters, with "Text your zip code to 898 211" below it. At the bottom right is a purple van icon. The footer contains three logos: "211 Get Connected Get Answers" (with "Vermont" above it), "sponsored by VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION", and "VT ASSISTANCE HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTERS" (with "A Vermont Health System" below it).

RIDES TO WELLNESS

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to your medical or dental appointment?

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Vermont 2-1-1

can help connect you with resources to meet your medical transportation needs in the Windsor area.

Dial 2-1-1 today!
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211 Get Connected Get Answers
Vermont
Vermont State Center

sponsored by
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VT ASSISTANCE HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTERS
A Vermont Health System

Demand Response Pilot – Recovery and Job Access Rides

- \$320k over two years to cover costs for recovery and job access transportation
 - Service began in September 2019. Rural Region
 - Second pilot started January 2020. Small Urban Region.
- VTrans and the Agency of Human Services collaborating on oversight and funding
- Over 2,000 trips provided from September 2019 through April 2020
- \$160k currently committed to two pilot regions but VTrans and AHS considering viable partnerships in other Vermont locations



THANK YOU

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