



CarShare Vermont



**Presentation to Senate Transportation Committee
February 25, 2022**

Intro to carsharing

Carsharing is a service that makes vehicles available on a short-term basis as an alternative to private car ownership.

Carsharing is distinct from renting, ridesharing, carpooling, ride-hailing, and taxis:

- Decentralized network
- Self-serve access (no hired drivers)
- Short-term use
- All-inclusive rates

Today there are several models of carsharing, including station-based, one-way, and peer-to-peer.

Multinational rental companies and auto manufacturers currently dominate the U.S. market, exclusively serving large urban areas and some universities.

Independent nonprofit operators are trying to fill the gaps by serving rural communities, small to mid-sized cities, and some suburban areas with focus on social equity and environment.



About CarShare Vermont

- Founded in 2008 as a nonprofit with a mission to provide an affordable, convenient and reliable alternative to vehicle ownership that enhances the environmental, economic, and social wellbeing of our region and planet.

We provide a station-based carsharing service to 1,000 residents, employees of local businesses, and college students.

Nearly half of our fleet of 21 vehicles is electric (4 EVs and 6 PHEVs).

We develop and implement a range of programs that advance our mission to reduce vehicle dependence and make our transportation system more equitable.

We are a team of 4.25 FTE and a small group of dedicated volunteers. About 75% of our \$700K budget is covered by earned income from the delivery of our service.



How does it work?

Vehicles are decentralized and located in public and private parking spaces throughout Burlington.

Members can reserve by the hour or day using our website or mobile app.

Vehicles are self-accessible 24/7 with an electronic key fob or a smartphone.

Members pay according to how much they drive; rates are inclusive of fuel/electricity, insurance, cleanings, maintenance, snow removal, roadside assistance, everything.

- CarShare Vermont members spend, on average, less than \$100/month to share vehicles.



Our impact

In 2021, 76% of members reported shedding or avoiding the purchase of a vehicle after joining.

For every vehicle we put in service, 15 are removed from the road.

The majority of CarShare Vermont members (85%) belong to zero or one vehicle households.

Last year, every member reduced their VMT by 1,000 miles—this accounts for the portion of members who increased their driving by gaining access to vehicles.

Reductions in VMT resulted in 382 fewer tons of GHG emissions.

Participation in our MobilityShare plan (subsidized membership) has tripled since 2019, demonstrating increased demand for safe and reliable transportation among households with lower incomes.



Benefits of carsharing

Highly effective strategy to reduce vehicle dependence. By making vehicles available on a per use basis, people and organizations choose to own fewer vehicles.

Less driving means fewer greenhouse emissions, pollution, and congestion.

Provides improved mobility for those who cannot afford to own a vehicle but need access to one to meet needs with greater ease and flexibility.

Reduces demand for parking and frees up valuable land for better purposes than housing cars.

Supports increased transit ridership, walking, biking, and other modes.

Provides significant financial savings for members.



Expanding EV access through carsharing



Photo credit: Luke Awtry, Seven Days

With support from VTrans, VLITE, BED, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, and others, we recently located four EVs at affordable housing developments in an effort to improve access to our service—and to increase access to electric vehicles among carshare users.

We launched an extensive outreach campaign offering free membership and reduced driving rates to all residents and income-eligible community members.

We're partnering with BED, VLITE, and CHT to introduce two additional shared EVs in 2022 at the multi-generational ONE Community Center and downtown Burlington.

- Obstacles to EV adoption: higher capital costs of EVs and EVSE and willingness of parking providers to allow EVSE installation.

How can more Vermonters benefit from carsharing?

Housing developers, transit providers, social service organizations, municipalities, large employers, and energy committees are all potential partners to support carsharing services in other communities.

Grant programs like VTrans' Mobility & Transportation Innovation program are needed to supporting existing and new shared mobility services. We encourage increased funding for these programs and higher grant awards to make service implementation viable.

CarShare Vermont fields requests from many communities who are eager for us to expand. Similar to transit, sustained public investment in carsharing would allow more communities to initiate or participate in a carsharing service.

CarShare Vermont serves as a resource and provides guidance to communities within and outside of Vermont interested in carsharing.



CarShare Vermont

Annie Bourdon, Founder & Executive Director

annie@carsharevt.org

802-861-2340

www.carsharevt.org

Thank you!