

Need for robust Public Transit funding in FY27:

I appreciate the Governor's proposed budget because it reduces GMT's anticipated deficit by \$700K, although it will still leave them with a \$940K deficit for FY27, potentially necessitating more cuts.

Robust public transit is critical for addressing affordability & cost-of-living issues for Vermonters. Car ownership & maintenance costs the average Vermonter over \$12k per year, while buses are free to ride in most parts of the state and just \$50/month (\$600/year) in Chittenden County. Our FY27 budget therefore needs to prioritize preserving and expanding transit funding to ensure residents across the State have access to low-cost mobility options.

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