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### **Bottom Line Up Front**

- GMT supports Administration's FY26 Budget
- GMT supports continued exploration of transferring rural service to other providers
- GMT committed to reducing operating costs in support of financial sustainability



### Jargon Check

- ADA is Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit service.
- NEMT is Non Emergency Medical Transport Medicaid service.
- O&D is Older and Disabled Persons transport (formerly E&D)



# Chittenden County Service

- Fixed Route Service, including local LINK and Commuter Routes
  - \$700K in annual service already reduced, with another \$500K projected for June 2025



# Chittenden County Service

- SSTA provides remainder of braided service:
  - ADA via contract (urban routes do not deviate for persons with disabilities)
  - O&D via contract
  - NEMT independent of GMT



# Washington County Service

- Fixed Route service in Central Vermont
- MyRide Microtransit in Montpelier
- Demand Response service operated by GMT and CRVT (O&D, NEMT, etc.)
- Seasonal Fixed Route service in support of Mad River Valley tourism
- MyRide pilot ends this FY



# Franklin and Grand Isle Counties Service

- Fixed Route service, including local in St.
  Albans and Commuter in Alburgh & Richford
- Franklin Demand Response service operated by GMT (O&D, NEMT, etc.)
- Grand Isle Demand Response service operated by CIDER under contract with GMT
- No reductions considered here



# Lamoille County Service

- Seasonal Fixed Route service in support of Stowe area tourism
- No reductions considered here.



# Overall Ridership: ~2.7M Rides

#### Urban

- ~2.3M rides in FY24
  - ~2.0M rides in FY20
  - High of ~2.5M in FY12 and FY13
- 52K ADA rides paid for by GMT and delivered by SSTA (~\$2M)
  - 2% of rides and 9% of expenses

#### Rural

- 389K rides in 2024
  - 408K in 2020



#### Statewide Ridership Comparison

- 4.7M Statewide ridership for all providers
- 2.7M rides provided by GMT (57% statewide trips)
- 369K Combined TVT/RCT
  - TVT and RCT ridership would more than double from transfer



# GMT FY26 Budgets (\$51.0M)\*

#### Urban

Operating: \$19.9M

Capital Budget: \$17.6M

#### Rural

Operating: \$10.9M

Capital Budget: \$2.6M

\* Projected

Total Operating: \$30.8M

Total Capital: \$20.2M



#### STIC Factors

- FTA issues Small Transit Intensive City (STIC) awards to above average performers
- Of 6 STIC factors, GMT above average on 4 (only 11% receive 4 or more)
  - ~\$2M additional federal revenue
- Ridership decline = STIC Losses = Less Fed \$\$\$
- \$3M in service reduction = \$5M in reductions



### Legislative Report

- External Org Assessment
- Internal Assessment
- Rural Transfer Study
- Feedback on Urban Service Reductions
- Franklin County Community Engagement



### **External Org Assessment**

- 42% reduction in managerial capacity between 2012 and 2023
- Lack of staff capacity root cause for performance issues and high employee turnover
- Origin of Rural Transfer Question



#### Internal Assessment

- Need to increase staff capacity and/or transfer service to improve performance
- Need to emulate other rural service providers by increasing community engagement and diversifying local match



# Indirect Rate Comparisons

Indirect rate is the percentage of funds spent on non-operational activities

• GMT: 6.84%

• RCT: 20.08%

• SSTA: 19.92%

• TVT: 16.59%



#### **Rural Transfers**

- GMT in alignment with RCT and TVT to continue studying transfer and not rush decision making
- Partial transfer should be considered
- Franklin County labor relations
- RCT and TVT to more than double ridership



#### **Urban Service Reductions**

FY26 Budget will include \$1.2M in service reductions to assist with achieving financial sustainability

- \$700K in reductions already approved/implemented
- Additional \$500K in reductions to be implemented June 2025



# Urban Service Reductions: December 2024

- Elimination of Jeffersonville Commuter connecting Lamoille County to Burlington
- Elimination of Saturday Service on the #10 connecting Williston to Essex Junction/Town of Essex
- Reduction in Saturday morning and evening service



# Urban Service Reductions: March/June 2025

- Reduction of the Montpelier LINK from 11 daily trips to 7 – March 2025
- Consolidation of the Milton Commuter and St. Albans LINK – June 2025



# Urban Service Reductions: June 2025

- \$500K in additional reductions TBD
- Will not include elimination of routes
- Will include:
  - Decreasing Summer and Sunday service
  - Rerouting #10
  - Halving frequency of #8



# FY27 Fiscal Gap: ~\$3M

# GMT will need to choose between workforce or human services support

Without intervention, GMT will likely see:

- Elimination of most non-urban core service
- Reduction/elimination of commuter/LINK service



#### FY24 Route Performance Report

- Jeffersonville Commuter already eliminated
- #10 to be rerouted, removing less productive portion of route
- Mad River Valley Floor to be evaluated
  - Route revenue not considered



#### Return to Fares

- Overall ridership increase of 1% since return to fares
  - Original projections were for a 15% decrease in ridership
- 9.7% of urban revenue now coming from fares (target 10.0%)
  - New target of 15% established



#### **GMT Foundation and Association**

- Established an affiliated non-profit organization to diversify revenue
  - Increase opportunities for grants, especially those focusing on intersection of transit/human services
  - Awaiting IRS award of 501(c)3.



# **Urban Driver Negotiations**

- GMT is presently negotiating with Teamsters 597 for the next 3-year CBA
- Outcome of negotiations will impact projections
- Shortage of CDL operators amplifying labor inflation



### Pay/Benefit Considerations

- \$30.00 driver pay is for all drivers regardless of time in service
  - Operate in 2 highest cost counties
  - Starting wage SB Schools is \$34.00
- 100% employer covered health insurance, but annual increases capped to 6%
- Admin pay set to 25<sup>th</sup> percentile
- Executive pay below other providers



#### **Protections for Transit Workers**

H.255 proposes to establish increased criminal penalties when a public transit worker is the victim of an assault, adding transit workers to the list of professionals at 13 V.S.A. § 1028.



#### **Urban Assessment Reform**

Current assessment methodology established in 2006

- Partnering with CCRPC to go through assessment modification process
- Statutory guidelines on assessments would benefit from an update

FY26 Special Assessment of \$308K



