

1 H.488

2 Senators Westman, Brennan, Harrison, Perchlik and White move that the  
3 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

4 First: By inserting a Sec. 1a and its associated reader assistance heading to  
5 read as follows:

6 \* \* \* Summary of Transportation Investments \* \* \*

7 Sec. 1a. FISCAL YEAR 2026 TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS  
8 INTENDED TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED  
9 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, REDUCE FOSSIL FUEL  
10 USE, AND SAVE VERMONT HOUSEHOLDS MONEY

11 This act includes the State’s fiscal year 2026 transportation investments  
12 intended to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, reduce  
13 fossil fuel use, and save Vermont households money in furtherance of the  
14 policies articulated in 19 V.S.A. § 10b and the goals of the Comprehensive  
15 Energy Plan and the Vermont Climate Action Plan and to satisfy the Executive  
16 and Legislative Branches’ commitments to the Paris Agreement climate goals.  
17 In fiscal year 2026, these efforts will include the following:

18 (1) Park and Ride Program. This act provides for a fiscal year  
19 expenditure of \$2,435,740.00, which will fund two construction projects to  
20 create new park-and-ride facilities, the construction of improvements to two  
21 existing park-and-ride facilities, funding for a municipal park-and-ride grant

1 program, and paving projects for existing park-and-ride facilities. This year's  
2 Park and Ride Program will create 60 new State-owned spaces. Specific  
3 additions and improvements include:

4 (A) Manchester—construction of 50 new spaces; and

5 (B) Sharon—design and construction of 10 new spaces.

6 (2) Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Program. This act provides for a  
7 fiscal year expenditure, including local match, of \$21,879,965.00, which will  
8 fund 33 bike and pedestrian construction projects; 17 bike and pedestrian  
9 design, right-of-way, or design and right-of way projects for construction in  
10 future fiscal years; and 10 scoping studies. The construction projects include  
11 the creation, improvement, or rehabilitation of walkways, sidewalks, shared-  
12 use paths, bike paths, and cycling lanes. Projects are funded in Arlington,  
13 Bakersfield, Bennington, Bethel, Brattleboro, Bristol, Burke, Burlington,  
14 Castleton, Chester, Danville, Enosburg Falls, Fairfax, Greensboro, Hardwick,  
15 Hartford, Highgate, Hinesburg, Huntington, Hyde Park, Irasburg, Jericho,  
16 Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier, Moretown, Newfane, Newport City,  
17 Northfield, Pawlet, Randolph, Royalton, Rutland City, Rutland Town,  
18 Sheffield, Shelburne, Sheldon, South Burlington, Springfield, St. Albans City,  
19 St. Albans Town, Swanton, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Rutland, Williston,  
20 Wilmington, and Windsor. This act also provides funding for:

1           (A) some of Local Motion’s operation costs to run the bike ferry on  
2           the Colchester Causeway, which is part of the Island Line Trail;

3           (B) a small-scale municipal bicycle and pedestrian grant program for  
4           projects to be selected during the fiscal year;

5           (C) projects funded through the Safe Routes to School Program; and

6           (D) community grants along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT).

7           (3) Transportation Alternatives Program. This act provides for a fiscal  
8           year expenditure of \$6,471,054.00, including local funds, which will fund 17  
9           transportation alternatives construction projects; 26 transportation alternatives  
10          design, right-of-way, or design and right-of-way projects; and eight scoping  
11          studies. Of these 51 projects, 20 involve environmental mitigation related to  
12          clean water or stormwater concerns, or both clean water and stormwater  
13          concerns, and 32 involve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Projects are funded  
14          in Athens, Barre City, Bennington, Brandon, Brattleboro, Bridgewater, Bristol,  
15          Burke, Burlington, Castleton, Derby, Enosburg Falls, Fairfax, Fairlee,  
16          Ferrisburgh, Grafton, Guilford, Hartford, Hinesburg, Hyde Park, Jericho,  
17          Londonderry, Lyndon, Montgomery, Newark, Proctor, Rockingham, Rutland  
18          City, Shoreham, South Burlington, Springfield, St. Albans Town, Swanton,  
19          Tinmouth, Warren, Williston, and Wilmington.

1           (4) Public Transit Program. This act provides for a fiscal year  
2           expenditure of \$52,695,234.00 for public transit uses throughout the State.

3           Included in the authorization are:

4                   (A) Go! Vermont, with an authorization of \$380,000.00. This  
5           authorization supports transportation demand management (TDM) strategies,  
6           including the State’s Trip Planner and commuter services, to promote the use  
7           of carpools and vanpools.

8                   (B) Mobility and Transportation Innovations (MTI) Grant Program,  
9           with an authorization of \$340,000.00, which includes \$315,000.00 in federal  
10          funds. This authorization continues to support projects that improve both  
11          mobility and access to services for transit-dependent Vermonters, reduce the  
12          use of single-occupancy vehicles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

13           (5) Rail Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of  
14          \$61,887,348.00, including local funds and \$31,894,436.00 in federal funds, for  
15          intercity passenger rail service, including funding for the Ethan Allen Express  
16          and Vermonter Amtrak services, and rail infrastructure that supports freight  
17          rail as well. Moving freight by rail instead of trucks lowers greenhouse gas  
18          emissions by up to 75 percent, on average.

19          Second: By inserting a Sec. 2a and its associated reader assistance heading  
20          to read as follows:

21                   \* \* \* Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters \* \* \*

Sec. 2a. TOWN HIGHWAY NON-FEDERAL DISASTERS

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters, spending is authorized as follows:

<u>FY26</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Grants	1,150,000	1,150,000	0
Total	1,150,000	1,150,000	0
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	1,150,000	0	-1,150,000
Other	0	1,150,000	1,150,000
Total	1,150,000	1,150,000	0

(b) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Program for Town Highway Non-Federal Disasters, the following footnote is added: “Other funds of \$1,150,000 are amounts appropriated from the PILOT Special Fund established pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3709.”

Third: In Sec. 26, public transit demand response volunteer coordinators; grants; appropriations, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) The Agency of Transportation is authorized to utilize up to \$600,000.00 in one-time funds appropriated from the Transportation Fund to the Agency of

1 Transportation in fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of providing grants to public  
2 transit agencies to hire volunteer coordinators. Volunteer coordinators hired  
3 with grants provided pursuant to this section shall be responsible for the  
4 identification, recruitment, and retention of volunteers to provide  
5 transportation services to individuals enrolled in the State's demand response  
6 transportation programs.

7 Fourth: By striking out Sec. 27, Medicaid non-emergency transportation, in  
8 its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 Sec. 27. MEDICAID NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

10 In fiscal year 2026, prior to executing a contract to provide Medicaid Non-  
11 Emergency Transportation services, the Department of Vermont Health Access  
12 shall provide to the Joint Fiscal Committee for review and approval a detailed  
13 analysis demonstrating that by executing such a contract:

- 14 (1) there will be no degradation of service to eligible individuals; and  
15 (2) the financial stability of the State's public transportation systems  
16 will be maintained.

17 Fifth: In Sec. 29, volunteer drivers; publicity; outreach, by striking out  
18 subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b)  
19 to read as follows:

20 (b) The Department of Vermont Health Access shall develop informational  
21 materials related to eligibility for the Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation

- 1 program. The Department shall, in consultation with the Agency of
- 2 Transportation and other relevant stakeholders, make the materials available to
- 3 the public on the Department's website and other internet-based platforms.