



January 23, 2025

Dear Chair Walker and House Transportation Committee Members:

Ensuring proper access to healthcare for those living and working in our service area is a crucial focus of Northwestern Medical Center. Access to care is a priority In the Community Health Needs Assessment for the Franklin Grand Isle area and transportation challenges are commonly cited as barriers to proper access. This is not unique to the northwestern region of the State – we hear the same from our hospital colleagues across the State.

At the same time, as a major employer in a rural area, we know that transportation challenges adversely impact our ability to fill open positions. We have also seen transportation complications contribute to people leaving employment. Our workforce’s needs are pressing, and lack of workforce itself impairs our ability to provide proper access.

Green Mountain Transit has been a good community partner and their services in our area are valued. As a provider of healthcare and a major employer, we believe our community will benefit from investments in a sustainable, reliable, easy to use transit system across the state that moves people from where they live to the places they need and want to go.

As you work through transportation policy this session, please ensure that your decisions advance and expand transportation for Vermonters, thereby supporting improved access to needed healthcare and workable access to employment.

Thank you for your work on these important matters and your service to the citizens of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Wright, FACHE  
President & Chief Executive Officer

CC: Jamie Smith, GMT  
Transportation for Vermonters

NMC's Mission is to Provide Exceptional Healthcare for our Community.