

T4VT

Transportation for Vermonters

House Transportation Committee Testimony

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John Haffner | Vital Communities

Jonathon Weber | Local Motion

January 30, 2025



Agenda



Charger incentives

Figuring out ideas
for sustainable transportation
options for small towns

Increase
walkability

- Introduction
- T4VT 2025 Policy Priorities
 - Sustainable Funding for Transit
 - EV & eBike Incentive Programs
 - Revenue Generating Policy Tool
 - Street Safety
- Q&A

Who We Are



AARP VT

CarShare Vermont

CATMA

Green Mountain Transit

Local Motion

Old Spokes Home

Renewable Energy Vermont

Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club

Vermont Clean Communities

Vermont Center for Independent Living

Vermont Energy Education Program

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

Vermont Natural Resources Council

Vermont Public Interest Research Group

Vital Communities

We believe investments in an accessible & sustainable transportation system can:



Provide equitable access to economic & social opportunities;



Improve public health and safety;



Reduce air and water pollution;



Foster walkable community centers;



Meet Vermont's required carbon emission reductions.

ACT 167 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS

THREE IMPERATIVES FOR VERMONT'S HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION

1 Build housing and other facilities and fix transportation



2 Pay PPS hospitals with reference-based pricing and move to global budgets/capitation when requirements for success are met



3 Move all care possible out of hospitals



“Emergent and non-emergent transportation is unreliable and lacks timeliness, preventing community members from accessing care”



Vermont's Multisector Plan on Aging: 2024-2034



An age-friendly state supports and advances the 8 pillars of aging strong



Housing, Transportation and Community Design

Communities should be designed to support and maintain the health, safety and independence of older Vermonters through safe, affordable, and accessible housing, transportation and community support systems. Flexible and affordable transport pilots underway in Vermont are making the difference in accessing appointments and grocery shopping among older Vermonters.



FOOD SECURITY IN VERMONT: ROADMAP TO 2035



G7: Make impactful investments in transportation in rural and urban Vermont



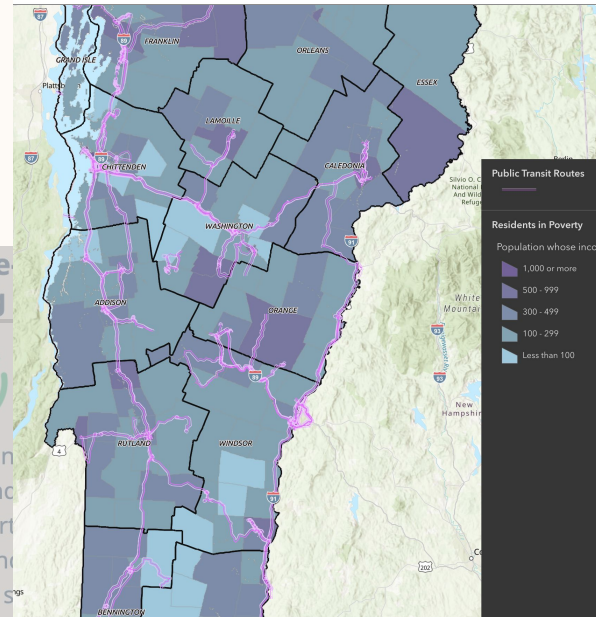
Among the barriers that threaten food access for different communities in Vermont, transportation-related barriers are significant.



Transportation Equity Framework 2023

VERMONT
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

VAPDA



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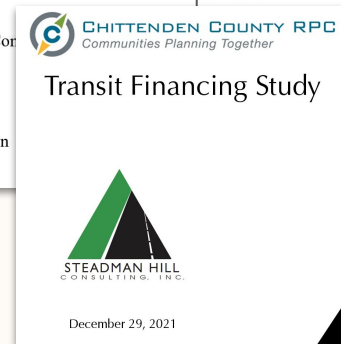
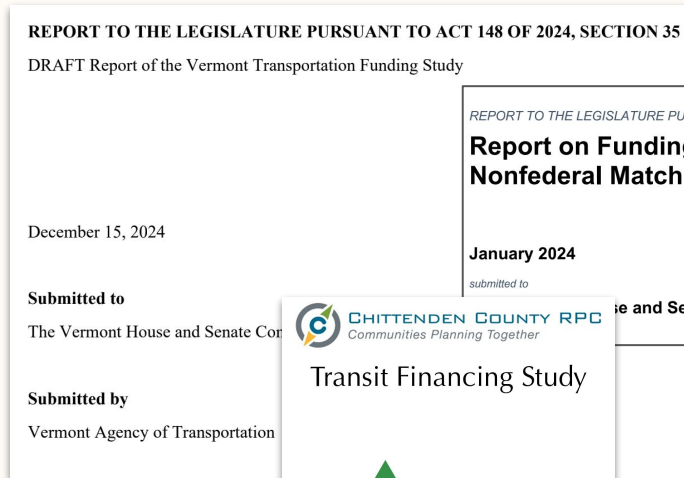
The Status Quo
Isn't Working.

Enact Sustainable Funding for Transit



Recommendation:

The Legislature should identify and enact new, dedicated sources of funding to ensure accessible public transportation, as recommended recent funding studies.



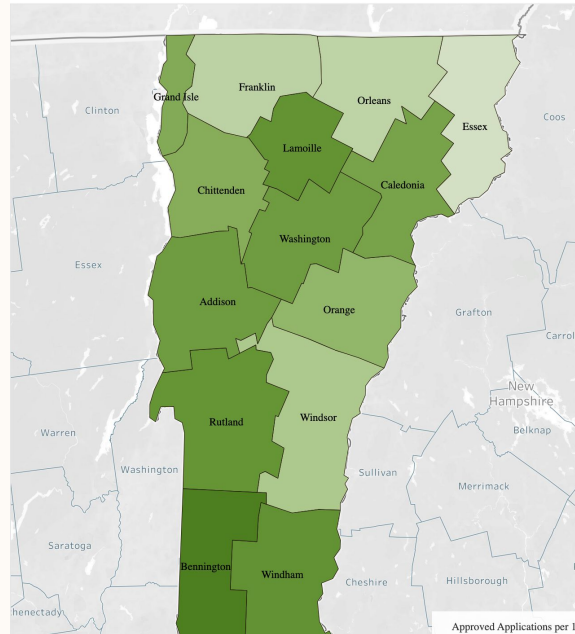
Reinstate Funding for EV & eBike Incentive Programs



Recommendation:

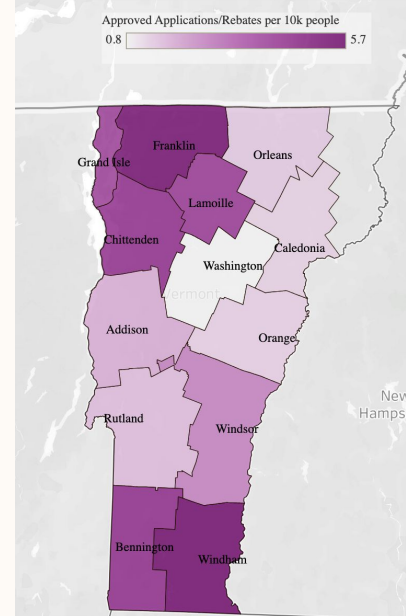
The Legislature should review the FY24-25 Transportation Budget allocations to make recommendations to reappropriate funds in the Budget Adjustment Act to maintain these critical incentive programs.

Number of Approved Replace Your Ride Applications per 10,000 people
This map displays a standard value for comparison regardless of the county population.



eBike Incentives

Year 2

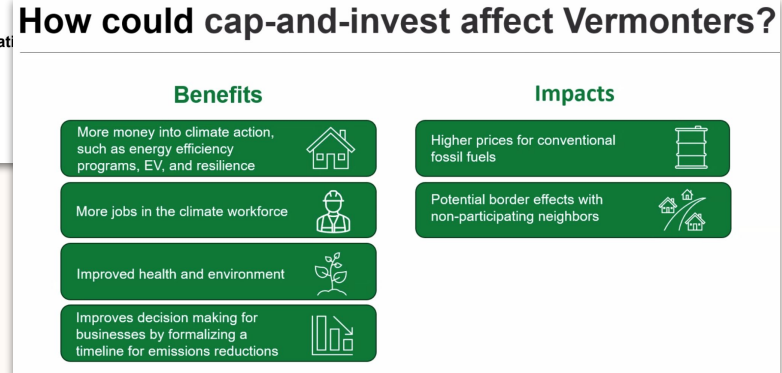
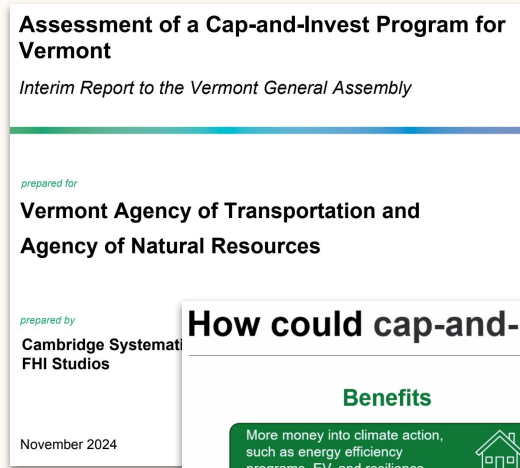


Advance a Revenue-Generating Emissions Reduction Policy Tool



Recommendation:

The Legislature should identify and adopt one or more policy or regulatory tools to make certain pollution reductions and secure a long-term, sustainable funding source for a multi-modal transportation system.



Improve Street Safety for Affordable Mobility



Recommendations:

The Legislature should make walking and bicycling easier and safer by:

- improving bike safety at intersections;
- reducing Vermont's general minimum posted speed limit to 20 MPH, and
- ensuring adequate funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.



GETTING AROUND THE UPPER VALLEY: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL VERMONT

John Haffner
Housing and Transportation Program Manager
Vital Communities



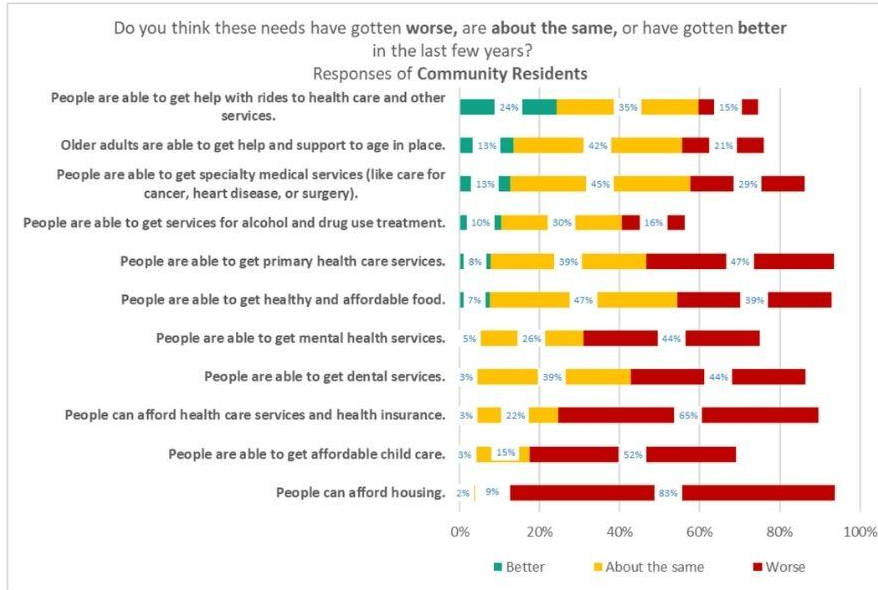
vital
COMMUNITIES



The Upper Valley's Transportation Ecosystem

- 2 states
- 3 Regional Planning Commissions
- 69 municipalities
- 5 transit providers
- Large and small employers, libraries, educational institutions, healthcare providers, community-based and civic organizations, and more!

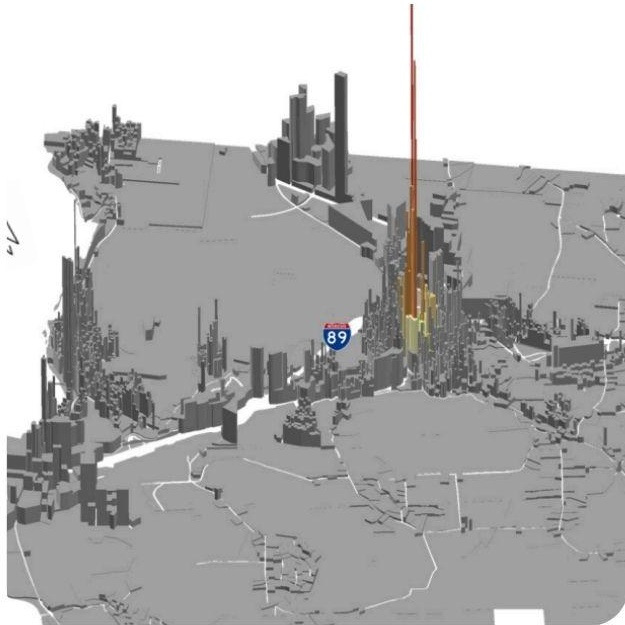
Expanding Transit Services Works



Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center
2024 Community Health Needs Assessment

- Advance Transit expanded to evening and weekend service in 2022.
- Southeast Vermont Transit's MicroMoo in Windsor in 2023.
- Integrated with micromobility and active transportation infrastructure and networks.
 - E-bikes
 - Shopping trolleys for food security

Affordability in Vermonts Towns and Villages



Value per Acre Analysis of Lebanon, NH by
Urban3

- Mixed-use village centers and downtowns bring in more tax revenue per acre than sprawl:
 - Transit-oriented
 - walkable
 - bike lanes and bike parking
- VT legislature supports this through land use reform.
- Must support with funding for transit and infrastructure investments.



OWN
14 Passenger Auto-Bus
leaves **WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT.**, for
LEBANON, N. H.,
every week day, after arrival of evening trains.

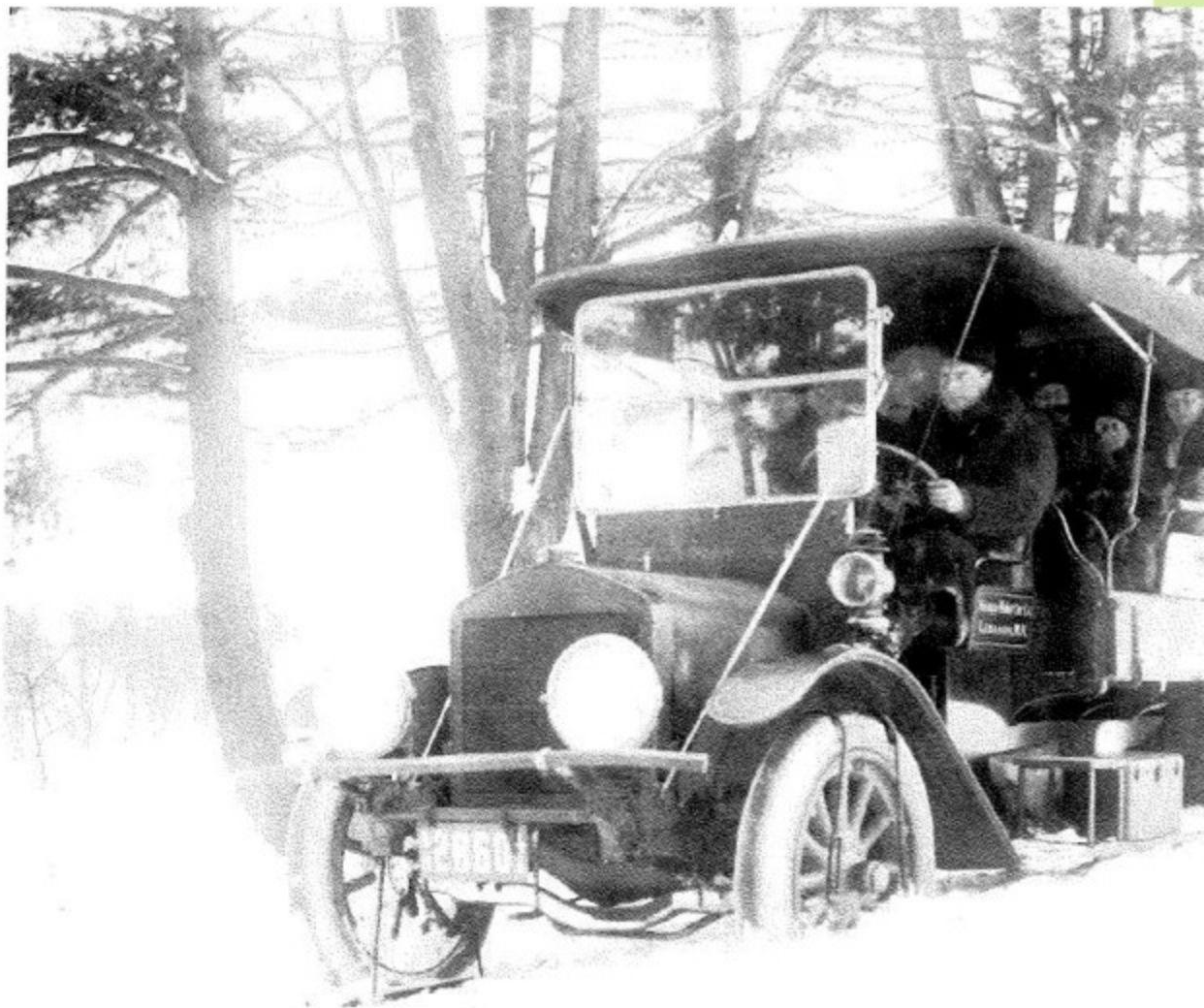
FARE 50 CENTS.

GUESTS FOR

Hotel Rogers and Hotel Barnes
are given rebate checks good for 25 cents in settle-
ment of hotel bill.

Special trips with touring cars arranged by phoning
our garage. Telephone 160.

Knapp Motor Car Co., Lebanon, N. H.



Better Active Transportation in Vermont

Christina Erickson & Jonathon Weber

January 30, 2025



Local Motion's mission is to make it safe, accessible, and fun for everyone to bike, walk, and roll in Vermont.



Active Transportation in Vermont



- Walking, biking, and rolling are important means of transportation for Vermonters
- More and more Vermonters are aging out of driving
- Driving is unaffordable for many others
- Active transportation is a key component of the transportation system we need to meet current and future challenges
- Less car ownership enables denser housing in the areas where we need it

2024: Safe Passing Mandated



MUTCD R4-19 Sign

- Motorists are now required by law to provide 4' of space when passing a vulnerable user
- Enables use of educational signage
- Makes enforcement possible

A no-cost opportunity to support biking

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO ACT 165 SECTION 46

Report on the Operation of Bicycles at Controlled Intersections

Date:

December 13, 2024

Submitted to:

House Committee on Transportation
Senate Committee on Transportation

Vermont Agency of Transportation
Highway Division
Operations & Safety Bureau
Safe Systems Section – Active Transportation



- Other states and localities have updated how bikes are regulated at intersections
- VTrans just completed a report examining these possible updates
- Simple, no-cost changes that can make biking easier and more convenient, and possibly improve safety, reduce congestion

Infrastructure is Critical



Shared use path along Route 15 in Colchester

- VTrans grants for active transportation infrastructure have been oversubscribed for years
- Planners are reducing project scopes as a result
- More funding is needed to build the high-quality infrastructure that allows people to get around safely

State E-bike Incentives

- A powerful tool for low-income Vermonters to access affordable and efficient transportation
- Just \$70k available in FY25
- Please fund this program!



Thank you.

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