



Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (VTEMSAC)

January 15, 2025

Legislators,

The EMS Advisory Committee has continued to meet monthly throughout 2024, focusing most of our time on developing a plan to complete the work assigned to our committee as part of Act 157. As a group of stakeholders, we believe that we are uniquely qualified to assess the current system and develop a long-term plan for EMS in Vermont. Additionally, the committee has continued to work with the Health Department to streamline special fund distribution and improve access to education.

We have begun and expect to complete a comprehensive statewide assessment of our EMS funding system, quality of care, reliability, and workforce by the end of April 2025. As part of our work toward a five-year Statewide EMS plan, we have met and are collaborating with the Public Safety Communications Task Force, the Green Mountain Care Board, and the Commissioner of Health. Consultants working for the Advisory Committee are gathering data from the State EMS reporting system, dispatch centers, public filings, and service leaders so that we can have the best possible information. We will provide a report on what we are calling phase one of this project to the legislature in December 2025.

The data collected will be used in the second phase of this project, between April 2025 and December 2026, to develop a statewide EMS plan. We are currently developing the work plan for this phase of the project. Additional consultant assistance will be required to complete this work. The committee has started defining the scope of work that will need to be contracted. The legislature may need to extend the timeline for utilizing special fund dollars for this project.

It is important to note that while this work progresses, EMS services continue to face critical funding and staffing shortages, directly impacting service quality and system reliability in parts of the state. Demand for services continues to increase, and the inevitable changes in our health care system will require adaptive strategies to maintain service quality.

If you would like further information or have any questions about our work, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss our progress and plans in more detail. Please do not hesitate to reach out to arrange a time for us to connect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Hazelton".

Drew Hazelton
Committee Chair

VT EMS Advisory Committee
vtemsadvisory@gmail.com