

# **Testimony: Health Care Transportation**

# **Hospital Transportation Issues**

- Lack of transportation has long been a barrier to care in Vermont
- Hospitals have reported significant wait times for transportation post-COVID, exacerbating capacity issues

# **Act 167 Findings and Recommendations**

- Emergent and non-emergent transportation is unreliable and lacks timeliness, preventing community members from accessing care
- Vermont must support foundational infrastructure including a robust workforce, greater access to transportation, and an affordable housing supply that are all tightly linked to hospitals through various access points
- State level investments needed to enhance state-wide transportation
  - o For community members to and from acute and urgent appointments and from the ED
  - For patients with appropriate means of transport between facilities (EMS and other types of transportation)
- Recommendations include regionalized EMS and mobile units for individuals without transportation

### Act 157 and EMS Five-Year Statewide Plan

- EMS is in the process of developing a <u>five-year statewide plan</u>
- Advisory committee meeting with stakeholders
- Data collection is ending in April 2025
- Phase one of the report is to be presented in December 2025

### **VAHHS Recommendation**

• Develop a plan for non-emergency medical transportation using stakeholder engagement