



Feb 3, 2026

Dear Chair Westman & Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Transportation for Vermonters (T4VT), a statewide coalition working to advance affordable, sustainable, and equitable transportation options for all Vermonters.

As Vermont enters a particularly tight budget year, the transportation system continues to face significant and unmet needs—from safer streets and reliable public transit to clean, affordable mobility options. T4VT is focused on ensuring that state transportation policies, programs, and staffing support Vermonters' basic mobility needs while preventing further erosion of essential services.

By prioritizing cost-effective investments and aligning transportation decisions with Vermont's climate, housing, workforce, public health, and equity goals, the General Assembly can maximize existing resources, avoid compounding harm, and lay the groundwork for future investments in effective, inclusive, and resilient mobility solutions.

Secure Long-Term, Sustainable Funding for Public Transportation

T4VT urges the Legislature to advance a clear process to secure new, sustainable sources of funding for accessible public transportation, as proposed by the *Vermont Transportation Funding Study* (AOT, 2025), *Transit Financing Study* (CCRPC, 2021), the *Report on Funding Sources for Public Transit Non-Federal Match* (VPTA, 2024), and the *Vermont Climate Action Plan* (2025), and more.

Vermonters across the state are struggling to get where they need to go due to limited and unreliable transit service. Ongoing service cuts and projected funding shortfalls threaten access to jobs, healthcare, education, and basic services—particularly for seniors, people with disabilities, low-income households, and rural residents. At a time when demand for transit is growing, the Legislature must act to stabilize and strengthen Vermont's public transportation system.

Fund Transit, Active Transportation, and Transportation Demand Management Programs

T4VT urges the Legislature to maintain—at a minimum—level funding for critical transportation programs to avoid further service cuts and lost access and opportunity. These include:

- Rural Transit: **\$1.5 million**
- Green Mountain Transit: **\$1 million increase to base funding**
- Better Connections Grant Program: **\$180,000**
- Mobility and Transportation Innovation (MTI) Grant Program: **\$1 million**
- Downtown Transportation Fund: **\$500,000**
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Program: **\$6 million**

In addition, Vermont's current practice of reallocating approximately **\$8 million** in highway funding to subsidize passenger rail must be protected.

T4VT also urges the Legislature to amend the **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** to ensure that at least 80% of annual selections are allocated to bicycle, pedestrian, and Safe Routes to School projects, with limited exceptions for environmental mitigation projects that directly enable complete streets.

Investments in transit, walking, and biking improve safety and equitable access while helping Vermont meet its greenhouse gas reduction requirements under 10 V.S.A. § 578 and support compact, designated centers under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 76A. These programs are among the most cost-effective strategies available to reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and advance Vermont's climate, economic development, and affordability goals.

Restore Electric Mobility Access

T4VT urges the Legislature to reinstate incentives that allow low-income Vermonters to access safe, clean electric mobility, including **MileageSmart (\$3 million)** and **eBike incentive programs (\$70,000)**.

The loss of federal CPRG funding in 2024 and the absence of a state appropriation in 2025 effectively ended Vermont's EV and eBike incentive programs. These programs were critical to achieving necessary emissions reductions and ensuring that low-income Vermonters could benefit from cleaner, lower-cost transportation options.

T4VT also urges enactment of a statewide **"right to charge"** law guaranteeing that residents belonging to homeowners associations or live in condominiums can install charging infrastructure for electric vehicles and micromobility devices. A right-to-charge policy is essential to ensuring equitable access to clean transportation and enabling broader participation in Vermont's transportation electrification efforts.

Establish a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Target

T4VT urges the Legislature to require VTrans—working in coordination with ANR, DHCD, VAPDA, public transit providers, and other relevant stakeholders—to develop and adopt a process for establishing a quantitative, statewide per-capita VMT reduction target.

A clear and achievable VMT reduction target would provide essential guidance for transportation planning, investment, and policy decisions. It would help Vermont reduce climate

pollution, reinforce compact land-use patterns, and expand access to walking, biking, transit, and vehicle electrification in a coordinated and accountable manner.

Support Land Use Planning to Achieve Opportunity-Rich Communities

Finally, T4VT urges the Legislature to support the implementation of Act 181's goal of aligning Vermont's land use policy with the state's climate, housing, affordability and equity goals.

Act 181 directs state resources and regulatory relief toward compact, walkable, bikeable, and transit-connected areas where infrastructure already exists; this will not only help to meet Vermont's housing needs and reduce development pressure on our rural lands, but will also help to foster community centers that can support transportation infrastructure and choice.

Even in a constrained fiscal environment, Vermont has the opportunity—and responsibility—to make strategic transportation investments that protect essential services, reduce long-term costs, and advance the state's shared goals. Transportation for Vermonters urges the Legislature to prioritize these actions to ensure that Vermont's transportation system remains affordable, accessible, and resilient for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

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