



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC ELDERS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (E&D) TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023, 11:00 AM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 239 820 319 213, Pass: CpxDkJ | Call: 1-802-440-1368, ID: 598 674 540#

In-Person: The Opera House, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

MEMBERS PRESENT

Yvonne Wedin	MVRTD	Dan Currier	VTrans
Laurier Knauer	Castleton Community	Ethan Pepin	RRPC
Courtney Anderson	SVCOA	Jessie Butterfield	VCIL
Diane Drake	ARC		

1) INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA

Called to order at 11:05 AM. Motion to approve amended agenda by Butterfield seconded by Knauer. Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Drake, seconded by Butterfield.

2) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None present.

3) FY24 WORKPLAN

Pepin discussed the upcoming FY24 workplan and changes that would be coming to the program over the next year, regarding the QRyde routing software and the evolution of the committee to a Regional Mobility Committee. Pepin then gave an overview of the process for the workplan: an initial draft would be reviewed at this meeting, then a follow-up draft would be sent out on Friday, June 23. Pepin would review any comments and requested changes before submitting the final document. Pepin showed the current workplan and talked about how the E&D Committee would utilize the next year as a transitional period to experiment with the new Regional Committee structure, but that it would take time and be a process that was well considered. The goal is to increase regional coordination and not bog down the committee with too much additional scope and membership. Pepin talked about challenges with gathering data due to different practices across partners, and talked about how with the new software the data would be standardized and centralized. Pepin solicited ideas about the strengths and weaknesses of the committee, noting that the number of partners was both a strength and a weakness. Some partners had unique personal relationships with their clients that allows them to connect on a more human level and be more attentive to emerging transportation needs. However, that also presents problems to marketing the system or recruiting more drivers, as each organization has a separate dispatcher and separate driver pool. Anderson asked if social/personal trips could go over 20% of

*The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871*

COOPERATIVE PLANNING IN THE REGION



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

the total trips as long as they were able to meet more critical care appointments. Currier said that this was eligible as the 20% is more of a guideline than a hard rule. Wedin talked about how the regular budget check ins were very helpful in getting a handle on how the money was being spent over the year. Pepin agreed that this was a good aspect and this would continue in the new year and be enhanced through greater tracking of trip types. Pepin then discussed ambiguities around trip types and asked Currier if there was any 'living document' about eligibility. Currier said that trip types were solidified as part of E&D guidance every year which occurred in the spring, after that point they remain constant for the whole year so the committee should look to have those conversations next spring. Pepin clarified that he was talking about ambiguities that emerged from a trip potentially fitting into two boxes, such as how a trip to the grocery store could be considered shopping or wellness. Pepin said that partners should be trying to look at all social/personal trips and seeing if there was an opportunity to justify that in a different trip category to increase the availability of the social/personal rides. Knauer asked for clarification about whether trips to a foot clinic was wellness, medical or social. Currier asked to clarify if actual doctors were looking at the feet. Knauer said they were visiting nurses. Currier said it sounded like medical. Pepin noted that the committee should always coordinate with Dan and not go off categorizing things without checking. Currier suggested incorporating a snapshot of the living document in the work plan for the next year so VTrans has a clear document outlining how trips are being categorized. Drake asked if there are any arrangements made with the City and VTrans to fix the sidewalks. Pepin explained that VTrans and the RRPC conducted a bus stop inventory to examine conditions at bus stops, and the RRPC is conducting a sidewalk inventory of conditions in the City. Pepin said that ultimately sidewalks are the City's responsibility as they are City assets in the City ROW. Currier also noted that VTrans would be providing capital funding for upgrading bus stops including a small amount of sidewalk on either side. Pepin asked if there were any guidelines about how far from the bus stop projects could go. Dan said it ultimately came down to funding, but he would recommend not looking any farther than 20' on either side of the stop. Currier also talked about how the State would be doing a rider survey, and asked that anyone interested should contact him to help out. Anderson volunteered. Pepin discussed how he was working with ARC to develop a survey to see if their members live near bus stops and if they have barriers to taking the bus. Drake explained that they write surveys targeted to a 4th grade reading level. Pepin commented that this could be useful for the statewide survey given the various different partner organizations and groups that work in this program around the state.

4) PARTER UPDATES

VCIL: Buttefield said she was still the only one in the Rutland office. July 26th, VCIL and DAARA would be holding an event on July 26th (the anniversary of the signing of the ADA) where they would invite people to ride in a wheelchair around the downtown and see firsthand the conditions people with disabilities face.

SVCOA: Anderson said the transfer of funds have been beneficial and helped them provide more ride services. Anderson talked about the Veggie Van Go food shelf event at the Diamond Run mall and then asked if MVRTD had considered providing a bus, noting that the bus company in Bennington provided a separate bus. Pepin asked for clarification about the logistics of the event.

*The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871*

COOPERATIVE PLANNING IN THE REGION



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Anderson explained that people waited in line in their cars. Carrier explained that in Bennington the bus gets priority and all the riders have wheeled baskets to collect the food. Wedin asked if this was funded by E&D or the transit company. Carrier said it was funded through the transit company as it was just adding a second bus to an existing fixed bus route. Pepin said he was working on a similar project around travel training and didn't think this would be too difficult. Wedin asked Anderson to send her a formal email requesting this. Anderson asked if volunteer drivers for E&D would be able to skip the line as well. Carrier said probably not. Drake asked if the E&D transit could be used to transport people to the Transit Center, where they would then be loaded onto the Veggie Van Go bus. Pepin said this sounds like a great idea. Drake also noted that this would have important social benefits. Pepin said that this conversation was exactly the kind of collaboration that a Regional Mobility Committee was supposed to create. Starting to think of the ways in which all the different programs fit together into one system is crucial to breaking down siloes.

ARC: Drake had no news.

Castleton Community Seniors: Knauer said there were no new updates, but there is a similar program to Veggie Van Go that they are providing transportation for.

5) ADJOURN

Adjourned at 11:59

*The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871*

COOPERATIVE PLANNING IN THE REGION