



APPROVED MINUTES
WRC Transportation Committee
December 8th, 2025
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Stephan Chait, Chair, Nick Morgan, Andy Coyne, Rick Cowan, Georgianne Mora, Christine Howe, Pete Silverberg

Staff present: Colin Bratton

Guests: Abe Koffman (VTrans), Sen. Wendy Harrison,

Meeting convened at 4:03 p.m.

Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of 10/20/25 were approved unanimously.

Presentation from Christine Howe for Southeast Vermont Transit: Christine Howe, General Manager, of Southeast Vermont Transit, more widely known as the Moover, presented on trends and current challenges facing public transportation in Southeastern Vermont. The current incarnation of Southeast Vermont Transit was established in 2015 when Deerfield Valley Transit and 'The Current' were combined, creating a unified public transit provider for 34 towns in Windham and Southern Windsor Counties. SEVT is the third largest transit provider in Vermont after Green Mountain Transit in Chittenden County and Marble Valley in Rutland.

SEVT provides a variety of different ride types in Southeastern Vermont, including fixed route, deviated/ seasonal routes and demand response, a large umbrella which includes Older Adults & Persons with Disabilities transportation, Medicaid rides, Micro-transit and Job-Access. Overall, annual fixed route service accounts for more than 50% of all of the Moover's rides, with seasonal routes primarily focused on expanded winter service in the Deerfield Valley accounting for the 2nd largest total. In FY25 the Moover provided more than 500,000 rides totaling more than 4 million miles travelled, the 3rd highest total in the company's history. This was due largely to a substantial increase in year-round fixed route ridership, demonstrating the overall importance of the service to the Windham Region.

As with many aspects of Vermont's transportation system, SEVT has been impacted by ongoing challenges in recent years. On the whole, approximately 50% of the Moover's funding is Federal in origin, 23% from the State of Vermont, and the final 27% local match from a variety of sources, including donations, town appropriations, local businesses and grant funding, among others. The decline in number of volunteer drivers for on-demand routes since covid is an ongoing challenge. SEVT historically relied upon volunteer drivers for many of the Older Adults & Persons with Disabilities, Medicaid and Job Access rides. The lack of volunteer drivers has forced many of those rides to be

shifted to full-time professional drivers operating Moover vehicles, representing a significant increase in both staff and equipment costs. SEVT is actively working on increasing the number of volunteer drivers available in the region and recently hired a new Volunteer Coordinator staff person. The Committee discussed potential opportunities for collaboration on this issue, including outreach from Commissioners to their towns on the need for volunteers.

Micro Transit was also discussed at length. SEVT recently began operating a micro-transit service in Windsor, funded through a VTrans grant, providing on-demand rides within Windsor village and to Mt. Ascutney Hospital. This was one of two micro-transit pilots in the Windham Region, the other a nighttime micro-transit service in Brattleboro focused primarily on providing rides to those with night time or 3rd shift employment. The Brattleboro micro transit pilot ended in 2025 after the original grant funding source from BDCC ended and VTrans made the decision to not fill the gap in funding. There was significant support for this initiative in the Brattleboro area and efforts are ongoing to find additional funds necessary to restart the micro transit service.

On the whole, Southeast Vermont Transit is a vital part of the overall transportation system in the Windham Region, providing much needed mobility to many in the region without access to a personal vehicle, reducing single-person vehicle trips that contribute to emissions and needed access to medical appointments, employment and grocery shopping. SEVT continues to collaborate with local governments, employers, medical providers, non-profit organizations and others on how to improve public transportation in Southeastern Vermont.

Next Meeting Scheduled: 4:00pm January 13th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned approximately 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Colin Bratton, Staff