

Williston Microtransit Working Group

Date: March 28, 2023

Location: Virtual on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81594127342>

Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/Aczx8bRfv3w>

Members Present: Adam Lawrence (Special Services Transportation Agency [SSTA]), Cathyann LaRose (Williston Mobility Committee), Jim McCullough (Williston Mobility Committee), Marshall Distel (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission), Jamie Smith (Green Mountain Transit [GMT]), Chris Damiani (GMT), Clayton Clark (GMT), Amy Brewer (Williston representative on GMT Board), Beth Alpert (Cathedral Square), Jenn Townley (Williston resident and Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiatives [DDHI] Coalition), Dan Currier (Vermont Agency of Transportation).

Via Consultant Team: Web Farabow, Peter Wajda, Cathal O’Gorman.

Planning Staff: Melinda Scott, Energy and Community Development Planner; Matt Boulanger, Planning Director.

1. **Introductions** – Via Team introduced themselves and then all members of the Working Group introduced themselves by stating their name, organization represented, and their hope for transportation in Williston.
2. **Project Schedule and Process** – the Via Team reviewed the approach and schedule for the study, including an existing conditions analysis (completed), stakeholder engagement, develop and assess service alternatives, microtransit simulations, and analysis and recommendations.
3. **Existing Conditions Analysis** – The Via Team reviewed the results of the existing conditions analysis. They reviewed demographics and socioeconomics of the study area, key travel generators, and existing transit service, which is summarized in the attached slide presentation.
4. **Discussion Questions** – The Via Team posed the following questions to the group:
  - Are there any communities to be aware of who are likely to need/use public transit?
    - Jim McCullough noted the need for transit service at Williston Woods, a 55+ community located off of North Williston Rd, as well as Whitney Hill Homestead in Williston Village.
    - Amy Brewer noted the need of elderly populations as well as young people who are not driving yet or who choose not to drive, to use transit to get around.
    - Jenn Townley noted that her son had previously used the Village bus that is now discontinued. She said people with developmental disabilities as well as people with physical disabilities need to be kept in mind. She also noted the unsafe conditions at locations where there is no signaled street crossing, for example at the intersection of Gregory Lane and Williston Rd.
  - Do you have advice for engaging the public in Williston?
    - Jamie Smith mentioned Front Porch Forum as an outreach tool. Many on the call have accounts they can use to advertise this study, and Jamie offered to send information to Via on how they can use the Forum.
  - Are there any organizations/individuals we should interview for this project?
    - Amy Brewer recommended reaching out to Sustainable Williston.

- Cathyann recommended reaching out to schools, large employers, Vermont Tech, not just people who are actively using public transit but those who aren't as aware of it.
- Jamie noted that employers in Boyer Circle have reached out to GMT about enhanced transportation options, and she offered to help connect these employers to the study.
- Melinda noted that this is a good opportunity to engage CATMA (Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association) around outreach to employers.
- Dan Currier recommended engaging developers to encourage them to incorporate transit friendly infrastructure into new developments.
- Jim McCullough recommended reaching out to the Williston Observer, schools, and the local service organizations like Richmond/Williston Rotary Club.
- Other questions or information to add?
  - Jim McCullough noted the need for a transit center in Williston.
  - Melinda responded that the town/planning department is working on a concurrent feasibility study for a multimodal hub in Taft Corners, and would like to move forward with that initiative sooner rather than later.