



TRANSPORTATION IS CHANGING

Make it work for you



PROJECT

To build a more knowledgeable and informed transit ridership in the Central Vermont Region by engaging directly with existing public transit users and potential users of our rural transit system.



WHY

Changes to the existing transit system have been proposed, including the addition of complementary ADA paratransit. This proposed paratransit service is both exciting and worrisome. While it had the potential to provide better service for transit users, it also will bring change and it is change that can be challenging for any of us. To address this change we will develop an outline for what a rural paratransit service is and outreach to the potential users of this service on how it operates. |



WHO

The target populations for this project includes:

- Older adults and people with disabilities who use public transit as well as those users who would take advantage of the paratransit service.
- Transit Dependent Populations
- Caregivers who will help this population utilize the service.

HOW

- Holding community-wide meetings:
 - a kick-off meeting to help introduce the project,
 - input meeting to help present and gather preferences, and
 - next-steps meeting (to report on the planning status and next-steps)
- Meet with groups of older adults and people with disabilities to gather data on needs and preferences for a rural paratransit service.
- Create user-story videos to encourage participation in meetings and educate on the paratransit service.



SUSTAINABILITY

- Work with existing transit groups (formally and informally) to insure continued input from older adults and people with disabilities.
- Survey partners and participants on how they would like to continue to be engaged moving forward.
- Identify new rural members for the Green Mountain Transit ADA Advisory Board.



TEAM

Participants

- Rebecca Mackin (caregiver)
- Dale Hackett (person with disabilities and transit user)

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Central Vermont Council on Aging

Vermont Center For Independent Living

Green Mountain Transit

Vermont Agency of Transportation



BARRIERS

- Transportation to meetings
- Engagement with older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers
- Surveying older adults and persons with disabilities:
 - Cognitive
 - Reading
 - Physical



NEXT STEPS

- Craft survey to gather input into a paratransit service
- Develop list of groups to meet with and survey
- Identify participants to work with on user-story videos
- Organize the community-wide meetings



SUMMARY

- Craft an outline for a rural paratransit service that is based on the users needs and wants by engaging with and learning from older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers
- Educate existing public transit users and potential users of a rural paratransit service
- Learn how to plan more inclusively

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