

Tri-Valley Transit, Inc.
E and D Advisory Partners Meeting
12/16/2020 – 1:00 PM

Minutes

The meeting took place via the Zoom Meeting platform

Attendees: Amy Buxton (TVT), Mary Claire Crogan (TVT), Dan Currier (VTrans), Erica Marks (Age Well), Jim Moulton (TVT), Ingrid Pixley (CSAC), Stephanie Stearns (TVT), Mike Winslow (ACRPC)

- Ridership update – TVT – Jim reported that ridership was down 40%. It had been as low as 20%, but then got back to 60% before the second wave of the pandemic came along. Physical and procedural elements have been incorporated into TVT services to protect health and safety.
 - Dan asked if there were any adult day care centers active in Addison County. The answer was ‘no’. There has been Zoom programming.
 - Mary Claire noted that TVT has sent letters to ‘dial-a-ride’ clients explaining Covid procedures and sharing the results from last winter’s VTrans survey.
- Volunteer recruitment update – TVT - Amy has distributed flyers to recruit volunteers at local businesses, but the ability to be proactive has been limited by Covid. They have 19 active and 19 in-active drivers. In-active drivers are on hiatus due to Covid. Two E&D clients have offered to volunteer as drivers, so there has been some recruiting success. There has been some interagency outreach as well, but it has not proven fruitful.
 - Jim asked if TVT is still meeting all rider requests, which they are. The decline in ridership has paralleled the decline in volunteer drivers
 - Erica offered to share information on volunteer opportunities with her lists. Amy will get information to Erica.
 - The program has one rider per driver with some exceptions when the driver has a mini-van and the riders are from the same family group. Volunteers routinely clean and disinfect vehicles between passengers
 - Mary Claire reported that TVT now has a smaller lift vehicle available. It was originally purchased to provide service as the Shuttlebury during the downtown Middlebury road closure related to the rail tunnel project.
- VTrans update – VTrans – Dan reported that ridership is down 40% statewide. There was some increase through October as medical offices and adult day care centers began to reopen, but ridership again began to decline in November. Essential

services are still being met. VTrans has been asked to make sure all transit providers are aware that E&D funding can be used for people with disabilities regardless of age. TVT is already doing this.

- Draft Workplan review – ACRPC/all – Mike went over the draft E&D workplan that was shared with the committee on Friday. Jim suggested a side meeting be held with regional planners and TVT staff from Addison and Orange Counties to dig into the details of the plan, make sure the plans for the two regions are consistent, and ensure that the final workplan is not overly prescriptive and burdensome. That meeting should take place some time in January with the intent of sharing another draft of the plan with the committee in March.
- Open Meeting Law Requirements – ACRPC – Mike will take responsibility for ensuring committee meetings meet Open Meeting Laws prior to the next meeting. The ACRPC web-site should be updated in January, and will have a new page for transit.
- TVT Upper Valley Community Transit Center Virtual Ground Breaking – TVT – The virtual ground-breaking took place on 12/15. Video will be posted to the TVT web-site. About forty people attended. The project is moving along well with an anticipated opening of June 2021. Jim observed that the completion of the Middlebury building was transformational with regard to TVT's ability to provide services and he looks forward to a similar affect in the Upper Valley.