

Draft Addison County E&D Committee Quarterly Meeting Agenda

December 14, 2021

The Addison County E&D Committee provides oversight and guidance for Tri-Valley Transit's programs to assist elders and persons with disabilities in Addison County. Programs supported by the committee get users out of their homes to medical appointments, to local adult day-care, to senior meal sites and for essential shopping. These services supplement regular transit services in the area, filling in gaps left by programs like Medicaid.

Attendees: Mary Claire Crogan (TVT), Maureen Conrad (AC-HHH), Bill Cunningham (TVT), Erica Marks (Agewell), Jim Moulton (TVT), Mike Winslow (ACRPC)

Minutes:

A. Partner Updates:

- a. TVT has added three new volunteer drivers. Even with the additions, they are just barely keeping up with demand.
- b. TVT is on pace to use the full E&D budget this year, reflecting the increased demand (especially lift rides) . They believe the demand is reflective of the deferred health care decisions clients made during Year 1 of COVID.
- c. AC-HHH and TVT reported that getting signatures to get on town ballots for funding has been particularly difficult and has distracted from their ability to provide services. Face-to-face solicitation of signatures, which has been so important in the past, is extremely challenging and more risky during COVID times.
- d. Agewell reported challenges with getting volunteers now that COVID prevalence is worse now than it was at this time last year. More than 40 volunteers have called out making it very difficult to meet demand, and there's no relief in site as requests keep coming in. Lack of contact tracing has reduced resiliency in the system as volunteers try to limit exposure.

B. Preview of the Addison/Orange/Northern Windsor Counties Joint E&D Meeting: Jim suggested a joint meeting should focus on issues of regional import. Jim, Mike, and Rita Seto will meet in January to coordinate and prepare for a March joint meeting. Some topic suggestions from the group included:

- a. Preparation for a mid-year review of the work plan
- b. Sharing of what's working to solve problems
- c. Town signature petition process
- d. Encouraging greater partner participation

C. How to get more/regular partner participation: Jim recognized the value of having partners participate in E&D meetings and suggested discussing at a joint meeting.

Maureen and Erica stressed the extent to which COVID has accentuated the difficulty of juggling clients' demands, and their need to prioritize and triage demands on their time.

- D. **E&D Summit:** VTrans asked for ideas to be included in a summit agenda. Jim suggested revisiting the question at the joint meeting of E&D committees.
- E. **Road to Wellness:** VTrans update provided an update by email that the Porter and Gifford pilots never really took off. Company reorganization and COVID impacted their ability to focus on the pilots in their regions. VTrans, with approval from TVT, Gifford, and Porter, reallocated \$8,000 of the monies awarded to TVT to Mt. Ascutney hospital that was the original pilot. VTrans asked (via email), How is TVT working with Gifford and Porter to get their pilots rolling again as they still have money left? TVT reported that staffing limitations, both internally and at the hospitals, have proved a bottleneck in getting any programs going. Additionally, for the first time in a while, a community health needs assessment conducted by Porter did not identify transportation at the top of the list.
- F. **Survey follow up status:** Mike has shared the results of the Middlebury College students follow ups with VTrans. No additional follow ups are anticipated.
- G. **Senior meals update:** Senior meals will be starting again, but they will require masking except while eating. Partners are very concerned about the long-term impacts of social isolation in the absence of meals. Rosie's has started up once a month and the Middlebury VFW will be starting in-person on the First Friday of every month starting January 7th. Negotiations are still on-going with the Legion on Armory Lane in Vergennes.
- H. **Other items - micromobility:** Jim reported that a statewide contract for setting up micromobility campaigns has recently been approved. TVT has four projects, one of which includes the Middlebury shuttle. By March, at the joint meeting, TVT may be able to share information about the micromobility studies.