

Addison County Older Adults and People with Disabilities (O&D) Committee Quarterly Meeting Agenda

July 15, 2025

The Addison County O&D Committee provides oversight and guidance for Tri-Valley Transit's programs to assist older adults 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: Bill Cunningham (TVT), Michelle Eastman (Agewell), Jasmine Hoffman (CSAC), Jim Moulton (TVT), Stephanie Stearns (TVT), Mike Winslow (ACRPC), Amy Curtis (ACHHH), Maureen Conrad (ACHHH), Stephanie Reilly (VTrans), Rachel Morrisette (TVT)

Agenda:

1. Amendments to the Agenda
2. Discuss limits on ride allotments due to increased expenses (dialysis trips)
 - Over 25 years there have been many variations on how rides are rationed
 - Due to the pressures of limited funding, increased expense, and increased demand, TVT is looking to limit the number of trips per individual.
 - Dialysis is creating a significant bottleneck, not just for TVT but across the state.
 - FY26 Transportation bill encourages conversations between transit providers and health care providers about improved coordination. Until those discussions reach fruition, TVT proposes reducing allowed dialysis ride numbers from 13 to 12. Would still provide cancer treatment rides, which are more limited in time. Could save TVT up to \$50,000. TVT can work with individuals where the change would be a particular burden. Can also entertain reductions in other types of trips (currently at six).
 - Jim asked if a different mix of reductions might have less impact but still allow cost savings. Jasmine asked about trips to grocery stores, but those are tied to EZ Trip at least in Middlebury.
 - Lift equip vehicles may play into the discussions as well. Volunteer drivers can stretch the budget, but not an option when lift assist is required. Bill reported that a high percentage of dialysis patients need lift assist vehicles, though the list shifts regularly.
 - Maureen asked about the pick up point for clients with long driveways. It depends on the condition of the driveway, which may also vary seasonally. If conditions allow use of the driveway TVT will use it.
 - Seven O&D clients (grant funded not Medicaid) currently use dialysis services. One of those is paratransit. Volunteers are more available to help since TVT has

recruited more volunteers. O&D limitations can be placed, but limitations must be equitable.

- A hope is that family members can step in for a once-a-month trip to allow the proposed reduction in rides
 - No one expressed opposition to the proposed reduction in allowable dialysis trips, but members did encourage TVT to consider exceptions for clients that can't find a way to get that 13th trip on their own.
3. Discuss increased efforts for volunteer Recruitment & Retention (VTrans MTI grant; LOS; etc.)
- Michelle asked about criteria for volunteers: need five years of driving experience, and the ability to pass a background check.
 - Payments are considered reimbursement, so not taxable.
 - There is no drug testing. There are Quality Control checks which could pick up safety concerns. Some staff are trained in "reasonable suspicion" with regard to drug tests.
 - Volunteer testimonials can be a tool for recruiting volunteers. "Make 'em cry"
 - Legislature added \$600k to T-bill for volunteer recruitment and retention by increasing capacity within organizations. A grant application is due in mid-September and TVT will be pursuing the opportunity.
 - TVT will be reaching out to committee members, probably in August to request Letters of support for the grant application.
4. Discuss new Federal Budget cuts to Medicaid
- Cuts are to be phased in over a three-year period. Of the total medicaid budget, only 1% is for transportation. Transit operators are hopeful that it's too small a portion of the budget to get hit too hard.
 - The VT legislature is actively planning in advance for the loss of funds. Specific impacts are unknown at this time. Vermont is as well positioned to handle cuts as any state.
 - Potential impact on the O&D program - cuts to Medicaid will be pushed onto O&D program, increasing demand.
 - Potential legislative outreach/advocacy: Any conversations with legislators can come around to this topic. Our legislative delegation is aware of cuts and wants to hear about impacts to constituents.
5. Update workplan
- Jim - original language is sufficiently specific and vague enough to allow work to proceed
 - Recommended including a reference to what's going on federally
 - Mike will add the reference and send the document to VTrans
 - Change meeting time
6. Reactions to O&D Summit
- Maureen attended and thought it was fascinating

- Jim noted that people seemed more comfortable participating in the remote meeting than the last on-line only event
 - Annual meetings live are okay. Any more often might be difficult. Live events are generally better, but there's an acknowledgement that it's more difficult to get to live events. Stephanie S. noted that it's much easier to get distracted by other office work during on-line meetings.
7. Partner Roundtable - a chance to share useful insights about the programs
- VTrans - none
 - TVT - none
 - Age Well - getting more riders and getting more creative with the bus route. Last minute cancellations are the biggest problem. 10-15 people per meal.
 - CSAC - none
 - ACHHH - Amy Curtis will be attending meetings in lieu of Maureen moving forward.
8. Clarify dates of up-coming meetings
- There's been some confusion about whether quarterly meetings are on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October, or if meetings occur every 13 weeks.
 - Mike will update the meeting invitation to have meetings on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October.

Next Meeting

October 21, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting