

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

*April 14, 2026*

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.

**Attending:** Bill Cunningham (TVT), Dan Currier (VTrans), Amy Curtis (ACHHH), Michelle Eastman (Age Well), Mary Ellen Giglio (HireAbility), Jasmine Hoffman (CSAC), Jim Moulton (TVT), Taylor Murray (VDH), Stephanie Stearns (TVT), Mike Winslow (ACRPC)

### **Agenda:**

1. Introductions
2. Amendments to the Agenda
3. Partner Roundtable
  - a. VTrans
    - i. O&D summit on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Will be discussing updates to O&D guidance and trip restrictions to be put into guidance. This is new for VTrans and is an attempt to manage overspending around the state. as of July 1, they are considering removing locational trips and limiting social wellness and food access trips to no more than six round trip per month. They may also have fewer dollars in the O&D program - \$5 million rather than \$6 million - depending on how the transportation bill works out in the statehouse
    - ii. Bill asked where overspending is coming from – Dan noted absence of trip constraints relative to money available for some transit providers, coupled with lack of volunteer drivers
    - iii. Michelle asked about senior meals – those will remain part of the ride portion that is unlimited within the transit agency's budget availability
  - b. TVT
    - i. Minimal changes with volunteers. 23 now, w/ many out on medical leave. 1 new application. TVT has been doing more advertising, but they haven't been getting more volunteers. TVT will target eight service clubs in Addison Co. to attend and recruit volunteers.

- ii. Appropriations are shrinking at the same time gas prices are rising – leads to concerns about impacts on future demand and TVT’s ability to meet it.
  - iii. Medicaid ride numbers are up. O&D rides are down.
  - iv. TVT has been more efficiently managing dialysis trips and grouping clients. TVT is within their O&D budget right now, which is unusual in the state.
  - v. Bill asked the group if there were gaps in service to their clients. Where aren’t they meeting need? Please share with TVT. Jasmine identified need in Orwell, and some of the mountain towns based on their surveys. Clients really appreciate EZ Trip. She’s heard calls for EZ Trip beyond Middlebury. Bill noted the new EZ Trip software should allow better reaction to needs.
- c. Age Well
- i. Michelle sent Stephanie an email about up-coming alternative meal sites. June 4 will be in Crown Point in NY. Friday July 31<sup>st</sup> they’ll be going to the Spirit of Ethan Allen. Tuesday September 4 is senior day at the Fair if TVT can accommodate a bus.
  - ii. Ridership has been solid
  - iii. Michelle has been assisting clients in combining trips
  - iv. Steph asked if a volunteer recruiter could come to future meals. Michelle will work on that. Steph will supply applications
- d. CSAC
- i. Jasmine observed that absence of transportation is the biggest barrier to employment for many of her clients
- e. ACHHH
- i. Staffing levels have improved.
  - ii. ACHHH purchased a residential care home in East Middlebury. They are pursuing licensure. Renovations in full swing with the heating system upgraded; bathroom modifications in process; and a stair lift installed. The property will house up to 8 people, and ACHHH is taking applications. Timeline still unsure. ACHHH will provide residents transportation within 20 miles round trip once up and running.
  - iii. ACHHH has provided homemaker services for a new client that came in through TVT. They have not solved the client’s shopping issues but are working toward solutions. Steph noted that improving weather has helped. Bill clarified that the shopping isn’t the issue it’s the transfer of groceries into the residence.
- f. Other

- i. Mary Ellen reiterated the need for transportation to employment.
- ii. She asked about the VTrans van pool program, and if it was still operating. It is. There's a new flex van pool that would allow pooling of riders for multiple smaller employers. Also allows flexibility in the number of days the service is used. VTrans provides a 50% subsidy.
- iii. Jim pointed out that VTrans is limiting transportation to employment starting July 1, but that the Recovery to Job Access program will continue. He asked Dan to cover eligibility requirements. The program has been around for about 5 years now. Originally provided job access for those in recovery but now can provide trips for either recovery or job access. Provides up to 30 rides as a starting point to allow clients to join the workforce. Program has been undersubscribed. Dan invited service providers to use the program. TVT does transportation, and VTrans pays for it. They can also provide gas cards for clients that have a vehicle but have trouble keeping it going. Bill noted a new procedure for gas cards that he can share upon request.
- iv. Taylor introduced herself. She is the new chronic disease prevention specialist at the Middlebury VDH office.

#### 4. Other Business

- a. none

#### Next Meeting

June 5, 2026 Mobility Summit, Vermont State University, Castleton