



GMT NextGen Public Hearing – Mad River Valley

Date: December 13, 2017

Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Place: Waitsfield Elementary School Library

Staff Present: Chris Loyer, Public Affairs Coordinator

Consulting Staff: Geoff Slater. Principal, Nelson Nygaard

Public Present:

Daniel Currier – Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

John Lynch – Resident

Margo Wade – Sugarbush Resort

Russ Chalom – Resident

Kate Anderson – Resident

Kristine Keeney – Mad River Valley Planning District

Joshua Schwartz – Mad River Valley Planning District

5:15 Mr. Loyer calls meeting to order

5:16 Staff Introductions

5:17 Mr. Slater begins Power Point presentation

6:04 Mr. Slater concludes Presentation

6:05 Mr. Slater opens meeting to questions

6:21 Mr. Loyer closes Meeting

- Mrs. Wade suggested that GMT track ridership at Mad River Barn on Valley Evening Service route to evaluate utilization and future service planning.
- Mr. Lynch suggested one night per week to travel to Montpelier – then back to MRV around 9:00 – 9:30pm citing that elderly residents and workers express concerns about night time driving.
 - Mr. Slater confirmed that Nelson Nygaard will look at alternative service models that could potentially operate per week style trips for social services, shopping or leisure.
- Mr. Chalom advised the new Valley Floor schedule misses Upper Club Sugarbush ridership with current morning route realignment which is consistent with Nelson Nygaard’s future scenarios
 - Mr. Loyer spoke to the ability for Upper Club Sugarbush to be served given there are two access points to Upper Club Sugarbush.
 - Mrs. Wade mentioned that Upper Club Sugarbush is still serviced by the Access Road Route
- Mr. Chalom inquired how GMT is subsidized?
 - 80% Federal and State Funds and 20% of the budget comes from “local match”



- Mrs. Wade further clarified of the 20% “local match” Sugarbush Resort contributes 80% of the “local match” with Bridges Resort contributing nearly 20% with some additional contributors in the area.
- Mrs. Wade expressed support for the expanded hours of operation for Access Road, Mount Ellen, and Mountain Condos services
- Ms. Keeney inquired why Nelson Nygaard was suggesting expanding hours of operation of the Mount Ellen Route
 - Mr. Slater explained that this is a high ridership route with high utilization rates. Expanded hours could help with demand management and capacity issues on certain Mount Ellen trips.
- Is Nelson Nygaard looking at “other services” such as GoVermont to establish ridership and interest then transition van pools to a bus route
 - Mr. Slater replied that is not really a part of this study.
 - Mr. Schwartz added that In 2008 as GoVermont developed, this concept was discussed and was cited as a potential future outcome of vanpools.