



Green Mountain Transit Board of Commissioners Minutes
July 20, 2021 - 7:30 a.m.
101 Queen City Road, Burlington VT 05401

The mission of GMT is to promote and operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative, and sustainable public transportation services in northwest and central Vermont that reduce congestion and pollution, encourage transit-oriented development, and enhance the quality of life for all.

Present:

Commissioner Waninger
Commissioner Davis
Commissioner Bohne
Commissioner Brewer
Commissioner Cota
Commissioner Derenthal
Commissioner Dimitruk
Commissioner Kaynor
Commissioner Moore
Commissioner Polyte
Commissioner Pouech
Commissioner Sharrow
Commissioner Spencer

Jon Moore, General Manager
Nick Foss, Director of Finance
Debbie Coppola, Senior Accountant
Connie Englert, Maintenance
Manager
Matt Kimball, Capital Projects
Manager
Kim Wall, Grants Manager
Devin Mason, Transit Planner
Pam MacDonald, Accounting
Coordinator
Karen Plante, Staff Accountant
Ed Adrian, GMT Legal Counsel

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Open Meeting

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Vice Chair Davis opened the meeting at 7:31 AM.

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Adjustment of the Agenda

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None

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Public Comment

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None

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Consent Agenda (Action Item)

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Commissioner Cota made a motion to approve the consent agenda,

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Commissioner Pouech seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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Commissioner Kaynor wanted to acknowledge the long and valuable

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service for Trish and Kim.



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VTrans Update

Ross MacDonald was unavailable for an update.

Introduction of Connie Englert, GMT Maintenance Manager

GM Moore introduced Connie Englert, Maintenance Manager to the GMT Board of Commissioners. GMT is excited to have someone with Manager Englert's expertise in this role.

Manager Englert discussed Maintenance updates and challenges and outlined the work the Maintenance Department is prioritizing. She noted that despite the staffing challenges in the Maintenance Department, the team is up to the challenge and she looks forward to working with the Board and staff.

The Board went around and introduced themselves to Manager Englert.

General Manager Report – Updates and Opportunity for Questions on the Report

GM Moore said that with the exciting staffing changes, comes the unhappy announcement about Kim Wall and Trish Redalieu leaving. Staff is working internally to determine the best path forward.

GM Moore added that staff is working with SSTA to negotiate the rate for next year.

Commissioner Bohne was disappointed to see the Proterra report and asked if staff are in contact with other transit agencies regarding their experience? Are these issues consistent in other transit agencies? GM Moore said there have been some informal conversations, nothing concrete, but this is an area that Manager Englert has some experience.

Commissioner Cota asked for clarification on the issues with the Proterra buses. Manager Englert said there are two main issues, the first is a low voltage battery drop that causes a full shut down when the voltage is below 50%, this flaw is an engineering issue. The second issue is a rear door sensor issue on both buses. Manager Englert noted that the most important path forward is to keep Proterra accountable to the contract and to the specification. There is always a give and take with our vendors, but these issues need to be cured and correct. This isn't just for GMT's sake, but should



57 be a long term and systemic engineering fix. This fleet should be operating at
58 or above average. Proterra technical services is on-site currently. Both issues
59 are not a result of the buses being electric, these types of systems have been
60 standard on buses for as long as buses have been around.

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62 Commissioner Derenthal asked how happy are we with Proterra? Manager
63 Englert said it's a good bus, it's just a matter of working with the business
64 partners to correct the issues.

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66 Commissioner Kaynor thanked Manager Englert for clarification on the issues
67 and for highlighting that these issues are not a result of the bus being electric.
68 Manager Englert said electric is just another fuel, one that we are happy to
69 welcome into our fleet. Some regulations, such as being able to charge only
70 after 10:00PM add to the challenges, but eventually we should be able to
71 update and expand electric vehicles in the fleet.

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73 **Board Committee Reports**

74 Operations: Commissioner Sharrow said the committee did not meet in July.
75 They are waiting on a new dashboard to review at the next meeting.

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77 Strategy: Commissioner Derenthal said the committee did not meet in July.

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79 Finance: Commissioner Bohne said the committee discussed the Finance
80 Report and the FY22 Capital which are upcoming on the board agenda.

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82 JEDI: Commissioner Polyte said the appointed the first advisory board
83 member at the last meeting and reminded commissioners to recommend
84 members, if they knew of any. The committee is facing challenges with the
85 implementation of our original timeline for training, due to the additional
86 work for contract negotiations and the resignation of Trish Redalieu and
87 Devin Mason (Transit Planner and JEDI Committee Secretary).

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89 Leadership: Chair Waninger mentioned that many of the items discussed are
90 on the agenda.

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92 GM Moore thanked Devin Mason for his hard work at GMT and said staff is
93 sad to see him go.

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95 Commissioner Sharrow asked if staff is conducting exit interviews with staff
96 who are leaving.



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98 **Board Officer Elections (Action Item)**

99 Commissioner Davis said this item was discussed at the Leadership
100 Committee meeting and the slate of officers recommended is the same as
101 the current officers serving. Commissioner Davis listed the current officers
102 serving on the GMT Board of Commissioners.

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104 Commissioner Kaynor wanted to reiterate that the tradition is to have two-
105 year terms even with annual elections.

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107 Commissioner Kaynor made the motion to reelect the current state of officers
108 for another year, Commissioner Sharrow seconded. In discussion,
109 Commissioner Pouech wanted to recognize and appreciate the folks who do
110 serve given the added time and commitment. All were in favor and the
111 motion carried.

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113 **Open Meeting Law Resolution (Action Item)**

114 GM Moore reviewed the Open Meeting Law resolution. GM Moore noted
115 that August is listed "as needed" that allows the Board to have a meeting
116 break, if needed.

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118 Commissioner Bohne made a motion to approve the resolution,
119 Commissioner Waninger seconded. In discussion, Commissioner Kaynor
120 cautioned that while we are in negotiations, it might be best to not break for
121 August meetings. Commissioner Polyte asked for clarification on whether
122 August meetings would occur. GM Moore said staff is hoping all meetings
123 would break in August, however this year we will have August sub-committee
124 meetings since some committees didn't meet in July. All were in favor and
125 the motion carried.

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127 **FY22 Capital Budget Adjustment (Action Item)**

128 Director Foss said that the Finance Committee recommended approval of
129 the Capital adjustment at the last meeting. Everything in yellow is an update
130 to the budget and everything in green is a new capital line item.

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132 Commissioner Bohne made a motion to approve the FY22 Capital Budget
133 adjustment, Commissioner Spencer seconded. All were in favor and the
134 motion carried.



135 Commissioner Kaynor made the comment that we should be looking at
136 alternative propulsion for our vehicles. In 15 years, we might be upset at the
137 amount of diesel vehicles we still have.

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139 **ADA Assessment Discussion**

140 GM Moore noted that the Finance Committee has been discussing the urban
141 ADA assessment process, which is based on ridership. The ADA assessment
142 costs vary by community year to year. Member communities have expressed
143 an interest in trying to get more concrete numbers for their annual budget
144 process. The Finance Committee will continue to work on a process and will
145 come back to the Board of Commissioners in the future for discussion.

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147 Director Foss said that in some cases the cost has shifted by double digits and
148 the volatility of the numbers are high. A model that gives the agency the
149 same amount of funds, but allows the communities some predictability is a
150 much better approach.

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152 Commissioner Bohne made a comment that it is difficult to make this process
153 happen. Additional federal funds received by GMT will dry up in the next few
154 years so the model needs to ensure communities are financing the ADA
155 assessment costs and GMT doesn't see an increased cost. Communities are
156 currently only responsible for 50% of ADA costs.

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158 GM Moore said the way GMT is structured now means that communities who
159 approve senior housing are penalized on their ADA assessment costs; GMT
160 doesn't want to prevent communities from doing the right thing by seniors.
161 Commissioner Davis said over the last decade, ADA costs grew at a
162 sustainable rate, but the assessments have changed more dramatically. The
163 current system is too volatile.

164

165 Commissioner Spencer said the reason we modified the mileage formula was
166 because the board was spending too much time determining the
167 assessment costs and it was taking away from our regional thinking. The goal,
168 for him, is to set up a structure that allows the Board to worry less each year
169 about the individual community impacts of ADA and focus more on service
170 to the public. This will create a more stable funding approach.

171

172 Commissioner Kaynor commented that this conversation highlights that we
173 should not be funding transit at a town level and this pushes us to solve the
174 larger issue of regional funding.



175 Commissioner Davis said this item is not an action item, but there is a desire to
176 gauge support. Commissioner Davis wants to be clear that this is not an
177 official motion, but a straw poll of support from board members. All were in
178 favor.

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180 **Executive Session:**

181 Finding: 1 VSA 313(a) (1) (b), labor relations agreements with employees.

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183 Commissioner Pouech made a motion that premature public knowledge
184 regarding Collective Bargaining negotiations would place GMT at a
185 substantial disadvantage. Commissioner Cota seconded. All were in favor.

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187 Commissioner Polyte made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1
188 VSA 313(a) (1) (b) to discuss labor relations agreements with employees
189 inviting the General Manager, Jon Moore, the Director of Finance, Nick Foss,
190 and Legal Counsel, Ed Adrian, Commissioner Sharrow seconded. All were in
191 favor and the board entered executive session at 8:13AM.

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193 At 9:24AM, Commissioner Cota made a motion to exit executive session with
194 no action, Commissioner Kaynor seconded. All were in favor and the motion
195 carried.

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197 **General Commissioner Comments**

198 Commissioner Derenthal asked when we generate an annual report, will it
199 include comments that tie that to the mission statement. GM Moore said we
200 wait until we have audited finances, in the fall. We can consider doing an
201 annual with preliminary numbers. Commissioner Derenthal asked for access
202 to previous annual reports.

203

204 Commissioner Polyte said that the VTrans implicit bias training is in early
205 August and it's important to have Board participation. Dates will be sent
206 around. Commissioner Polyte also said the JEDI trainings will be at the end of
207 August and the same is true, Board participation is going to be very
208 important. GM Moore said a schedule would be available as soon as Friday
209 for sign-ups. Commissioner Pouech said that it would be helpful to know
210 which sessions have Board members so folks can spread out as needed.

211

212 Commissioner Pouech asked the status of the 116 Commuter trips returning?
213 GM Moore said that the August bid will begin August 23rd and all the
214 suspended commuter trips (with the exception of the Barre LINK Express) will



215 return. Commissioner Pouech asked if marketing would push messaging out
216 to passengers.

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218 Commissioner Kaynor made a comment encouraging Commissioners to ride
219 the bus and said it's a good way to connect with the operators and to show
220 that the Board is in touch with what they are experiencing.

221

222 **Adjourn**

223 Commissioner Cota made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Sharrow
224 seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:30AM.