



1                   **Green Mountain Transit Board of Commissioners Minutes**  
2                                   **November 15, 2022 - 7:30 a.m.**  
3                                   **101 Queen City Road, Burlington VT 05401**

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

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12                   **Present**

- 13                   Commissioner Bob Buermann, Grand Isle County  
14                   Commissioner Matt Cota, South Burlington  
15                   Commissioner Paul Bohne, Essex  
16                   Commissioner Austin Davis, Winooski  
17                   Commissioner Phil Pouech, Hinesburg  
18                   Alternate Commissioner Chapin Kaynor, Williston  
19                   Alternate Commissioner Marcie Gallagher, Burlington  
20                   Commissioner Henry Bonges, Milton  
21                   Commissioner Amy Brewer, Williston  
22                   Commissioner Denis Barton, Shelburne  
23                   Commissioner Christian Meyer, Washington County  
24                   Alternate Commissioner Tom Derenthal, Burlington  
25                   Alternate Commissioner Richard Watts, Hinesburg  
26                   Commissioner Chapin Spencer, Burlington  
27                   Jamie Smith, Director of Planning and Marketing  
28                   Jon Moore, General Manager  
29                   Debbie Coppola, Senior Accountant  
30                   Stephanie Reid, Director of Human Resources  
31                   Nick Foss, Director of Finance  
32                   Chris Damiani, Senior Transit Planner  
33                   Derek Lorraine, Former GMT Driver  
34                   Curtis Clough, Teamster's Business Agent

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36                   **Open Meeting**

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



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39 **Adjustment of the Agenda**

40 None

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42 **Public Comment**

43 Curtis Clough and Derek Lorraine joined for public comment, and  
44 expressed concern about unsafe behavior at the Downtown Transit  
45 Center, on the road, and in other places. Drivers have been  
46 complaining that the issues are not being taken care of in a timely  
47 fashion. Drivers have identified that some of the items are not needed,  
48 so there are less reasons for conflict. TRACKS report from FTA  
49 recommends that GMT partner with a third party. Derek, a former driver  
50 for 22 years, wanted to come back part time, but not comfortable with  
51 the safety at the DTC and isn't willing to put himself at risk.

52

53 Chair Davis asked that Curtis and Derek write-up a memo about the  
54 issues with their code of conduct suggestions and submit it to him and  
55 Burlington Mayor and the City Council.

56

57 Commissioner Barton asked that the memo also be shared with the  
58 Operations Committee.

59

60 **Consent Agenda (Action Item)**

61 Commissioner Pouech made a motion to approve the consent  
62 agenda, Alternate Commissioner Gallagher seconded. All in favor and  
63 the motion carried.

64

65 **VTrans Update**

66 Tim Bradshaw gave a brief update on the following items:

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- 68 • The Recovery and Job Access summit
- 69 • The contract award for the new scheduling software for the state  
70 is still under negotiation. Tri-Valley Transit is leading those  
71 negotiations.
- 72 • VTrans asked to be in the loop about seasonal service  
73 adjustments, including any reductions in service levels.

73



74 **General Manager Report – Updates and Opportunity for Questions on**  
75 **the Report**

- 76 • 14 catalytic converters stolen from our Berlin vehicles late last  
77 month. We are trying to get those buses back in service before  
78 seasonal.
- 79 • Staff met with VTrans for the monthly Leadership meeting and  
80 presented the draft organizational assessment scope of work, the  
81 IT contract, and call center staffing levels.
- 82 • Donna Gallagher will be retiring from GMT after nearly 30 years of  
83 service in Public Transit, first as an employee of Wheels and then  
84 GMTA. Donna will work part-time, remotely until we are able to fill  
85 that position.
- 86 • The JEDI Committee met in November and completed an implicit  
87 bias training provided by Vermont Human Rights Commission. The  
88 committee will discuss the training in December.
- 89 • Seasonal service in Stowe will begin with a modified schedule  
90 due to staffing. We are hoping to increase the frequency of  
91 service as staffing allows.

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93

94 **Board Committee Reports**

95 **Strategy:** Commissioner Buermann reported that Strategy did not have  
96 quorum and therefore did not meet. Alternate Commissioner Kaynor  
97 noted that staff sent the MyRide survey results, which were very  
98 detailed and gave a great picture of that service.

99 **Operations:** Commissioner Cota reported that the committee did not  
100 meet.

101 **Finance:** Commissioner Bohne reported that the committee met about  
102 items on the agenda and the preliminary budget projections that will  
103 be presented in December.

104 **GM Hiring Committee:** Commissioner Bohne reported that candidate  
105 interviews began yesterday and will continue on Thursday.

106 Commissioner Davis thanked the committee and staff for the work to  
107 date.

108 **JEDI:** Commissioner Davis reported that the committee and some staff  
109 met for an implicit bias training. The committee meetings will resume in



110 December and the first item to discuss is the passenger code of  
111 conduct.

112

113 Chair Davis took a moment to address the issue of lack of quorum at  
114 meetings, noting that important work is being pushed down the road  
115 because committees without quorum can't vote to make changes.

116

117 **FY23 Capital Budget Adjustment (Action Item)**

118 Director Foss Nick an overview of the adjustment.

119

120 Commissioner Bohne made the to update the FY23 Capital Budget to  
121 move one (1) FY22 carryforward Gillig bus from the Urban to the  
122 Rural capital budget to align the FY23 capital budget with the State  
123 Grant Agreement, Commissioner Barton seconded. All were in favor  
124 and the motion carried.

125

126 **FY24 Assessments Discussion**

127 GM Moore opened the budget conversation noting that preliminary  
128 budget projections could include service reductions and fare  
129 resumption. The assessment increase of 4% will not be enough to  
130 balance the budget. In considering next steps, staff is looking at the 4%  
131 assessment increase and a \$25,000 increase in capital contributions  
132 and the ADA assessment. Commissioner Brewer noted that this is the  
133 second year that there has been a discussion on how ADA assessment  
134 are calculated and requested that we look at a different path next  
135 year as regionally we all share in these costs.

136

137 Commissioner Pouech said there were a number of questions from the  
138 Hinesburg select board about the funding process and asked that GM  
139 Moore reach out to communities to talk about process and to mention  
140 regional options.

141

142 Commissioner Spencer mention that GMT would be presenting on this  
143 item to a subset of Burlington City Council next week and despite the  
144 number of times we have discussed options to change, we haven't  
145 moved to make those changes.

146



147 **Rural Funding Discussion**

148 Director Smith presented a memo outlining the rural funding process,  
149 including the Board approved Fair Share Equation and the challenges  
150 for staff to request increases in rural funding. One option would be to  
151 increase the towns that do not require a petition while doing some  
152 outreach to other towns on why GMT is suggesting an increase.

153  
154 Commissioner Buermann made a motion that staff request a 5%  
155 increase from towns that don't require a petition while conducting  
156 some outreach to towns that do on the need for an increase,  
157 Commissioner Bohne seconded. All commissioners, but one who  
158 abstained, voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Meyer  
159 abstained from voting. The motion carried.

160

161 **Montpelier MyRide Customer Survey Presentation**

162 Director Smith gave a presentation on the results of the MyRide  
163 Customer Satisfaction survey. Survey results indicate the need to  
164 conduct more outreach on the resumption of a fixed route to the  
165 Montpelier Hospital Hill area. Staff will continue with outreach in  
166 December and January.

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168 Commissioners expressed appreciation for this information and for  
169 staff's work to date on this project.

170

171 **Executive Session: 1 VSA 313(a)(3), Personnel**

172 Commissioner Buermann made a motion to enter executive session  
173 pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(3) to discuss a personal matter, inviting  
174 Stephanie Reid, Commissioner Pouech seconded. All were in favor and  
175 the Board entered executive session at 8:52AM.

176

177 The board exited executive session at 9:01AM with no action taken.

178

179 **General Commissioner Comments**

180 Alternate Commissioner Derenthal asked if anyone had an indication  
181 of who would be on the House and Senate Transportation Committees.  
182 Commissioner Pouech thought action would be taken at the beginning  
183 of December.



184 Alternate Commissioner Gallagher raised the point that the Montpelier  
185 LINK Express runs are filling up and with the Legislative Session  
186 beginning, we may want to consider another.

187

188 Commissioner Pouech was elected and is hoping to be on the  
189 Transportation Committee to help move the mission of Green Mountain  
190 Transit. At this time, Commissioner Pouech will not be stepping down  
191 from the GMT Board of Commissioner meetings.

192

193 Commissioner Cota said that South Burlington City Council will likely  
194 have an upcoming item on the ballot in March to approve use of  
195 COVID funds to build a bridge between Staples Plaza and the  
196 University Mall. There will need to be a conversation regarding transit  
197 and how to move people.

198

199 Chair Davis thanked Donna Gallagher for her years of service!

200

## 201 **Adjourn**

202 Commissioner Brewer made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner  
203 Spencer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.