



Green Mountain Transit Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 21, 2023 - 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 Bob Buermann, Grand Isle
Commissioner Denis Barton, Shelburne
Commissioner Austin Davis, Winooski
Commissioner Catherine Dimitruk, Franklin County
Alt. Commissioner Chapin Kaynor, Williston
Commissioner Chapin Spencer, Burlington
Commissioner Matt Cota, South Burlington
Commissioner Phil Pouech, Hinesburg
Alt. Commissioner Susan Grasso, Shelburne
Commissioner Paul Bohne, Essex
Commissioner Tasha Wallis, Lamoille County
Commissioner Henry Bonges, Milton
Alt. Commissioner Tom Derenthal, Burlington
Commissioner Amy Brewer, Williston
Commissioner Christian Meyer, Washington County
Chris Damiani, Senior Transit Planner
Stephanie Reid, Director of Finance
Clayton Clark, General Manager
Tammy Masse, Controller
Debbie Coppola, Controller
Ash LaBombard, Marketing Coordinator
Tim Bradshaw, VTrans
Nick Foss, Director of Finance
Jon Moore, Assistant General Manager
Matt Kimball, Director of Grants and Project Development

Members of the Public Present:

Michael Boutin
Nicholas Storellicastro
Emel Cambel
Jesse Rosado
Michael Deering
Teddy Waszazak



Representative Jonathan Williams
B140DL (did not identify themselves on Zoom)
Bruce Wilson

Open Meeting

Chair Davis opened the meeting at 7:32AM

Adjustment of the Agenda

None

Public Comment

Several residents from Barre City were present to discuss the need for restored service to Barre. GMT reduced some Washington County services in July 2022 due to ongoing staffing challenges. Residents and City Council members were present to request time on the April GMT Board of Commissioners meeting agenda.

Consent Agenda (Action Item)

Commissioner Bohne made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Dimitruk seconded. In discussion, Commissioner Bohne asked for a future marketing presentation on ridership. All were in favor and the motion carried. Alternate Commissioner Kaynor thanked staff for their work.

VTrans Update

Tim Bradshaw discussed working with GMT on farebox items. Tim also gave an update on the upcoming state grant application process.

General Manager Report

GM Clark discussed items from the written report provided to Commissioners, including the warming shelter at the Montpelier Transit Center. At this time, that will not resume as the replacement services seem to be working well for the community. GM Clark also discussed staffing changes, including folks leaving and new staff arriving. GM Clark gave an update on the House Transportation language to include \$1M in gap funding for GMT to work toward an updated farebox collections system and a fair fare program. The new fare collection start date is January 2, 2024.

Commissioner Pouech asked how to move forward with fair fares? Is there a plan to bring this to the board? GM Clark will discuss with Chair Davis.



Commissioner Barton thanked GM Clark and noted that Susan Grasso has been appointed as the alternate representative for Shelburne.

Commissioner Brewer noted appreciation that the fair fare conversation included consideration that riders shouldn't have to go through a separate process to qualify.

Board Committee Reports

Finance: Commissioner Bohne reported that the committee discussed may items on the agenda today and would be looking at the ADA program in April.

Strategy: Commissioner Buermann reported that Strategy did not meet.

Operations: Commissioner Cota reported that the committee discussed the LowNo application process.

JEDI: GM Clark reported that the committee discussed a list of future meeting topics, and next month would focus on safety at the transit centers and JEDI outreach.

Action: Auditor Contract Award

Director Foss reviewed the Request for Proposal process to select an auditing firm.

Commissioner Barton made a motion to award the RFP for auditing services to RHR Smith & Co. The award of the RFP will result in annual "engagements" one year at a time for a maximum of five years. Commissioner Wallis seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Action: FY23 Capital Budget Adjustment Approval

Director Kimball presented the FY23 capital budget amendment to incorporate new capital funding and changes to existing capital funding to align the capital budget with mid-year amendments to GMT's state grant agreements with VTrans, which have been agreed upon by both parties and have been submitted for execution.

The urban capital budget would increase by \$594,935 which includes decreasing the line item to replace 40' non-BRT diesel buses, decreasing the passenger amenities line item, increasing the office and support equipment



line item (to replace the fare collection vault), adding a line item for New flyer XE40 infrastructure design and planning, adding a line item for fare collection equipment replacement, and adding a line item to purchase fareboxes from SEVT.

The rural capital budget would increase by \$26,868 which includes adjusting the replacement cutaway line item to reflect current pricing, decreasing the 40' diesel bus replacement line item, increasing the preventative maintenance-rural facility line item, and adding a line item for replacement catalytic converters.

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to approve the updated FY23 Capital Budget to capture the changes presented. Commissioner Pouech seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Action: Farebox Procurement Approval

AGM Moore presented a staff recommendation to enter into a contract with our current farebox vendor, Genfare, to purchase 20 additional FastFare fareboxes for the urban system. Due to the contract price, staff is seeking GM authority to execute the purchase. The total cost of the new fareboxes would be \$461,047.

AGM Moore recognized Maintenance Manager, Tyler Austin who has worked hard with the farebox vendor to obtain the presented information.

Commissioner Wallis asked if the farebox replacement would be quick and easy? AGM Moore said it would be neither quick nor easy, however staff is confident that they can meet the January 1, 2024 fare resumption deadline.

Commissioner Dimitruk made a motion to grant purchasing authority to the General Manager, to not exceed \$461,047, for the purchase of new fareboxes. Commissioner Bohne seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Action: Lift Procurement Approval

Director Kimball presented the lift procurement process that staff had undergone to select a vendor for the replacement maintenance lift project.

Commissioner Barton made a motion to grant purchasing authority to the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Stertil-Koni for the



purchase of lift equipment and installation for an amount not to exceed \$745,507.92. Commissioner Brewer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Discussion: Low-No Grant Application for Electric Buses

GM Clark presented the application process and staff concerns. After discussing concerns with VTrans, GMT was told that buses could be redistributed to other agencies if GMT is unable to accommodate up to 17 electric vehicles. GM Clark noted that staff is still concerned about charging, infrastructure, etc., but many of the concerns have been addressed.

Commissioner Wallis observed the many pressures on the operating budget and asked how much forecasting has been done to ensure GMT can operate these buses into the future. GM Clark noted that these buses are replacing current fleet vehicles, but acknowledged some concern about charging cost.

Commissioner Pouech made a motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into a Low-No application with the written explanation from VTrans that states GMT is not obligated to purchase vehicles later in the process if we find that they do not meet our needs, Commissioner Bohne seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Board of Commissioner Comments

Chair Davis will follow-up with the folks in attendance from Barre and others to work through the issues presented in public comment.

Commissioner Barton asked for a formalized process to hear concerns and resolve these types of issues in the future. GM Clark said he was able to formalize a response and the public comment today didn't indicate that they had received that communication. GM Clark also said that he offered to attend a City Council meeting to discuss this and hasn't heard from anyone to schedule that.

Adjourn

Commissioner Bonges made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Spencer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:59AM.