



Green Mountain Transit Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
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.

- 1 **Present**
2 Commissioner Amy Brewer, Williston
3 Commissioner Catherine Dimitruk, Franklin County
4 Commissioner Michael Scanlan, South Burlington
5 Commissioner Bob Buermann, Grand Isle County
6 Commissioner Chapin Spencer, Burlington
7 Alt. Commissioner Charlene Tallman, Williston
8 Clayton Clark, General Manager
9 Commissioner Andrea Suozzo, Burlington
10 Commissioner Susan Grasso, Shelburne
11 Alt. Commissioner Kyle Grenier, Grand Isle County
12 Jon Moore, Assistant General Manager
13 Nick Foss, Director of Finance
14 Chris Damiani, Director of Planning
15 Ross MacDonald, VTrans
16 Commissioner Christian Meyer, Washington County
17 Jamie Smith, Director of Rider Experience
18 Michele Boomhower, VTrans
19 Jason Boes, Vail
20 Erika Osorio, Transit Data Analyst
21 T Johnson, Berlin Customer Service Representative
22 Mike Smith, Berlin Operations Manager
23 Justin Chamberlin, Berlin Lead Mechanic
24 Elizabeth McKinney, Berlin Dispatcher
25 Jim Moulton, Tri-Valley Transit (TVT)
26 Ash LaBombard, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
27 Chapin Kaynor, Member of the public
28 Connor Smith, Capital Projects Manager
29 Dave Lamm, Seasonal Operations Supervisor
30 Deanna Harrington, Berlin Operations Supervisor
31 Dan Greaves, FGI Dispatcher
32 Jimmy Johnson, Urban Operations Manager



- 33 Kim Smith, Staff Accountant
- 34 Melissa Pelchat, Montpelier Transit Center Supervisor
- 35 Mark Stupik, Berlin Operations Supervisor
- 36 Romeo Von Hermann, Station and Customer Service Supervisor
- 37 Tammy Masse, Controller
- 38 Tyler Austin, Maintenance Manager
- 39 Alt. Commissioner Will Anderson, Burlington
- 40 Alt. Commissioner Alec Jones, Lamoille County
- 41 Caleb Grant, Rural Community Transit (RCT)
- 42 Commissioner Paul Bohne, Essex
- 43 Alt. Commissioner Judy Rosenstreich, Shelburne
- 44 Rebecca Watarz, Administrative Assistant
- 45 Stephen Falbel, Steadman Hill Consulting
- 46 Monica White, Director of Central Vermont Services
- 47 Various Franklin County Drivers (camera in the breakroom)
- 48 Scott Ballard, IT Coordinator
- 49 Randy Schoonmaker, Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT)
- 50 Curtis Clough, Teamsters
- 51 Nate Bergeron, Chief Steward
- 52 Ed Adrian, Legal Counsel

53

Open Meeting

54 Chair Brewer opened the meeting at 9:01 AM and led attendees in
55 introductions.

56

Adjustment of the Agenda

57 None

58

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

59 Commissioner Suozzo motioned to approve the December minutes, and
60 Commissioner Grasso seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

61

Public Comment

62 None

63

Introduction to Tri-Valley Transit-Jim Moulton, Executive Director

64 Jim Moulton presented on Tri Valley Transit and answered questions related to
65 ridership, facility improvements, staff morale, rider care during a transition, etc.
66

67



71 **Introduction to Rural Community Transit-Caleb Grant, Executive Director**
72 Caleb Grant gave an overview of RCT services and read a statement of
73 intention related to the potential transfer of rural services. Caleb answered
74 Commissioner questions related to service area increases and how that would
75 be managed (regional manager), experience working within a union
76 environment, and volunteer recruitment.

77
78 **Updated Steadman Hill Study on Transfer of Rural Service-Stephen Falbel, Owner**
79 Stephen Falbel gave a presentation related to the study of rural options for
80 Green Mountain Transit. Steve answered questions related to the potential future
81 service structure, budget forecasts, and the different constraints between
82 municipalities versus non-profits.

83
84 **VTrans Recommendation on Transfer of Rural Service**
85 Ross MacDonald gave a recommendation in favor of transferring rural GMT
86 service to other providers. Ross answered questions related to funding support.

87
88 **Staff Recommendation on Transfer of Rural Service**
89 GM Clark provided an overview of the organizational assessment and
90 recommendation to defer the decision of transferring service to the state.
91 Commissioners voiced concerns related to providing the most good for the most
92 people, the advancement of service in the state, and the need for due
93 diligence. Members of the public echoed these concerns.

94
95 **Rural Transfer Recommendation for Final Legislative Report**
96 Commissioner Dimitruk introduced a motion a motion indicating that in regard
97 to Act 148, Section 9(e) of the 2024 legislative session, the Green Mountain
98 Transit Board of Commissioners supports further collaboration and additional due
99 diligence to ensure any decision is beneficial to the transit system, the riders, the
100 GMT organization and the GMT employees, TVT and RCT. GMT will continue to
101 provide service and implement efficiencies in our current service areas until 24
102 VSA Appendix, Chapter 801, Section 2 is amended and VTrans has assigned
103 service to other providers through the state grant application process. GMT
104 encourages the State of Vermont to work with TVT and RCT to ensure any
105 employee transferred to another provider retains employment with the same or
106 similar pay and benefits. If transfer to another provider is initiated but later
107 halted, GMT would welcome the opportunity to continue serving our rural areas.
108 GMT recognizes this is a partial, short term solution to funding for transit, and
109 further calls on the legislature to act upon and VTrans to implement the
110 recommendations of the transit funding studies. Commissioner Buermann



111 seconded. After discussion, the Board voted. All were in favor and the motion
112 carried.

113

114 **Review of Fare Data and Fare Adjustment Options**

115 Chief Steward Nate Bergeron provided an overview of driver sentiments and
116 suggestions to remove the “Let Them Ride” policy. Nate answered questions
117 related to the policy and driver assaults.

118

119 Director Chris Damiani presented fare collection data and the breakdown of
120 ridership. Chris answered Commissioner questions related to the breakdown of
121 ridership, free rides, fare evasion, and discount fares.

122

123 **Preview of Likely Route Reductions/Modifications**

124 Director Chris Damiani provided an overview of current route reductions and a
125 preview of upcoming and potentially upcoming reductions and modifications.
126 Chris answered commissioner questions related to stops, walkability, and cost.

127

128 **Executive Session to Discuss Labor Relations**

129 Commissioner Dimitruk moved to find that premature general public knowledge
130 of our bargaining position for our next urban operator's agreement would place
131 GMT at a substantial disadvantage. Commissioner Buermann seconded. All
132 were in favor.

133

134 Commissioner Spencer made a motion to enter an executive session inviting in
135 Jamie Smith, Nick Foss, Jon Moore, Clayton Clark, and Jimmy Johnson.

136 Commissioner Dimitruk seconded. All were in favor and the Board entered
137 Executive session at 2:33 PM

138

139 Commissioner Spencer made a motion to exit Executive Session and
140 Commissioner Bohne seconded. All were in favor and the Board exited the
141 executive session at 3:07 PM with no action taken.

142

143 **Commissioner Comments**

144 Commissioner Dimitruk thanked the driver of the Route 2 bus, which her mother
145 rides four days a week, for taking good care of her mother during the recent
146 frigid weather.

147

148 **Adjourn**

149 The board adjourned at 3:08 PM.