

NextGen Meeting August 8, 2017

Present:

Jim Holloway

Chapin Kaynor, GMT Board of Commissioners

Geoff Slater, Nelson Nygaard

Eryn Rosenblum, Nelson Nygaard

Nadine Barnicle, Nelson Nygaard

Bonnie Waninger, GMT Board of Commissioners

David Armstrong, GMT

Alain Hirsch, GMT

Rob Moore, GMT Board of Commissioners

Jon Moore, GMT

Jamie Smith, GMT

Katherine Miles, GMT Board of Commissioners

Catherine Dimitruk, GMT Board of Commissioners

Peter Keating, CCRPC

Bob Buermann, GMT Board of Commissioners

Ross McDonald, VTrans

1. Adjustment to the Agenda

2. Public Comment

- Jim Holloway from the Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA) was in attendance. He spoke about transportation challenges in the New North End of Burlington. He mentioned Jon Moore and Chris Loyer met with the NPA Monday to discuss those same transportation challenges and options for future transportation options in the New North End.

3. Approval of the July Meeting Minutes

- GMT Board Commissioner Bob Buermann made a motion to approve the July Meeting Minutes. VTrans representative Ross McDonald seconded the motion. Committee voted, CCRPC representative Peter Keating abstained. Minutes were approved.

4. Overview of Completed and/or Works in Progress

- Mr. Slater and David Armstrong presented two potential scenarios of the urban bus system. The scenarios were meant to illustrate potential improvement options through the process of simplification. Mr. Slater showed that by changing the focus of GMT's urban system from work trips to a more consistent all day service, efficiencies would be gained. Additionally, the improved 20 minute service would allow for better evening and weekend bus service. Direct bus service from downtown Burlington to the Burlington International Airport was identified as another necessary improvement.

Commissioner Buermann asked if the four major urban routes (1- Williston, 2- Essex Junction, 6- Shelburne Road, and 7- North Avenue) were the best choice for the base of the system. Mr. Slater explained that these four routes were already high ridership, strong service routes and showed that they are the best option for bringing riders from outlying communities inward.

Commissioner Kaynor pointed out that the proposed options do not connect the East/West sides of South Burlington. He also talked about the importance of the Route 2A corridor and ideas to improve ridership along that route. One idea was an addition of the #2 Essex Junction to extend down Route 2A into Williston.

Mr. Holloway talked about the need for service from North Avenue directly to Tilley Drive.

Commissioners Dimitruk and Waninger talked about the study to this point, mentioning that it seems like there isn't a next step focus. To date, the project has just focused on improving current service but hasn't taken any innovative steps to move beyond what we are currently operating. Both pointed out that the plan seemed like "Current Generation" versus moving into the "Next Generation."

Mr. Moore explained that although the proposed plan seems the same as what we currently operate, the improvements are necessary in order to make any future additions to the system. He explained that our current system isn't sustainable operating at the current level. He acknowledged the need to think further outside the box and maybe develop two phases:

- Improvements now that are implementable in the short-term and relatively low cost
- A five-year plan of additional improvements to take the service beyond what we operate currently

Mr. McDonald expressed his support of the easy to implement short-term plan, stating that it will be difficult enough to implement basic improvements [for our current passengers]. He pointed out that adding a lot of new service(s) could be very difficult to fund in the short term and would be hard to digest by current ridership.

Other members of the committee expressed their support in seeing a two-phase plan for the future.

Mr. Slater explained next steps and how these types of scenarios would be presented to the public. One-page outlines will be developed comparing commonalities, differences, and a high level overview of the system. He explained at that point the decision really falls to the GMT Board of Commissioners to implement.

Next Steps: Maps presented will be sent to the Advisory Committee in digital format for feedback by the next meeting.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2017