



1                                   **Operations Committee Meeting Minutes**  
2                                   **March 13, 2023 10:00 AM**  
3                                   **101 Queen City Road, Burlington VT 05401**  
4                                   **Hybrid in-person and Zoom**

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

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12                                   **Present:**

13                                   Ash LaBombard, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator  
14                                   Commissioner Denis Barton, Shelburne  
15                                   Jamie Smith, Director of Planning & Marketing  
16                                   Jon Moore, Assistant General Manager  
17                                   Clayton Clark, General Manager  
18                                   Commissioner Tom Derenthal, Burlington  
19                                   Commissioner Matt Cota, South Burlington  
20                                   Matt Kimball, Director of Grants & Capital Projects  
21                                   Nick Foss, Director of Finance  
22                                   Commissioner Henry Bonges, Milton  
23                                   Stephanie Reid, Director of Human Resources

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25                                   **Open Meeting**

26                                   Chair Cota opened the meeting at 10:02 AM.

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28                                   **Adjustment of the Agenda**

29                                   None

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31                                   **Public Comment**

32                                   None

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34                                   **Approval of Committee Minutes**

35                                   Chair Cota made a motion to approve the December minutes, and  
36                                   Commissioner Bonges seconded. All were in favor, and the motion  
37                                   carried.

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39                                   **FY2023 Low-No Grant Application**



40 AGM Moore presented a PowerPoint explaining the FY2023 Low-No Grant  
41 Application including:

- 42 • An overview of the existing fleet electrification plan
- 43 • The particulars of the Low or No Emission Vehicle Program 5339(c)
- 44 • The timeline for the FY23 grant application
- 45 • Allowance for partnership with New Flyer
- 46 • Potential budget and non-federal match assumptions
- 47 • The next steps for this application, the most pressing being the  
48 number of units to include in the application

49

50 After the presentations commissioners wanted to know how the transition  
51 to electric buses would affect maintenance needs and had thought  
52 about having charging equipment off-site with a possible location being  
53 the McNeil Plant.

54

55 Before opening the floor for discussion GM Clark expressed his concerns  
56 regarding moving forward with electrification too quickly without having  
57 the charging infrastructure or necessary staff training in place.

58

59 Commissioner Cota began the discussion by asking for an explanation of  
60 charging limitations. AGM Moore explained that our current rate structure  
61 penalizes us for charging during peak times and that he doesn't see this  
62 changing anytime soon. GM Clark added that if this did change there are  
63 still questions about if the transformer could provide the juice needed to  
64 charge the additional buses.

65

66 Commissioner Barton brought up the possibility of being able to change  
67 the number of buses being ordered after the grant is awarded. Director  
68 Kimball stated that would be for VTrans to answer as they are the  
69 recipient of the grant, we are just a sub-recipient.

70

71 Commissioner Derenthal wanted clarification on the timeline for Burlington  
72 Electric to potentially increase load capacity at the Burlington Facility. GM  
73 Moore explained that generally speaking the larger transformer sizes have  
74 a five-year turn-around time.

75

76 Commissioner Bonges expressed concerns about familiarity with the new  
77 buses. GM Moore provided insight into New Flyer's record in the industry  
78 with their diesel buses and the reviews we have received from other  
79 agencies.



80

81 GM Clark attempted to refocus the discussion by asking if we should take  
82 a cautious approach or go all in. Commissioner Barton was curious as to  
83 how VTrans' additional funding would play out with different approaches.

84

85 Commissioner Derenthal expressed mixed emotions about going all in and  
86 asked if a risk assessment could be done before moving forward on the  
87 application with VTrans. Commissioner Bonges asked if we could get a  
88 soft commitment from BED to support fleet electrification needs. GM Clark  
89 replied that it was unlikely as BED has not been supportive thus far.

90

### 91 **Commissioner Comments**

92 Commissioner Derenthal wanted an update on staffing to see if it is  
93 trending in the right direction. GM Clark stated it has been stable for the  
94 last month and that negotiations to increase starting wages for Urban  
95 Operators are progressing steadily. AGM Moore added that we are not  
96 alone with CDL staffing and school districts have reached out for help.

97

98 Commissioner Barton would like an opportunity in the future to discuss  
99 committee structure, the public affairs plan, workforce planning and  
100 pipeline development, and emergency plans and preparedness.

101

### 102 **Adjourn**

103 Commissioner Barton made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner  
104 Derenthal seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried. The  
105 meeting ended at 10:57 AM.