



1 **Operations Committee Meeting Agenda**
2 **September 12, 2022 10:00 AM**
3 **101 Queen City Road, Burlington VT 05401**
4 **Meeting held virtually via Zoom Meetings**

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.*

11 **Present:**

- 12 Jon Moore, General Manager
13 Commissioner Matt Cota, South Burlington
14 Commissioner Tasha Wallis, Lamoille County
15 Jamie Smith, Director of Marketing & Planning
16 Ashley LaBombard, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
17 Commissioner Denis Barton, Shelburne
18 Chris Damiani, Senior Transit Planner
19 Connie Englert, Director of Transportation
20 Commissioner Bonnie Waninger, Washington County

22 **Open Meeting**

23 Chair Cotta opened the meeting, without quorum, at 10:03AM.

25 **Adjustment of the Agenda**

26 Commissioner Wallis asked that we take time to discuss Director Englert's impending departure
27 from GMT.

29 **Departure of Director of Transportation**

30 Director Englert noted that this would be her last Operations Committee Meeting and that she was
31 exiting effective Wednesday October 5th. GM Moore commented that we have the management
32 staff is in place within the Operations, Maintenance, & IT departments to keep things moving
33 forward in the interim. GM Moore went on to state that Director Englert was instrumental in the
34 Low-No Grant application, and new buses coming online.

35 Commissioner Wallis asked Director Englert what she thought the board should know and what
36 would be the biggest challenges moving forward. Director Englert replied that time could be
37 scheduled to go over this in the coming weeks.

38 Commissioner Barton asked what is the plan for replacing Director Englert amongst the other
39 departures happening at GMT. GM Moore stated that the current priority is to keep things moving
40 forward with bus delivery and maintenance operations, and that the position will be posted soon.

41 Commissioner Wallis asked what is the schedule for the departure of the Director of Finance Nick
42 Foss. GM Moore stated that Director Foss's last day would be Friday September 16th, and that the
43 Leadership Committee is working on an interim plan to ensure the organization can meet its public
44 mission.



49 **Public Comment**

50 None

51

52 **Approval of Committee Minutes**

53 No quorum.

54

55 Commissioner Waninger entered the meeting at 10:34 and the committee had quorum.

56 Commissioner Wallis made motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Waninger seconded.

57 Commissioner Wallis, Commissioner Waninger and Commissioner Cota were in favor, Commissioner

58 Barton abstained and the motion carried.

59

60 **Monthly Transit and Technical Operations and Performance Updates**

61 Director Englert provided an update on the following items:

62

- 63 • Operations staffing and the continued struggle to recruit mechanics
- 64 • The need to hire mechanics due to unplanned medical leave effecting Berlin and our mountain division
- 65 • Critical need to get new buses and bring them in asap to help our dispatch reliability
- 66 • Fleet performance has remained trending better than we did in FY22
- 67 • Proterra fleet has continued to face supply chain issues and we have much work to complete to get performance where it needs to be
- 68 • As part of winning the Low-No Grant we will receive 5 New Flyer XE40 buses and important charging infrastructure for our urban operations
- 69 • We will be receiving 4 New Flyer XD40 buses in January and these buses will be delivered without a fare box
- 70 • 9 vehicles have been retired and auctioned off which has cleared up space in the bus storage area
- 71 • Maintenance staff has completed 2 major training modules and Bus Operators have received ADA training
- 72 • Capital Programs has helped us gain 2 Dodge Voyagers that are lifted equipped and will operate MyRide services in Berlin

73

74 During the updates Commissioner Cota asked if Director Englert recommended that the board develop the policy regarding fare collection and the mode we want to use before outfitting the buses. Director Englert replied that there is different philosophy on app based technologies, where fare collection should sit, and the cost involved in fare collection.

75

76 Commissioner Wallis asked if there was a mode parallel to Ez-pass where in if you don't have fare you can show id and be billed in the future. Director Englert stated while that is an interesting option it would require and address which the unhoused population that takes the bus would be unable to utilize. Director Englert went on to discuss her vision of a low equity program that would allow low-income individuals to self-certify to receive free and/or subsidized rides.

77

78 Commissioner Barton wanted to note the thoroughness of the report as it was the first Operations meeting he attended. He was also curious about what maintenance will look like with the electrification of the fleet. Director Englert explained that, an electric fleet will need much fewer service intervals, and that we will be consuming far less materials like brakes as well. She went on to state that, electric vehicles have far fewer parts to break, but when they do it can be expensive and that workforce development will play a major component in helping mitigating this.

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

100



101 **FTA Low-No Grant & Electric Fleet Update**

102 Director Englert gave an update in regards to the following pieces of the grant and electrification
103 of the GMT fleet:

- 104 • Roughly 5% of the grant is to cover workforce development and training which will help us
105 mitigate issues we faced when the Proterra buses were brought online
- 106 • We are partnering with three companies for this grant: New Flyer Infrastructure Solutions,
107 that works on the charging side of things, New Flyer of America, and Letenda.
- 108 • The specifications of the Letenda electric Electrip bus and our hope for this cold weather
109 design being used in our mountain division
- 110 • The creation of a mobile charging station to help Vermont transit agencies when their
111 charging infrastructure goes down

112

113 **New Flyer XD40 Fleet Build Update**

114 Director Englert stated that these are coming in soon and that we are excited to see these as a
115 part of our organization, and that this will do a lot to diversify our fleet.

116

117

118 **Adjourn**

119 Commissioner Waninger made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Wallis seconded. All were in
120 favor and the motion carried.