

GMTA Lamoille County TDP Stakeholder Meeting #1

Date: September 15, 2011

Time: 10:30am

Place: Morrisville Town Offices

Present:

GMTA/CCTA Staff and Consultants

- David Armstrong, GMTA/CCTA Transit Planner (darmstrong@cctaride.org)
- Tawnya Kristen, GMTA Community Relations Manager (tkristen@gmtaride.org)
- Steve Falbel, Steadman Hill Consulting (smf@steadmanhill.com)

Stakeholders

- Dan Maxon, Smuggler's Notch Ski Resort (dmaxon@smuggs.com)
- Christie Skarie, VT Vocational Rehab (Christie.skarie@ahs.state.vt.us)
- John Mandeville, Lamoille Economic Development Corp (john@lamoilleconomy.org)
- Mary Grant, Rural Community Transportation (rct@kingcon.com)
- Sherry Marcelino, Lamoille Community Connections (sherry@lamoille.org)
- Dawn Archbold, United Way (unitedway@pshift.com)
- Meredith Vaughan, Out and About (vaughanm1@hotmail.com)
- Amanda Holland, Lamoille County Planning Commission (Amanda@lcpvt.org)
- Lily Sojourner, VT Agency of Health Resources (lily.sojourner@ahs.state.vt.us)

Mr. Armstrong began by introducing staff and asking those present to introduce themselves, and continued with a brief outline of the Transit Development Plan (TDP) process: Stakeholder meeting(s) will be followed by a public hearing(s), GMTA will write the Plan with direct Stakeholder and public oversight and finally the GMTA Board will approve the Plan. The TDP is the cornerstone document that GMTA will use to guide its growth, change and improvement over the next 5-10 years.

Mr. Falbel continued the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation outlining GMTA's current services and resources, areas served, ridership characteristics, and ridership levels. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Falbel asked the Stakeholders to comment on the services and amenities that had been identified and to offer additional suggestions on areas of need.

Questions/Commentary

- Commuter and local routes serving Johnson
 - Johnson has the highest median salary in the county, yet the lowest household income due to Johnson State College employees living outside of Johnson
 - Suggestion to extend Cambridge commuter route (to Burlington) as far as Johnson
- Smugg's employees from scattered rural areas north, west and south of Jeffersonville
 - Few from Morrisville

Getting you where you need to go!

- Many more from Jericho, Essex, areas west
- Demand Response
 - Health provider access too limited by 24 hour notice requirement
 - Provide access to health facilities other than hospitals, such as family practice offices, dental offices, etc. (e.g. Stowe Family Health)
 - People sometimes need immediate service to medical facilities
 - Do away with long advance notice requirement
 - Potential to use emergency transportation?
- Bus stop visibility
 - Better identification of, and amenities at, bus stops
 - Benches, lights, schedules, shelters
- Public awareness
 - Stakeholders cited limited public awareness of available services
 - Additional outreach, marketing, advertising
- Trip examples
 - How do I get from here to there, via which bus(es), when, etc.?
 - Similar to Google Transit
 - GMTA should somehow offer this service via more elaborate schedules/maps, via automated telephone service, or online
- Resources towards basic mobility or commuters?
 - Recognize that GMTA is trying to serve somewhat competing goals; Commuter and basic mobility (shopping, health svcs, etc.)
 - Commuter service early morning/late afternoon
 - Basic mobility all day
 - Service or entry level jobs often during nights, weekends
 - More car/vanpool utilization and awareness?
 - Connectingcommuters.org (Go Vermont)
- Rising gas prices lead to higher interest in public transit
- *Convenient* public transit is very difficult to provide in rural areas
- How will relocation of flooded State offices in Waterbury impact GMTA routes?
 - GMTA will have to evaluate future travel patterns prior to making any changes
- Revitalization of downtown Morrisville
 - Route 100 truck route
 - 18 low income housing units above Arthurs (on Route 100)
 - Potential for new industrial park on Route 100 near Bishop Marshal School
- Route 12 Commuter route
 - Stakeholders felt better service to Waterbury via Route 100 (connecting to Waterbury Commuter and Burlington Link) would serve commuters better than Route 12
- Utilization of school buses during mid-day?
 - Some success with this elsewhere, though transit passengers typically look for better comfortable buses (ride, seats)
 - Ownership problem

