



# Transit Technology and Funding for Vermont

Vermont House Committee for Transportation

Via Transportation Inc.  
May 4, 2022

# Agenda

- Intro to Via
- Green Mountain Transit
- Vermont Microtransit Study
- Funding for Innovative Transit in Vermont

# Via's Solutions

## TransitTech for all.

Whether you're a public transit agency, a city, a major university, or corporation, Via's platform provides tailored solutions to meet our partners' needs.



### Transit Planning

- Network planning
- Fixed / on-demand planning tools



### Transit Consulting

- Network analysis and optimization
- Advanced simulations



### Street Design

- Multimodal corridors redesign
- Complete streets



### Microtransit

- FMLM/transit deserts
- Underperforming fixed routes



### Paratransit / NEMT

- Accessible transport
- Healthcare



### Fixed Route

- Planning
- Scheduling
- Operations



### School Bus

- Dynamic routing
- Bus / student visibility and tracking



### University

- Campus travel and disability rides
- Safe ride programs



### Integrated mobility

- Integrated payment and ticketing
- Multi-leg trip planning



**600+**  
Partnerships

35+ Countries

**350+**  
Engineers

**100M**  
rides



# Partnership with Green Mountain Transit

## CASE STUDY



# 40k+

rides completed since launch

# 10min

average ride duration

# 1.3k

unique riders served

# Green Mountain Transit, Montpelier, VT

## Problem:

Underperforming routes and limited access for riders outside of Montpelier.

## Solution:

- Replaced 3 low ridership routes with an entirely dynamic microtransit service
- Strong focus on accessibility, including prebooked rides, limiting walking distance to vehicles, allowing booking over the phone
- Riders can schedule NEMT rides and partner is reimbursed for the trip
- Integration with fixed route bus schedules and Transit App allow riders to plan across modes
- Averaging 600+ rides per week



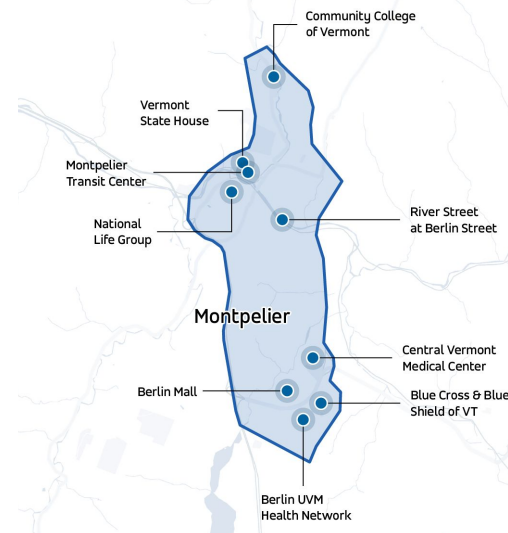
**Geography:**  
Suburban/Rural



**Use case:**  
General Mobility



**Fleet:**  
6 vehicles



# Vermont Microtransit Study

# Statewide Microtransit Feasibility Studies

Via is partnering with VPTA and VTrans to investigate the feasibility of introducing microtransit in high-priority locations across Vermont. The project includes **12 microtransit studies**, each of which is conducted in partnership with a Vermont transit agency, as well as statewide framework for microtransit . Work began in January, 2022, and **six studies have been completed so far**. Studies follow a consistent process:

1

## Goal-Setting

Via worked with VPTA and each agency to select a local study area. Goals ranged from introducing service to areas with no existing transit, to improving the efficiency of existing transit services.

2

## Existing Conditions Analysis

We evaluated population demographics and the performance of current transit services.

3

## Alternatives Analysis

We used microtransit simulation technology to model the performance of microtransit services in our study areas with various configurations.

4

## Recommendations

Based on the results of our simulations, we developed recommendations which include number of vehicles, target service levels, and adjustment to existing c



# Initial Project Recommendations



## Green Mountain Community Network **Manchester**

Provide a new transit service in Manchester to help residents meet their daily needs around town.



## Green Mountain Transit **Barre**

Expand the successful MyRide program to provide service in Barre, and improve coverage to the Hospital Hill area by adjusting fixed-routes.



## Marble Valley Regional Transit District **Rutland**

Introduce microtransit to fill service gaps during off-peak hours and expand transit to new areas.



## Southeast Vermont Transit **Windsor County**

Introduce transit service in Windsor, and replace an underperforming fixed-route bus in Springfield.



## Rural Community Transportation **Morrisville**

Expand transit service to Hyde Park and conserve resources by replacing a fixed-route with low ridership in Morrisville.



## Tri-Valley Transit **Middlebury**

Adjust existing fixed-route network to better-serve customers, potentially by replacing or modifying some fixed-route services.

# Next Steps

- **6 additional microtransit studies** will be performed over the summer, with project conclusion in early Fall 2022 (locations TBD).
- After 12 studies have been completed, Via will provide a statewide report to provide a **roadmap for introducing Microtransit across the state of Vermont** over a 3-5 year period. Recommendations will be applicable statewide, and will include:
  - Timeline and launch
  - Operating models
  - Marketing strategies
  - Accessibility strategies
  - Strategies for commingling demand with paratransit and NEMT
  - Working with volunteer drivers

# Funding for Innovative Transit

# IIJA provides some funding, but state investment is still required

## FTA formula funding for transit increased by 20% overall

- Actual increases vary by state and transit agency (~6-8% increase for VT)
- Costs have increased due to inflation, narrowing impact of additional funding

## New and expanded grant programs provide opportunities for investment

- Carbon Reduction Program - \$1.28B/year
- Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program - \$300-500M/year
- Advanced Transportation Technologies & Innovative Mobility Deployment - \$60M/year
- Federal match for all is 80%

## States investment in transit will help maximize IIJA funding

- California, Oregon, Massachusetts and other states are dedicating additional funds to meet transportation infrastructure investment needs
- Some local communities are also considering raising funds via ballot initiatives to fulfill local match requirements

# H.736 - Funding for Mobility and Transportation Innovations Program

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- H.736 provides an opportunity to take advantage of new IIJA programs that can support on-demand transit and integrated mobility, including the Carbon Reduction Program
- Joins other state leaders (CA, WA, OR) by investing in microtransit, electric vehicles, and transportation alternatives
- \$1M funding for MTI grants will help continue the study of microtransit, transit tech, and transit alternatives in Vermont
- Ability to provide multi-year grants would allow for pilot flexibility and provide time to explore sustainable funding options

Thank you.

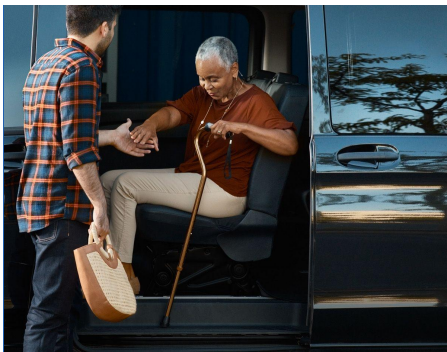


# Incorporating accessibility features that promote equity



Mixed fleet that includes WAV vehicle(s) to accommodate a range of rider preferences

**Accessible Vehicles**



Door-to-door pickups & drop-offs for mobility limited riders

**Customized Service**



Simple phone booking process for those without web or smartphone access

**Phone Booking**



Prepaid debit cards, vouchers & cash payment options for unbanked users

**Payment options**