

Panel Discussion Guide: Exploring Partnerships in the Private Sector

Moderator: Aaron Brown, aaron@vitalcommunities.org

Underlying Question: How can transportation providers, planners and advocates partner with businesses to work toward the goal of reducing vehicle miles travelled by employees getting to work and travelling for work?

Panelists: *(Each panelist represents a local business or institution that is engaged in Smart Commute Upper Valley)*

Stacey Chiocchio, Hypertherm, Inc. (www.hypertherm.com/csr/)

Dennis Stern, Vermont Law School (www.vermontlaw.edu)

Questions for our Panelists:

- How long have you been engaged with the Smart Commute program, and why did you decide to participate?
- What have been the benefits, costs, challenges, and unexpected outcomes of your participation?
- What are your thoughts on the role of the business community in the broader goal of reducing vehicle miles travelled in Vermont?
- What are your thoughts on the role of non-profit and public organizations in supporting the work of businesses to address their transportation challenges?

Specific questions for discussion:

- What partnerships exist already between transportation organizations and the business community? What are these existing programs trying to achieve? Are they successful?
- Who benefits from reduction in vehicle miles travelled by Vermonters to, from and for work?
- Can businesses benefit from reducing the vehicle miles travelled by their employees? Are these benefits tangible, direct, indirect, mission-related, or varied depending on the type of business?
- What types of businesses are most likely to be interested in partnering with local transportation groups, and why?
- What are strategies for outreach that could engage more businesses in reducing vehicle miles travelled by their employees? Who should do that outreach? Who should be targeted?

A few examples of existing and developing partnerships:

- **Campus Area Transportation Management Association** in Burlington (www.catmavt.org)
- **CarShare Vermont's BusinessShare Plan** (www.carsharevt.org/business-rates)
- **Addison County Transit Resource** – Currently developing a TMA model with local businesses
- **VTrans** – promoting vanpool and new electric vehicle carpool benefits through employers. (www.connectingcommuters.org/Employers)
- **Local Motion** – Offers workplace evaluation to help businesses be more bike-friendly (www.localmotion.org/education/bikecommuter/consulting/1296-workplace-evaluation-for-employers)

Transportation Policy Discussion Guide: Identifying Priorities, Partners & Next Steps

Moderator: Sarah Simonds, ssimonds@vermontcf.org

Underlying Observation: We have a broad and increasingly strong network of transportation providers, advocates and planners. What we need are defined policy priorities and a focused policy agenda.

Discussion Objectives:

- Hear from AARP, VNRC and Local Motion about their policy priorities and observations on where this conversation is heading.
- Review an evolving plan for a broad policy-focused convening in September.
- Discuss and provide feedback on this approach, and fill in any obvious gaps in the policy priorities outlined below.
- Clarify interest and potential for engagement among stakeholders represented.

– Background Information –

Policy Topics (from March breakout session)	Status Summary
ACT 250 – Criterion 5	<i>VNRC taking the lead</i>
Comprehensive Energy Plan	<i>VNRC and DPS – likely outreach this fall</i>
Complete Streets Implementation	<i>VTrans & DOH creating guidebook, high priority for AARP also</i>
Federal Transportation Bill	<i>scattered advocacy from VT – little coordination so far</i>
Increased Incorporation/Funding for TDM	<i>Scattered TDM and TMA projects – state strategy unclear</i>
Tax Exemptions for alt. modes (i.e. carsharing)	<i>CarShare VT working at nat'l level</i>
Integrated Municipal Planning	<i>May be improved w/ outreach re: Complete Streets & CEP</i>
Regional Connectivity	<i>GoVermont hub & scattered partnerships among providers</i>
Strategic Regional and Statewide Funding	<i>Strategy evolving</i>
Comprehensive Review of VTrans Projects	

Tentative Concept for September Convening (full-day/facilitated)

Planning Committee: AARP, VNRC, Local Motion, VTrans, HMF, others?

Target Audience: Relatively large and diverse group of stakeholders drawing from multiple networks (including HMF Stakeholders Network and Transporting the Public)

Main Objectives:

- Strengthen partnerships across networks.
- Review where we've been, what we've accomplished, and where we are with current transportation policy.
- Explore a variety of policy priorities (both existing priorities and ones we haven't thought of yet) through facilitated conversation(s).
- Acknowledge new and existing priorities, and generate momentum for developing coordinated strategies to pursue these policy agendas moving forward into 2013.