



Partner Updates Fall 2019

[Vermont Natural Resources Council \(Kate McCarthy\)](#)

VNRC is excited to be supporting the Transportation and Climate Initiative, a cap and invest system to make transportation in Vermont more sustainable. The necessary challenge will be making sure it is equitable, particularly for rural Vermonters. Transportation for Vermonters, a multi-sector transportation coalition, will be finalizing its policy platform soon. It focuses on ways to get around other than individually-owned cars.

[Norwich Energy Committee \(Susan Hardy\)](#)

We are encouraged by the great interest shown in our recent e-bike loan program (thanks to Local Motion) and are hoping to see an increase in e-bike use for transportation. We would like to promote carpooling and van pooling; other than mentions of alternative ways to commute, we have not done anything specific.

[Vermont Energy Education Program \(Cara Robeche\)](#)

We are really focusing on Transportation this year. Love to share our new poster:
https://veep.org/sites/default/files/files/VEEP_Transportation_Poster_PDF.pdf

[Burlington Ready for 100%, Sierra Club \(Rick Wackernagel\)](#)

Potential adopters are particularly interested in talking to people who are already using the new practice or technology.

[Old Spokes Home \(Laura Jaboby\)](#)

The shop has seen an increase in sales of studded tires over the past three years, suggesting that more people are riding their bikes through the winter.

[VBike \(Dave Cohen\)](#)

VBike essentially provides free bike consultations and that has worked across the board. The same hold true for the e-bike rebates and low-interest loans we have helped to manifest. I'm hearing from more parents that say they want to get out of the car and go for a car-lite lifestyle. I'm expecting to hear that more as the realities of climate change sink in.

[Sierra Club Vermont, Upper Valley Group, and VBike \(Karl Kemnitzer\)](#)

For myself, I'd like to point out that there have been several efforts recently to work out a low cost eBike conversion, this has been in partnership with UVTMA, private interests in Hanover and Montpelier, BFCBP, and Montpelier Bike Share. VBike has added some input.

[Vermont Clean Cities Coalition \(Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco\)](#)

The push for EVs is great, but I think the state should prioritize getting more people in fewer EV, not just more EVs on the road.

[Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission \(Bryan Davis\)](#)

Working with Greenride Bikeshare vendor and partners to expand and convert fleet to e-bikes. With a focus on schools the past couple of years, participation in Way to Go! has skyrocketed. Rural transportation options are still a big barrier.

Tri-Valley Transit/ACTR Region (Mary-Claire Crogan)

We are happy so far with the new Transit app and getting positive feedback from riders.

Champlain College (Nic Anderson)

Seems that no matter what we have been doing...people are driving MORE! How can we change this?

Go! Vermont (Ross MacDonald & Deb Sachs)

Where there is boots on the ground and local advocates, success happens. We see this in numbers of participants in campaigns like Way to Go! to School campaign. Also in creative initiatives like Local Motion's Pop-up safe routes projects, Old Spokes "Everybody EBikes" program and VRide's bike consults and general advocacy and education of bike shops and local groups. When there is a combination of individuals involved (i.e., CWS, VABIR, Business Sustainability coordinator, and Energy Committee working in lockstep) positive change happens. What if we were to engage in models such as "Collective Impact" and "Appreciative Inquiry" to identify several volunteers to be the boots on the ground to help advance shared mobility? Some suggestions:

- Pick 2-3 TDM initiatives to widely promote by all partners- could be sector specific
- Or approach the myriad of other transportation demands to address senior and youth isolation
- Make a big campaign to use the trip planner, transit app and rideshare app with integrated options
- Submit stories to Sustainable Transportation Vermont, as blog posts and recycle in others' newsletters
- Continue piloting partnerships for innovative projects such as "Everybody EBikes"
- Educate and obtain knowledge about "available housing" on transit routes for low income folks

Local Motion (Karen Yacos & Allegra Williams)

Some of the safety funding we receive to support our bike safety programming in schools and elsewhere is Federal, and tied to number of bike/walk fatalities. Less people killed equals less funding for organizations working on these issues. That's not right, and a big miss in terms of making things better for these vulnerable users of our roadways, for the long term. A local culture of biking and walking (people actually moving around via these modes) is essential, and it is different in different places. We are working to build that culture, meeting communities where they are with the tools and programming that will stick. We often start in the schools if there isn't already a bike/walk group to work with.

Green Mountain Transit (Jenn Wood)

Facing rural funding challenges in trying to develop and paint the picture for a rural transit/ mobility vision for Vermont. Would love to incorporate Community-Based Social Marketing more.

Vital Communities/Upper Valley TMA (Bethany Fleishman & Ana Mejia)

We just completed a "Town Transportation Toolkit" available at vitalcommunities.org/transportationtoolkit. This is in response to a marked increase in queries from energy committee volunteers and others interested in addressing the climate impacts of local transportation systems but not sure where to start. Take a look and give us your feedback and additions. We consider this a work in progress.

Also note that one of the Upper Valley's bus companies, Advance Transit, will be piloting electric buses in the next couple of years.

Vermont Department of Health (Climate & Health Program) (Jared Ulmer)

Stay tuned for more information about the Integrated Transportation and Health Impact model.