

What is the Regional Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Committee?

Southern Windsor County and Windham Regions – March 2017



What is the Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program?

Every year the transit providers like Southeast Vermont Transit apply for state funding so they can assist elders and persons with disabilities get out of their homes to medical appointments, to the local adult days, to senior meal sites, and for essential shopping. This service is door to door and supplements the regular transit service in the area, filling in gaps left by other transportation programs, including Medicaid. Drivers can be both paid and volunteers and drive a variety of vehicles – from minibuses with wheelchair access to normal cars.

Who is eligible for a ride?

Anyone who is aged 60 or over, and/or has an ADA defined disability.

What area does this committee cover?

Our committee covers Windham County and the southern portion of Windsor County – the area shown on the map in red. There are other committees for other parts of Vermont.

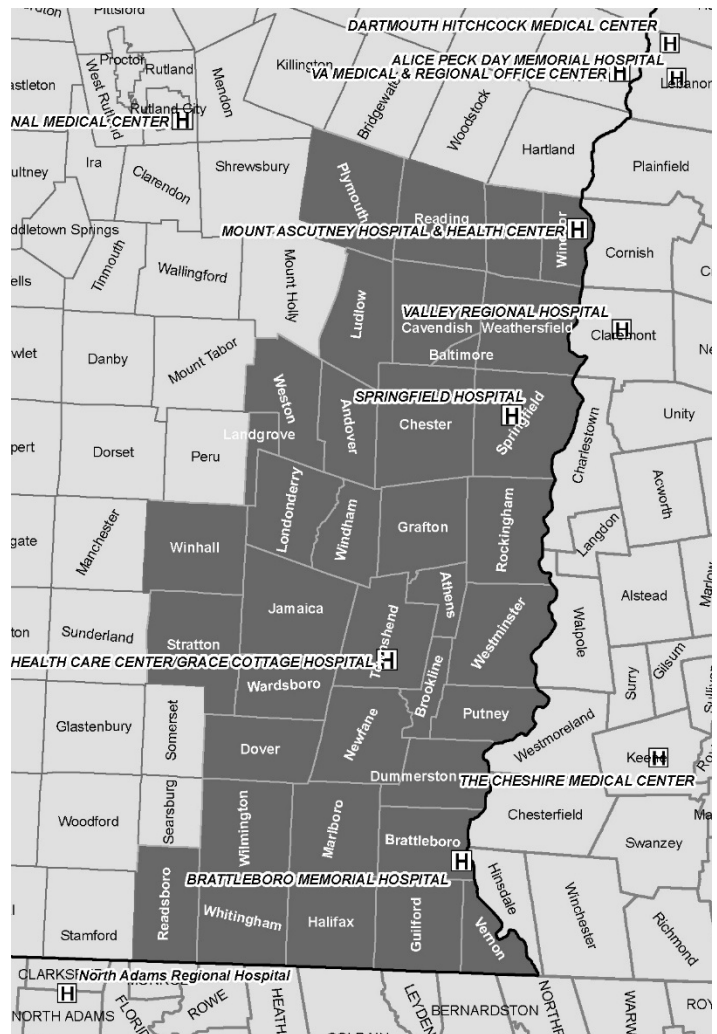
How is the program funded?

The program receives a block grant from VTrans each year that is part of the “Section 5310” funding from the Federal Transit Administration. A particular amount of money is given each year, with an opportunity for mid year adjustments in January. Rides are not reimbursed per user per trip. Once the grant is spent down, the transit operator would be covering any additional costs. For the purpose of the grant the fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

What kind of services does the E&D Program provide?

Since July 1, 2016 the program has been constrained to trips for:

- dialysis at 2 per week
- cancer at 3 per week
- out of town medical trips at 3 per month, and limited to within 25 miles of SEVT’s service area.
- Springfield in-town dial-a-ride - unconstrained
- shopping and senior meal trips by Brattleboro Taxi – unconstrained



Other trip purposes are eligible through the grant, but unfortunately there are insufficient funds to meet those needs.

What does the committee do?

Meeting month, or as needed, the E&D committee is primarily responsible for discussing the level of service that the transit providers provide given the amount of funding remaining for the year. Trying to maximize the amount of service provided can be complex, particularly when needs of the local elderly population varies considerably from month to month.

The Committee usually meets on Friday mornings - with the date of the meeting either set at the previous meeting or via email. Copies of agendas and minutes of the committee from 2011 onwards are available from Katharine Otto at SWCRPC.

Who is on the committee?

Our committee covers Windham County and the southern portion of Windsor County. The meetings are generally run by one of the Regional Planning Commissions. The committee has representatives from the following places:

- Transit provider – Southeast Vermont Transit
- Adult Day and Senior Centers – Springfield Hospital Adult Day^P, Gathering Place^P, Bellow Falls Senior Center^P
- Agency of Aging – Senior Solutions^P (Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont (COASEV))
- Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) – SWCRPC and Windham Regional Commission
- Hospital groups – eg Community Health Team

^P Designates partners who contribute towards match – either cash or in-kind.

Useful Abbreviations

AHS	Vermont Agency of Human Services
CHT	Springfield Medical Care Systems Community Health Team
COASEV	Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont (otherwise known as Senior Solutions)
E&D	Elders and Persons with Disabilities Transportation
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
MAHHC	Mount Ascutney Hospital and Health Center
MAPP	Mount Ascutney (Hospital) Prevention Partnership
MOOver	One of two divisions of Southeast Vermont Transit Association, providing transportation in the Deerfield Valley.
NEMT	Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation
NMM	Non-Medicaid Medical
RPC	Regional Planning Commission
SEVT	Southeast Vermont Transit. Formerly Connecticut River Transit (CRT) and Deerfield Valley Transit Association (DVTA) who merged in 2015.
SHAD	Springfield Hospital Adult Day
SMCS CHT	Springfield Medical Care Systems Community Health Team
SWCRPC	Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission
The Current	One of two divisions of Southeast Vermont Transit Association, providing transportation in Windham and Southern Windsor Counties except the Deerfield Valley.
VTrans	Vermont Agency of Transportation

Useful Definitions

- FTA – Federal Transit Administration. A component of the U.S. Department of Transportation that regulates and helps fund public transportation. FTA provides financial assistance for capital and operating costs and also sponsors research, training, technical assistance and demonstration programs.
- Human Service Agency - A government or not-for-profit organization that provides services for essential needs such as medical care, income support, housing, education, training, and public health, typically for people requiring help due to age, disability, low income or similar reasons.
- Human Service Transportation - Transportation provided by or on behalf of a human service agency to bring people participating in the agency's programs or services to those programs or services.
- Local Match - The state or local funds required by the Federal government to complement Federal funds for a project. For example, in the case of public transportation, the Federal government may provide 80 percent of the necessary funds for the purchase of a vehicle if the state and transit provider matches 20 percent. A match may also be required by states in funding projects which are a joint state and local effort.
- Section 5310 - Authorized under 49 USC Section 5310, a Federal program administered by USDOT to provide small buses and vans to eligible agencies which provide transportation services to elderly and disabled persons.

- Volunteer Driver - Services provided by volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles, donate their time to transport riders, and receive reimbursement for mileage at the federal rate.
- E&D Grant – Transportation providers working with human service agencies apply to VTrans annually for grant funds to cover operating costs associated with providing transportation to elders and person with disabilities. The grant application process begins in March, culminating in a Grant Agreement between VTrans and the transportation provider for a fiscal year that begins on July 1. The grant reimburses for 80% of actual operating costs, with the remaining 20% either coming from human service partners or in-kind. Local Agreements are entered into between the transportation provider and human service agencies to detail the scope of transportation services to be provided as well as other details including how the required 20% local match will be met.

Additional Resources

- Southeast Vermont Transit – All E&D rides are scheduled through “The Current” division - <http://crtransit.org/> 802-460-7433
- State of Vermont Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan. 2014 Update. <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/planning/documents/planning/Human%20Service%20Transportation%20Coordination%20Plan%202014.pdf>
- Windham Region Mobility Study. Coordination of Transportation Services to Improve Mobility for all of the Windham Region’s Residents. November 2012. <http://windhamregional.org/images/docs/publications/windham-region-mobility-study.pdf>
- Southern Windsor County A to B Mobility Project. <http://swcrpc.org/a2b-mobility-project/>

Contacts for additional information

- About services being provided, contact Jan Terk (jan@moover.com, 464-8487) or Rebecca Gagnon (rgagnon@crtransit.org, 460-7433)
- About the committee, contact Katharine Otto (kotto@swcrpc.org , 674-9201) or Erica Roper (eroper@sover.net, 257-4547)

Benefits and Impact of Utilizing Volunteer Driver Hours as In-Kind Match for E&D¹

Transit Providers' Grant Agreements with VTrans allow for the use of volunteer driver hours as in-kind match that can be applied towards the 20% match requirement of the E&D Program.

Eligible volunteer hours can include waiting time as well as driving time if the waiting time is a normal consequence of the trip.

In-Kind is calculated by multiplying the number of volunteer hours by the Vermont minimum wage, currently \$10.00 per hour.

Up to eighty percent (80%) of the dollar value associated with in-kind hours can then be applied as match, to a maximum of the 20% requirement.

The impact of applying in-kind hours is that the grant dollars are drawn down faster as evidenced below:

For simplicity this example assumes:

- \$1,000 total actual cost during the month for providing service
- 35 total volunteer hours, including waiting and driving time

Scenario #1: No in-kind hours used. Cash provided for 20% match

Total Expenses		\$ 1,000
Source of Funds:	20% Cash Match	\$ 200
	80% Drawn from the Grant	\$ 800

In this scenario \$800 is drawn from the grant, and \$200 is coming from another source as cash. This \$200 cash can come from human service partners as agreed to in the Local Agreement, from donations, or from any other source of non-Federal funds.

Scenario #2: Volunteer hours used as in-kind match. No cash match required.

Total Expenses		\$ 1,000
In-Kind available	35 hours X \$10.00	\$ 350
Total		\$ 1,350
80% of Total		\$ 1,080
Source of Funds:	Maximum 100% Expenses	
	Drawn from Grant	\$ 1,000

Summary:

- In the first scenario 80% of the total expenses, or \$800, is drawn from the grant stretching the funds in the grant and allowing for more service to be provided over the course of the fiscal year.
- In the second scenario 100% of the total expenses, or \$1000, is drawn from the grant, drawing down funds faster and allowing for less service to be provided over the course of the fiscal year.
- Both of these scenarios provide the same amount of service, but the second scenario spends the grant down faster, allowing for less of the fiscal year.

¹ Written by Jan Terk, 2013. Minor updates in 2017