

Seth Boyd called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members:

Sue Fillion
Randy Capitani
Brendan McNamara
Joel Bluming
Jason Rasmussen
Dan Thoemke
Seth Boyd
Chris Company

Members of the Public: Robin Reiske, Tami from Voices of Hope, and Sue and Kate from the AIDS Project

Staff Present:

Randy Schoonmaker, CEO, SEVT
Keith Johnson, Finance Manager, SEVT

Invited Guests:

Jeremy Whiting, VTrans

Public Input: Robin Reiske from Community Substance Use Response Coalition was present to discuss training drivers how to use Narcan either on buses or at a bus stop. Narcan is something this coalition distributed throughout the state to save lives. Other members from the team are present, Tami from Voices of Hope, Sue and Kate from the AIDS project. Robin said they have been speaking with our management but wanted to speak directly to the Board to discuss training the drivers. Robin noted it would not necessarily be mandated by you to use it, but at least carry it on the bus. Seth thanked Robin for being here. Randy C. thinks it is a good discussion to have. Robin said they can provide Narcan, or as an organization we can sign up to get our own supply. Drivers can carry them in and out of the bus, but the goal is setting up training. Sue expressed her support noting Narcan is in all the town buildings in Brattleboro and town employees are trained to administer. Jason is in support and asked if this is something new for drivers. Randy S. explained this is something new and presented Christine's notes since she is training in Arizona this week. Randy S explained we have had internal discussions surrounding this and noted we do not have our drivers do any medical assistance or first aid and all transit providers in Vermont have done the same. We have a number of drivers state they are not comfortable with Narcan and this would result in loss of drivers. Randy S noted that the temperature extremes of the buses may be a problem for the Narcan. We discussed a distributing cabinet in the offices, even though the Brattleboro office has extreme temperature swings as well. We felt that our drivers are hired to drive and operate the vehicle safely and don't feel any kind of medical care is the path we want to take. Robin spoke to Wendy Harrison who is supportive of seeing this on a statewide level. She noted it is not something that they feel anyone should be forced to carry or administer. Robin said that it is just something that if on the scene and available it can mean life or death. Sue said that some employees felt that if they were ever exposed and had Narcan it could save their own life. Randy C asked Robin how long the training is. Robin said it is a one-time training can be fifteen minutes or longer based on questions. Randy C said maybe the Board should go through the training prior before making the decision. Brendan said that as a first responder he administers Narcan on a fairly regular basis and he

feels the Board should explore. However, he noted if you have someone uncomfortable on scene it can be difficult. Brendan feels it should be looked at as an option, but it really needs to be investigated thoroughly. No Board member feels it should be forced. Randy C asked if it can be available on the bus, but not handled by the driver. Robin said it would have to come in and not stay on the buses due to temperature. Seth asked Robin to clarify that she is just looking to have some training with the SEVT Board and or Staff. She said yes they are just looking to train, but just wants to clarify any concerns as well. Seth thanked them for presenting but there needs to be a bit more conversation among the Board. Chris offered support for the Board training and understands what is involved with staff training. Seth asked Randy S to put on an agenda for a discussion at a future meeting.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Review minutes of October 15th: Reviewed with no changes

Ridership: Randy S presented ridership as of November 10th. Rides continue to increase on the Brattleboro routes and Route 53. Route 57 is struggling a bit. The 70s routes are behind combined, but the gap continues to close. Fixed routes in Rockingham are up 27%. Demand Response vans are equal to a year ago and the volunteer rides are off 20%. Some of the volunteer rides are now riding some fixed routes and Medicaid is slowing a little bit. Overall Rockingham is 13% higher than a year ago.

Wilmington fixed routes are doing very well, except Bennington which is affected by the number of Grace Christian students. Overall Wilmington fixed route is up 21%. Companywide we are up 14% from a year ago. Randy S. did a study for ridership from pre-pandemic. Seth asked for highlights. Randy S. explained all information we already see that Brattleboro rides have gone up drastically and are very different now, and Wilmington winter rides are down but we have not had good winter weather. In 2019 we were not in Medicaid, so those numbers are off. Randy S. will send the info after the meeting. Seth asked Jeremy what the state was looking like for ridership. Jeremy explained that other providers are seeing increases, but he does not have the actual reports yet. Joel asked what people can request for a Demand Response trip. Randy S. explained they can call our office and request Medicaid transportation, or people 60 or older or with a disability can call as well. Randy S will send Joel some information to post in Jamaica. Randy C asked if the Bennington route will continue to decline will that route go away as a cost saving measure. Randy S explained that route is CMAQ and to provide connection across the state. If there is diminishing ridership there would have to be a conversation with VTrans. Sue asked Randy S if there may be an opportunity to fundraise with Grace Christian.

Financials: Randy S provided the executive summary from the Finance Committee Meeting. Keith said we are still behind with Medicaid income. Accounts payable and accounts receivable were presented. The line of credit is zero but ahead of last year when we had a balance on the line of credit. We are cautiously optimistic that we are operating ahead of the budget.

VTrans Update: Jeremy noted that SEVT will be reviewed by the State but will wait until we get through the busy start of winter season. Jeremy said Randy S brought to the state's attention that there is good purchase power with used vehicles and Jeremy thanked him for the information. This will be discussed at a future VPTA meeting on how to purchase used vehicles. Randy C asked if VTrans has a policy on Narcan on buses. Jeremy said a quick search showed there is nothing on the FTA site for guidance but he will bring it to Ross and Dan for discussion. Seth said it would be helpful to know if other transit providers have implemented a program. Jeremy will bring back any information he finds out.

Fundraising: Randy S. presented the additional fundraising efforts for increasing local match. Randy S noted that he received one award from the Thomas Thompson Trust Fund for \$20,000 of the requested \$50,000. Other foundation requests have rolling deadlines and it will continue to be a

priority. We have sold five of the six sponsorships on the exterior of the buses. We would like to move the interior advertising to electronic monitors so we can sell more, since we are out of room for mounted ads inside the buses. However, we need the money to purchase the monitors. Seth encouraged the Board to get information to Randy S if anyone knows anyone in a foundation or anyone who has giving power.

Springfield Microtransit: Randy S. gave an update noting that there is an ongoing attempt for non-federal and non-state funding sources for Springfield microtransit. Randy S said that there are some new funding leads next spring. The estimated cost is about \$240,000 to run. Seth asked if there is any action needed from the Board. Randy S. said no action is needed and that this is just an update to the Board. Joel asked if there is any progress on the bus route on Route 30. Randy S. explained no progress and that the state denied the 2024 grant application for that route. Seth asked what the timing is for grant applications. Randy S said late April with the awards in late May. Randy S explained that there is local initiative in Springfield to get microtransit going, but there is not that same local initiative on the Route 30 corridor. Although there is a need for it, there is not the economic energy and resources directly applied. Randy C asked why the cost is higher in Springfield. Randy S explained that when you have all costs included, even the Brattleboro and Windsor micro transit fully allocated indirect costs bring the total higher. When we apply, we use the operating only costs for the requests.

Executive Session: None needed

Motion to adjourn from Joel seconded by Dan adjourned at 11:01am.