

**Burlington Committee On Accessibility
Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2013, Conference Room 12**

Attendees: Patrick Standen, co-chair; Jamie Smith and Liz Curry, CCTA; Ralph Montefusco, co-chair; Greg Huysman, Opportunities Credit Union; Shelly Waterman; Ron Redmond; Ned Holt; Ardelle Cabre; Kesha Ram

Announcements:

- Patrick Standen mentioned his involvement with ECHO Center and project related to their dock system. ECHO looking for member of the Accessibility Committee to attend upcoming planning meeting. Patrick to reach out to Brad Stephenson
- Shelly Waterman mentioned Tuesday, November 26 at 1:45 p.m. for Universally Accessible Playground grand opening at Flynn School. Slide show and gathering on playground where it is to be located.

Convened at 4:10 pm.

Presentation by Opportunities Credit Union, full service credit union Vermont's only community development credit union; chartered specifically to serve the financial needs of low income, un-banked and underserved populations and permitted to accept "non-member" deposits. Greg Huysman, business development manager, presented information about the Independence Fund program that offers affordable financing and terms for all types of assistive technology to improve life -- home and vehicle modifications, wheelchairs, scooters, computers, assistive equipment, hearing aids and dentures. Product: low interest loans for individuals, families, non-profits.

- Ardell asked about a talking ATM. North Street location to receive one soon.

CCTA & SSTA Presentation: presentation by Jamie Smith, CCTA Mobility Manager and Liz Curry, grants manager at CCTA. Has a fixed route bus system and Para transit service (door to door) developed in 1991. CCTA contracted with Special Services Transportation Agency (a private not - for - profit corporation operating out of Colchester, VT started in May 1982) to provide service. Must be eligible for program. Service 100% locally funded and funds tight.

- For eligibility, the determination process considers weather/temperature, terrain/path of travel, time of day, infrastructure, distance and cognitive or mental abilities to navigate the system.
- Eligibility term is 3 years
- Three Parts: (contract with Long Trail physical therapy)
 - PART I, Applicant form, PART II certified health care professional form
 - In-person interview and evaluation
 - Letter w/in 21 days from CCTA describing ADA paratransit eligibility. Can appeal the determination.
- ADA Paratransit Eligibility
 - **Unconditional** (person cannot use any part of fixed route system); **Conditional** (eligible when snow and ice present, for example); **Not Eligible.**
- Comparisons: Fixed route cheaper; ADA Paratransit requires 24 hour advance reservation. Services area = $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from fixed bus service. Excludes LINK and commuter service.

- Jamie Smith, (802) 864-0629 ext. 36 Information & Services Jamie Smith, <http://www.cctaride.org/bus-information/ada-paratransit.html>
- Feedback from Ardell:
 - **Appeal Process for SSTA ridership was discussed.** Ardell and Jamie to connect off line
 - **Knowledge of Braille lacking in CCTA materials.** If a person wants a Braille schedule they should ask for a specific route, versus asking for the entire system (one page in type = three pages in Braille). Having the entire route schedule is cumbersome.
 - **Advantage of Familiarity with SSTA Drivers.** Ardell reported the importance of familiarity between drivers and passengers; some elderly people are more comfortable with the certain drivers, for example, who are familiar about an individual's health needs and concerns. Ardel said that when a driver sees the same person every day, you may take a little extra time if you notice they're having a bad day. Drivers know their riders and it would serve everyone if SSTA could connect riders with passengers where there are strong relationships. Schedules are made a day in advance. CCTA said SSTA's schedule requires some flexibility and requirement for cost efficiency and that that's not always possible.
 - **Personal Care Attendant** travels free of charge. Companions would need to pay.

Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- **Ralph Montefusco reported about his meeting with Tom Ayres, and First Night** re: accessibility issues and concerns. Brad Stephenson, committee member, to accompany First Night staff to look at prospective venues. First Night staff said that many of First Night's venues are privately-owned (Church's, non-city venues) and the events are run by the staff at those locations. First Night said they'd like to take a multi-year approach re: accessibility and get feedback at the end of each year, then develop plans for the following year, so that there was continuous improvement.
 - **Shelly Waterman said a coordinated community awareness campaign is needed re: accessibility.** Talk about inclusivity, use PSA's, WCAX's "the 30." Committee discussed a variety of strategies. VCIL is planning an awareness campaign in June; opportunity to join with them. Committee talked about ways to produce regular PSA's for TV and radio. Ralph said we are going to be forming a media committee.
 - **Kesha Ram** headed to legislature in the new year; future staffing to be considered for the Accessibility Committee. Staff person needed who can provide more permanent and consistent service and Mayor's office to be evaluating. Committee needs to decide what it wants and where it wants to go, in order to keep the effort sustainable. Kesha also talked about the future status of the committee. There are no terms for this committee and not clear organizational structure; Kesha suggested co-chairs and she meet with City Councilors to help put the committee where it wants to be with term limits, roles, actions, etc. Councilor Bushor to be invited to a future committee meeting. Committee to plan in advance of that meeting. Ralph Montefescuo suggested that we can also go to a City Council meeting.
 - **Shelley Waterman** suggested we build a list and calendar of community members who can invited to future committee meetings. Map out the year so that we more intention about meeting agenda.
 - **Ned Holt** discussed his appreciation for Bradley Stephenson and others to helping need stay on track. Plans to continue on with his diligence on projects, encouraging accessibility where it's not required. The City's strategy of deploying SeeClickFix can be part of the work of the Accessibility Committee.
- Next Meeting: Mid December proposed.
Adjourned at 6 PM