

# Southeast Vermont Transit Microtransit Projects



*Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network Webinar*

# What is microtransit?

Microtransit is Uber with a van

Real-time, dynamically routed public transit service open to everyone

Different from taxi service

Handicapped accessible

# Vermont's Microtransit Process

1. Concepts from each of Vermont's 7 transit providers were proposed to Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)
2. VTrans awarded feasibility study funding to 12 proposed projects, split over two years
3. After the studies were complete, VTrans selected five initial projects to award pilot program funding
4. Pilots are funded for two years by 80% federal Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality (CMAQ) grants and 20% state transportation funds for FY23
5. The first round pilots are Barre, Middlebury, Manchester, Morrisville, and Windsor
6. After the second round of feasibility studies are complete, VTrans may award funding for additional pilot projects in FY24
7. Windsor will be the first FY23 pilot to begin operations in January 2023

# What are the Benefits of Microtransit?

- fills gaps in existing fixed route services
- helps meet unmet needs
- serves populations not served by Medicaid, E&D, VA, others
- addresses spontaneous travel needs
- quality of life benefits
- allows groups like Volunteers in Action to use their resources elsewhere
- greater equity in transportation options

## Target Ridership Markets

- seniors
- youth
- carless households and households with only one car
- people needing transportation to jobs
- temporary needs riders – injury, car repair, temporary housing
- persons with disabilities



# Two SEVT Microtransit Projects

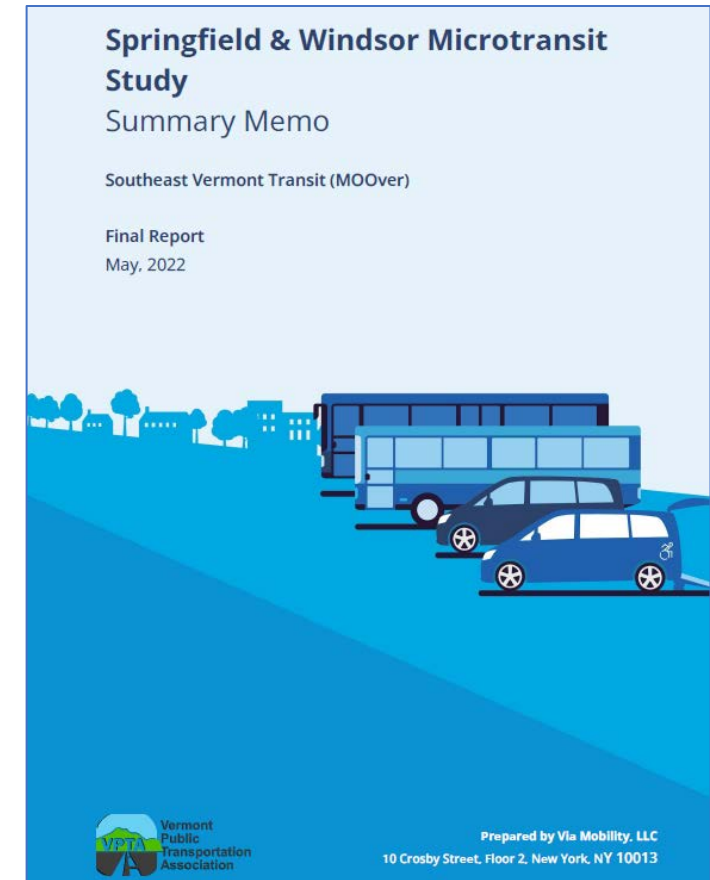
## Windsor

Feasibility Study completed May 2022

Pilot Program starting 1/23/23

## Brattleboro

Feasibility Study underway, should be complete  
by March 2023



# Windsor Microtransit Project



# Why was Windsor selected?

Windsor was chosen because:

- it had no existing public transit routes
- one vehicle should cover the project, making it less expensive
- strong advocacy by Mt. Ascutney Hospital
- seems like the right size town for microtransit

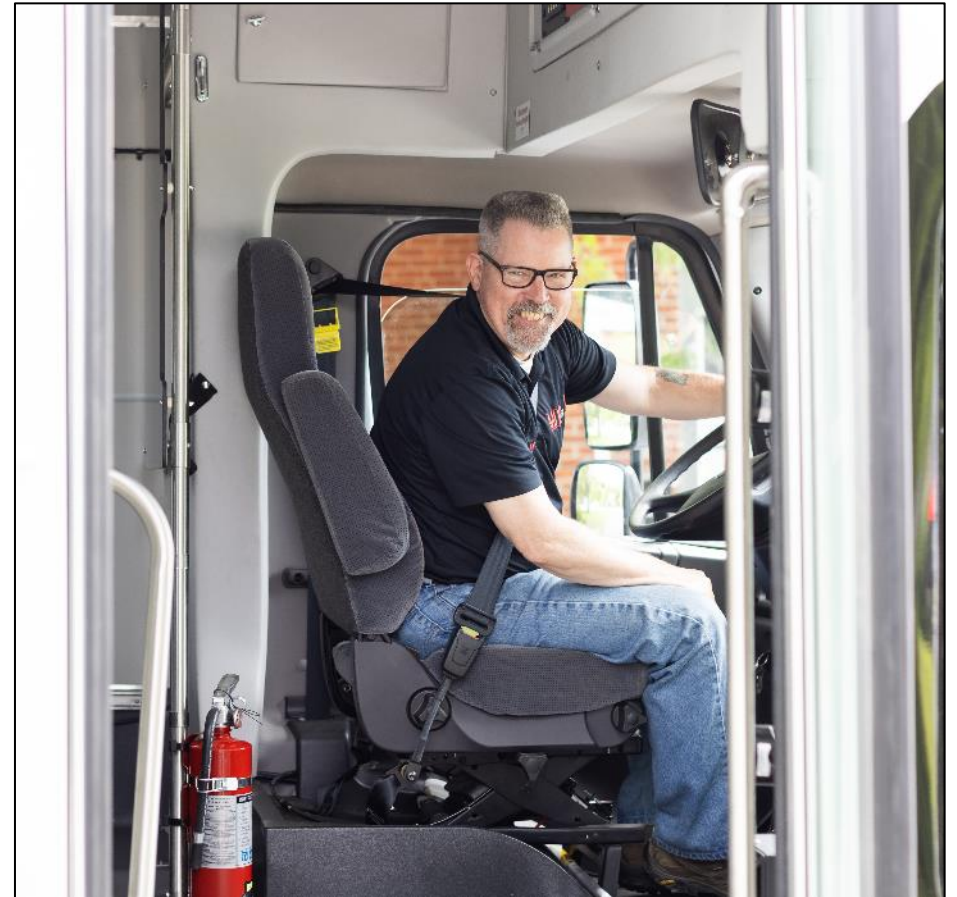
# Project Funding

The project is funded by a CMAQ New Start grant through VTrans.

\$120,000 federal funds

30,000 state funds

\$150,000 total



# Project Organization

**SEVT** is responsible for administering the grant

**The Core Team** steers the project

**The Stakeholder Group** provides input for their clients

**The Public** provides key input

# Public Input Is Key

Two sets of public meetings

Community bulletin boards

Website

Social media

Surveys – riders, non-riders, businesses,  
social service agencies

Newspaper, radio, TV

Mailings

One on one meetings with key stakeholders

Strong Core Team leadership – varies by  
nature of the proposed service – Mt.

Ascutney Hospital, Brattleboro

Development Credit Corporation



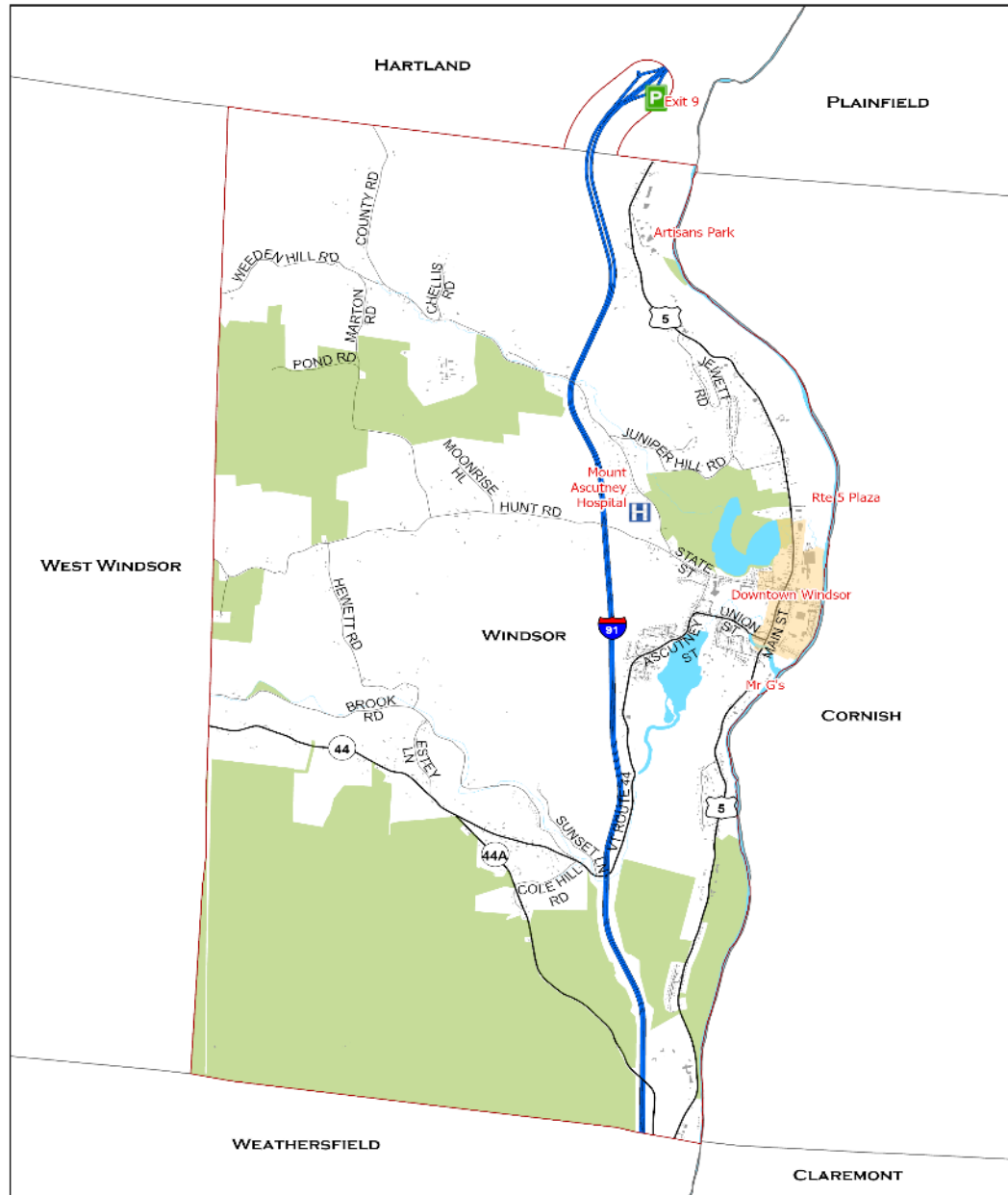
# How will Microtransit work in Windsor?

- Monday-Friday non-holiday 6:00 am-6:00 pm
- Maximum 30 minutes wait time from request of ride to pick up (more likely 15 minutes maximum)
- Curb to curb service or a short walk to meet the van
- Riders share a vehicle with other riders
- Fare free
- Within the Town of Windsor boundaries plus Exit 9
- One lift-equipped vehicle
- Trips must be reserved, and can be done by an app, calling the SEVT Office, or booking online.

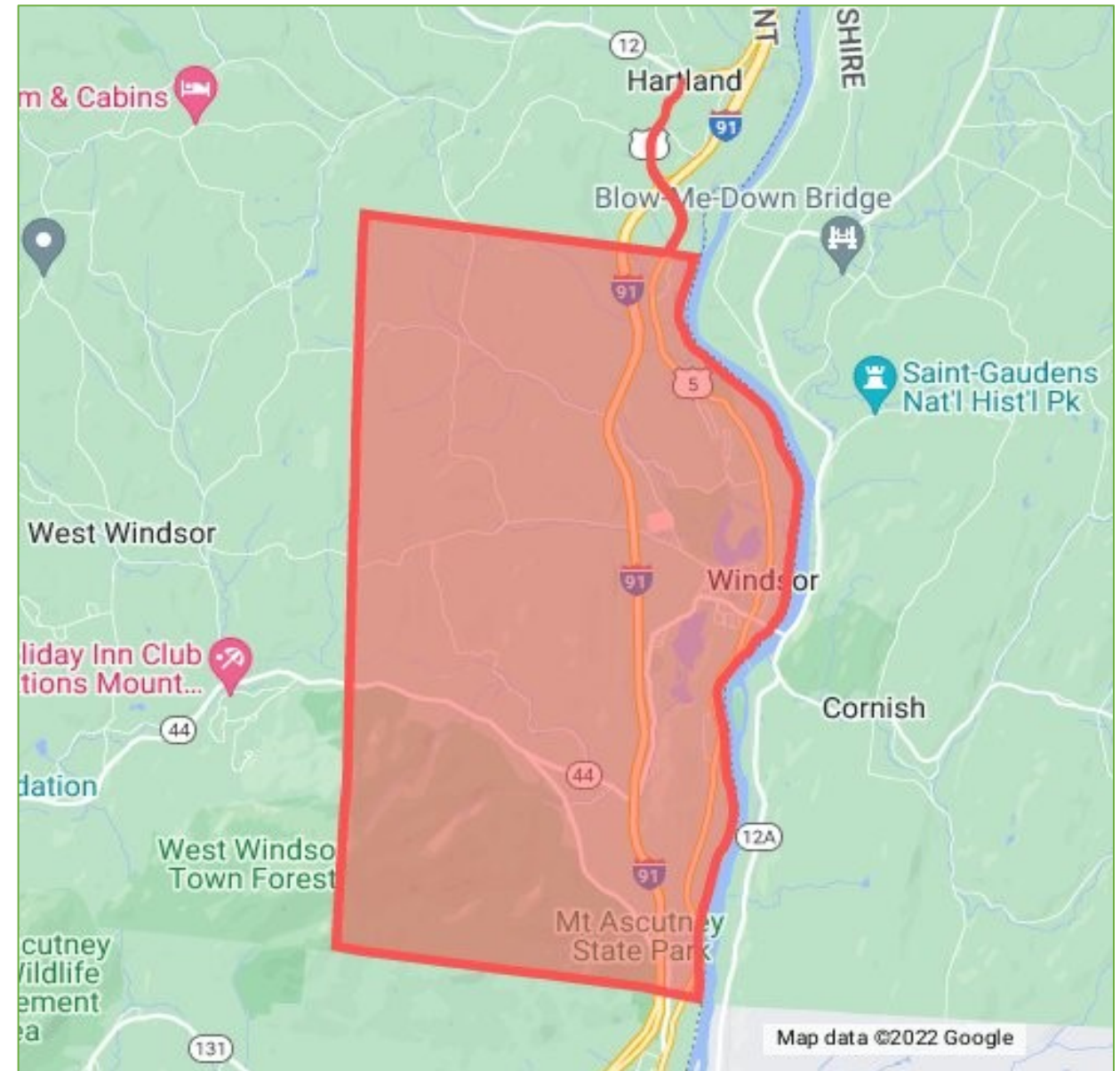


*No hailing of rides along the route.*

## Service Area Map

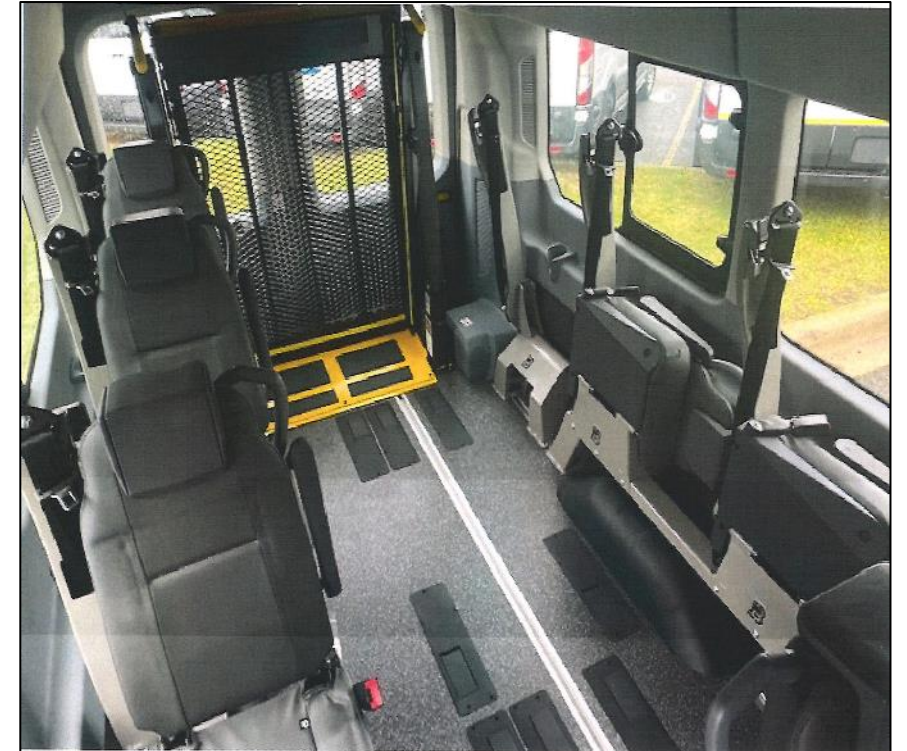


## What Riders Will See on the App



# Project Calendar

9/14	Public meeting 6:00 pm
9/14-10/7	Online and other public input gathered
9/15	Issue first public survey
9/17	Public meeting 11:00 am
1/9	Second public meeting on draft plan
1/2-31	Marketing of new system
1/9-16	Second round of public input
1/11-18	Field testing
1/23	First date of service



The new service is called the Micro**Moo**  
7-passenger Ford Transit  
All wheel drive, studded snow tires  
Up to two wheelchairs at a time

# Brattleboro Project

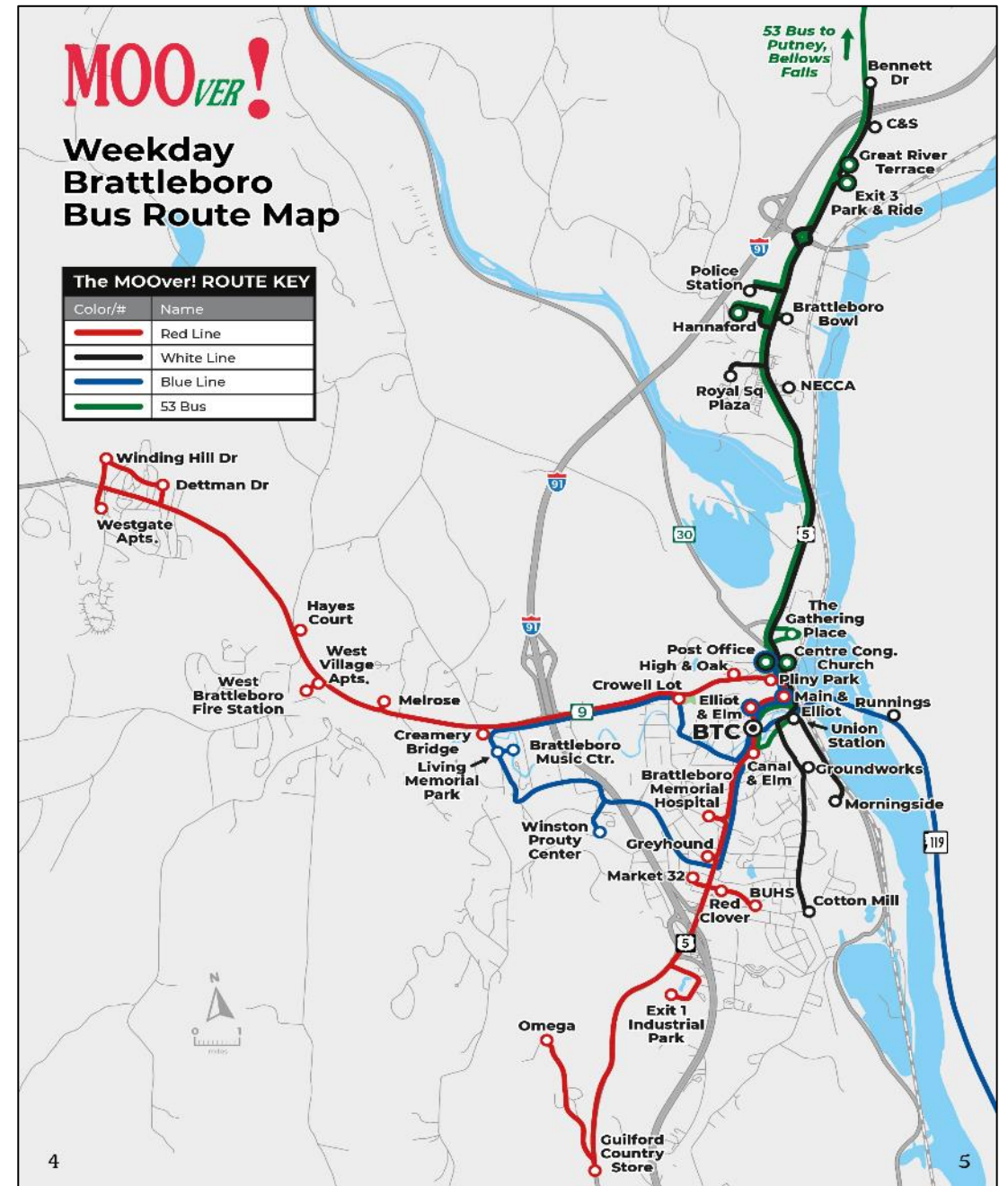
Brattleboro has very high ridership 7:00 am-5:00 pm  
Monday-Saturday

Red Line – residential areas, hospital, high school,  
career center

White Line – employment, shopping, long-term  
hotels

Blue Line – Walmart, social services, park/ski  
hill/pool/skating rink, Amtrak

All three meet for transfers hourly at the Brattleboro  
Transportation Center



# Brattleboro Unmet Needs

- Second and third shift employees
- Afghan refugees
- Students' after school programs – athletics, theatre, circus, other
- People getting home from 5-7:00 pm after the fixed routes close
- Dining, hospital discharges, cultural, municipal functions



# Proposed Brattleboro Microtransit Scope

5:00-11:30 pm Monday-Friday

Within the Brattleboro Town limits  
(possibly Walmart until 6:00 pm)

One vehicle 7 seats w/o  
wheelchairs, 1 seat when two  
wheelchairs occupied

If funded, start September-October  
2023 after public input process



# How Can I Get Involved?

Participate in feasibility studies in your area

Contact your local transportation provider for meetings and info, use their website

Vermont Public Transportation Association

[www.vpta.net](http://www.vpta.net) 833-387-7200

Vermont Agency of Transportation

[www.vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit](http://www.vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit)

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**Become a community driver**

Advocate for public transit support

