



 **PROTERRA**

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BATTERY ELECTRIC

ZERO EMISSIONS


Future of Rural Transit

Project Overview



Vision


Prepare Vermont to have the most efficient, equitable, and cost-effective rural transportation system in the US





Project Goal

Expand transportation options for rural communities by offering combined bus services to schools and community members using electric buses.





What's Happened So Far

- Researched models of combined service
 - In Vermont and beyond
- Recruited interested school districts
 - Mount Mansfield Unified Union SU
 - Orange East SU
- Feasibility Study
 - Combined service is legal
 - Strong partnership needed among SU and transit agency



Findings

- Students traveling to school on public transit can work
- School transportation can't always support equitable after school opportunities for students
- Public transit could supplement school transportation services
- Replacing school transportation routes w/public transit service is complicated
- Students are an important market segment for public transit ridership
- Education (climate/equity/economy) needed to increase student ridership on a school or transit bus

Successes and Challenges

Successes

- Interest among transit agencies (Tri Valley Transit)
- VTrans can fund route amendments

Challenges

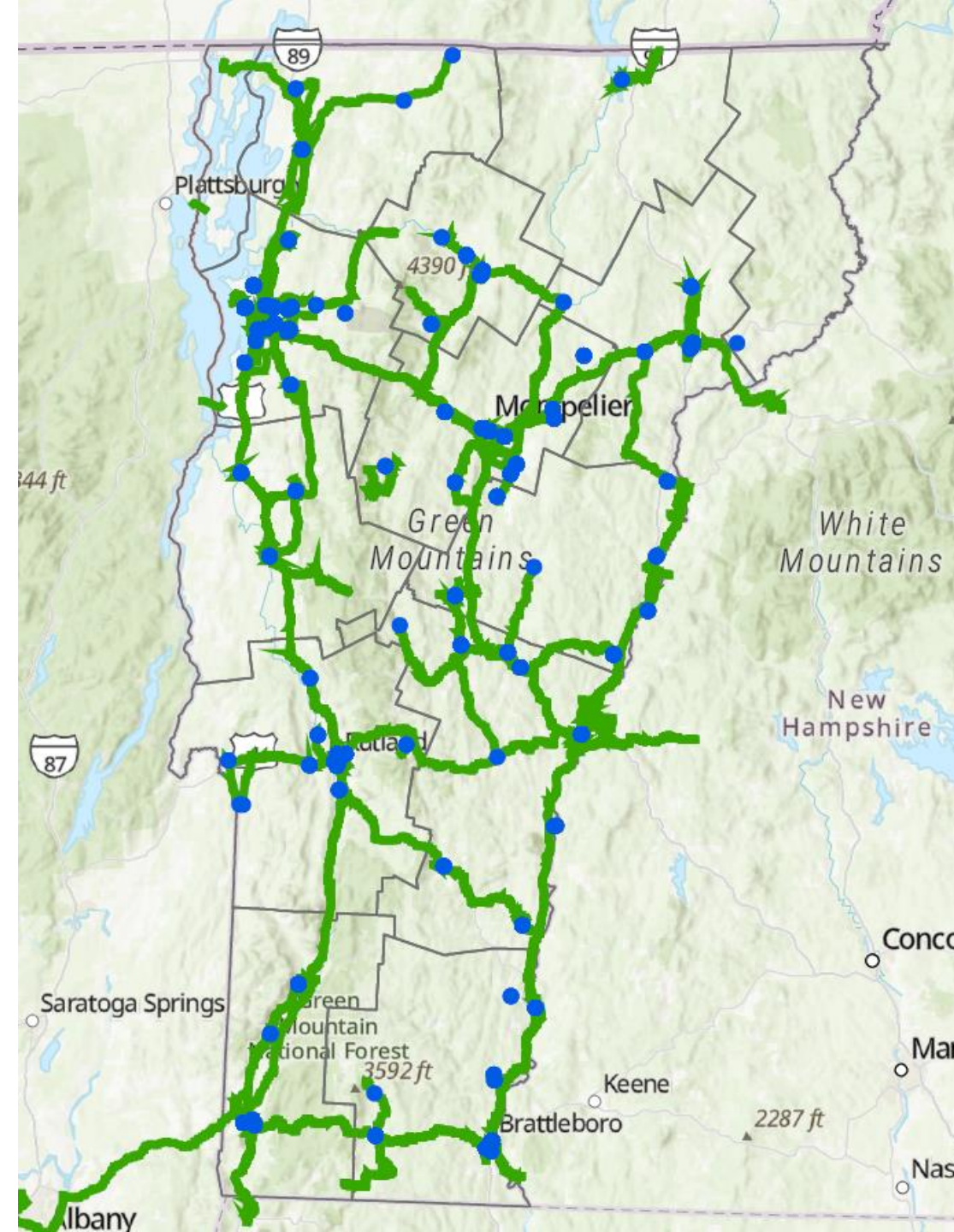
- Staffing challenges at schools and transit agencies (opportunity?)
- New routes (or deviations) need ridership
- Successful implementation will require champion(s)

Opportunities

75+ high schools within 3 miles of existing fixed route transit

- Small deviations can increase opportunity for high school students
- Serve communities with school choice
- Serve tech centers with large catchment areas

Strengthen transit with more ridership





Value Proposition(s)

1. Transit providers

- Increase ridership
- create life-long transit riders

2. School districts

- Increase student (and staff) mobility and access to activities
- Potential to save money
- Reduce number/length of school bus routes



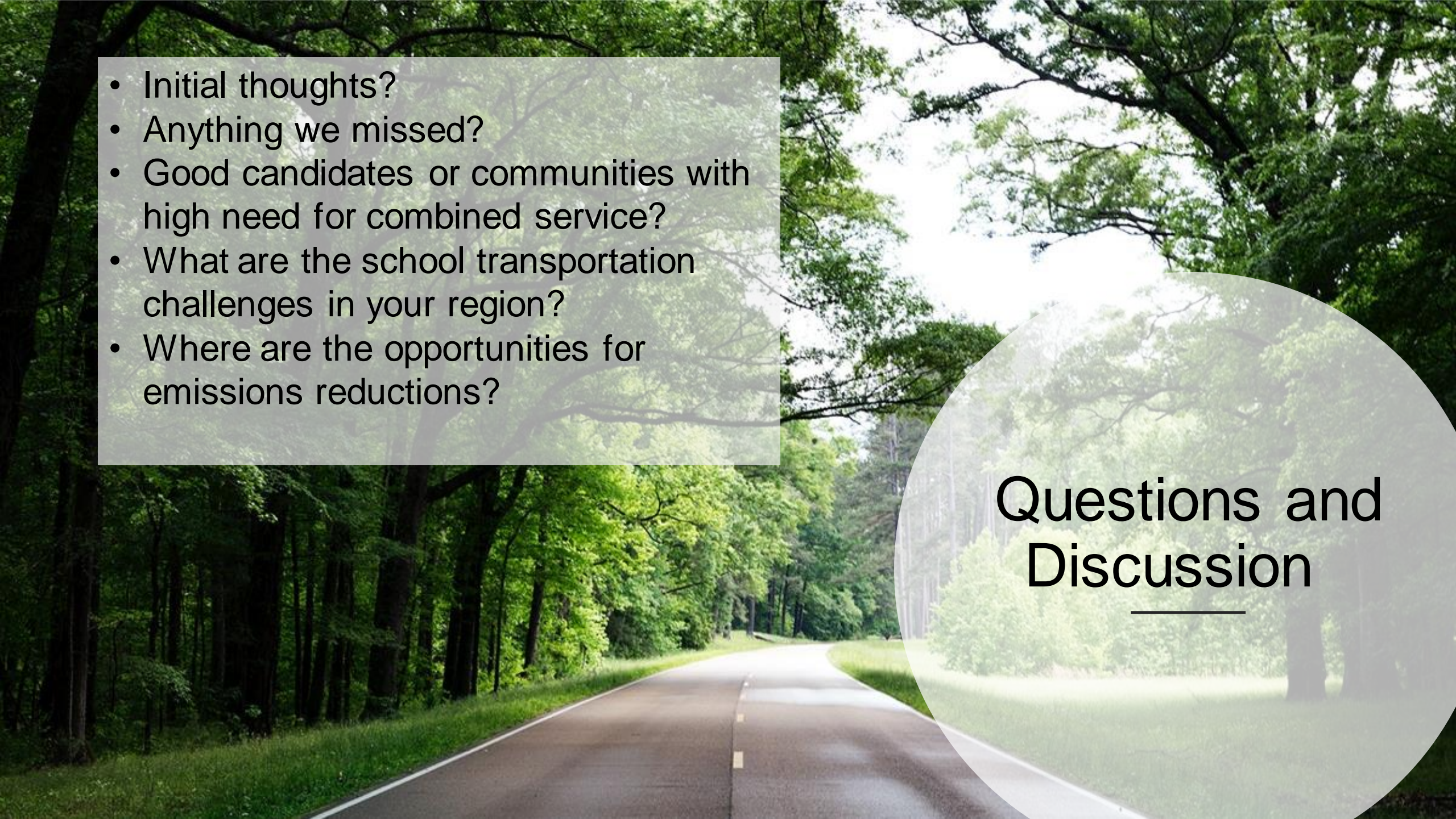
3. Towns

- Reduce school transportation budgets
- Increase transit access for everyone



4. Students and parents

- 
- Increased transportation options and independence for students
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- Initial thoughts?
 - Anything we missed?
 - Good candidates or communities with high need for combined service?
 - What are the school transportation challenges in your region?
 - Where are the opportunities for emissions reductions?

Questions and Discussion

Appendix





Program Partners

Steering committee:

- Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur (VEIC)
- Cara Robecheck (EAN)
- Linda McGinnis (EAN)
- Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco (VT CCC)
- Chris Damiani (Green Mountain Transit)
- Dan Currier and Ross McDonald (AOT/Go VT)
- Mariah Keagy (VEEP)

Advisory committee includes individuals from: GMP, AARP, VCIL, Vital Communities, VNRC, VSA, VBSR, VPPSA, DPS, WCSU, TRORC, NWRPC

Feasibility Study



Mount Mansfield United Unified School District

Transit partner: GMT

Focus on supplemental service: after school

- Students' extra curricular participation is limited by school bus schedule

Richmond scoping study underway with GMT

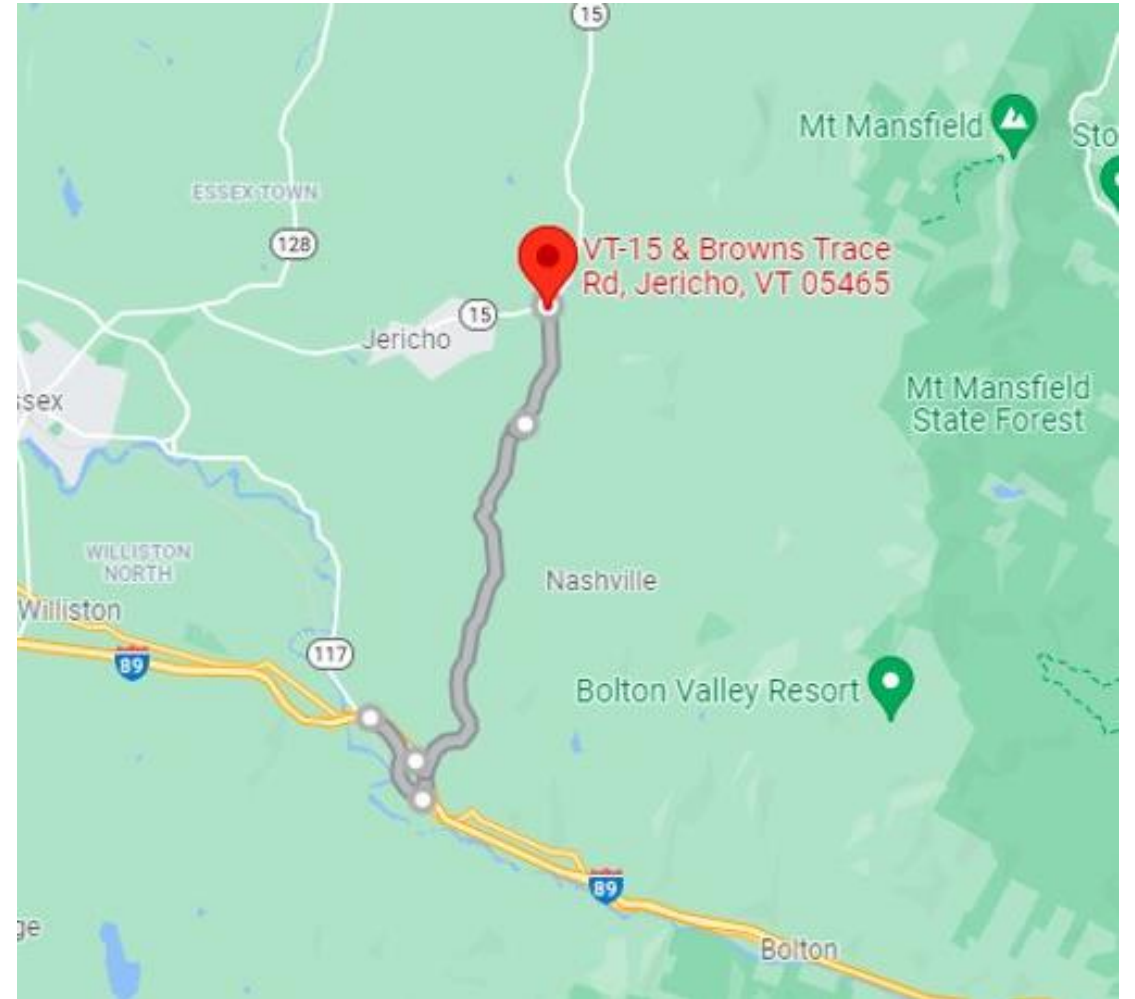
- Consider students as riders

Limited capacity at GMT to consider route expansion



MMUUSD Proposed Route

- Along Rt 2 in downtown Richmond
- Serve:
 - Riverview Commons Manufactured Housing Community
 - Camel's Hump Middle School
 - MMU
- Could be electrified



Take-aways

- GMT has limited capacity to increase service
- Difficult to staff during peak hours (after school)
- Long deadhead trips from GMT garage in Burlington
- Our survey revealed that a third of respondents are interested in combined service in the MMUUSD

Would additional stops aid in afterschool participation?	# Respondents
Yes	25
No	44

OESU

Transit partner: Tri Valley Transit

- Focus on bringing students to activities off campus and employment in village centers and shoppes
- Small deviations in existing route could serve two high schools and the Bradford Tech Center
- TVT has a strong interest in collaborating
 - Already providing transportation to Sharon Academy



Orange East Proposed Route

- Run along Rt 5
- Could Serve
 - Bradford Tech Center
 - Blue Mountain HS
 - Newbury Village
 - Ox Box High School
- Small deviations from existing River Route
- Could be electrified

