

Underhill Town Meeting Alternative Transportation Survey, March 2018

Overview

- We received 343 responses to this survey. This is an extraordinary response rate.
- Although the survey pretty clearly included considerations for car/van pooling, ride sharing and other alternative services, there appeared to be some focus on properties/characteristics of the commuter bus service. Perhaps this reflected the importance of this service in people's minds to the overall alternative transportation picture or to some degree the prominence of the bus as an issue including its position as a ballot item.
- Of the 343 respondents, almost all traveled somewhere regularly.
 - ▶ a plurality traveled for work, with appointments and social activities a reasonable 2nd and 3rd respectively
 - ▶ (work trips can reasonably be provided for with a well defined/scheduled service, while the other 2 require more flexible services)
- Burlington is the single highest cited destination, but other less defined destinations was the 2nd most frequently identified destination
 - ▶ Other destinations (mostly) not served by the commuter bus including Colchester, South Burlington, and Williston also figure prominently in the identified destinations
- While departures are heavily weighted to traditional commuting rush hour (07:00 - 09:00), returns are more spread out both earlier (typical of appointments and other business) and later (typical for dinner in town or late work)
- The vast majority of respondents follow the typical American pattern and drive alone to their destinations
- There is significant interest in some form of alternative transportation (less than 1 in 3 expressing disinterest) but only limited interest in ride sharing (a form particularly well suited to unusual schedules and/or destinations). It is unclear whether this is due to actual dislike, dislike of some previous unsatisfactory experience, or simple unfamiliarity.
- By far, the single greatest concern with alternative transportation services was the convenience of the schedule to individual needs
 - ▶ although significant numbers of respondents cited destinations not served by the commuter bus, few cited this as a barrier or possible improvement to alternative transportation use
 - ▶ a wide range of potential enhancements to alternative transportation service were cited by respondents; only greater frequency bus service stood out specifically. Other improvements could likely yield incremental improvements in service. It is unclear if all respondents fully understood alternative incentives specifically, while even fewer appear to have contemplated desired improvements
- By a roughly 3:1 margin, respondents were willing to support some form of transportation services via the property tax
 - ▶ this 3:1 margin is roughly the same as the margin by which the Australian ballot measure supporting property tax support for the commuter bus service, largely validating both the survey and the ballot measure (ie voters understood what they were voting for and expressed that opinion)
 - ▶ the single highest number of supporters for tax support was \$50, more than 3x the current rate of support for the commuter bus of about \$13 per property/taxpayer
 - ▶ appreciable support was found even at the \$100 level, the highest choice included on the survey

Results

1. Do you travel somewhere regularly? If so, for what purpose(s)?

Work	Education	Appointments	Social	Shopping	Other
225	23	131	108	8	50

2. Where do you travel regularly (city/town)?

Burlington	South Burlington	Winooski	Colchester	Essex	Williston	Montpelier	Other
150	27	5	23	95	40	6	119

Other breakout (see enumeration below for detail, some responses included more than one destination)

Underhill	Jericho	Richmond	County	Jeffersonville	St Albans
15	25	11	6	7	10

3. At what times of day do you generally leave?

<700	700	900	>1200
	900	1200	
57	139	45	15

Return?

<1200	1200	1600	1800	>2000
	1600	1800	2000	
12	54	115	48	24

4. How do you generally commute? (select all that apply)

Drive Alone	Vanpool	Park & Ride	Bike	Bus	Carpool	Other
297	1	36	15	15	14	26

5. Would you consider using alternative modes of transportation if the schedule worked for you?

Yes	Maybe	No
123	115	97

6. What would encourage you to use alternative modes of travel?

Incentives/ Rewards	Guaranteed Ride Home	Bus Pass Discount	Access to information	Ride matching service	More frequent bus service
48	62	60	64	48	138

7. What are your primary barriers preventing you from using alternative transportation?

Scheduling issues	Cost/expense	Doesn't feel safe	Not satisfied with services provided	Other
241	12	3	21	94

See detail below for additional volunteered responses

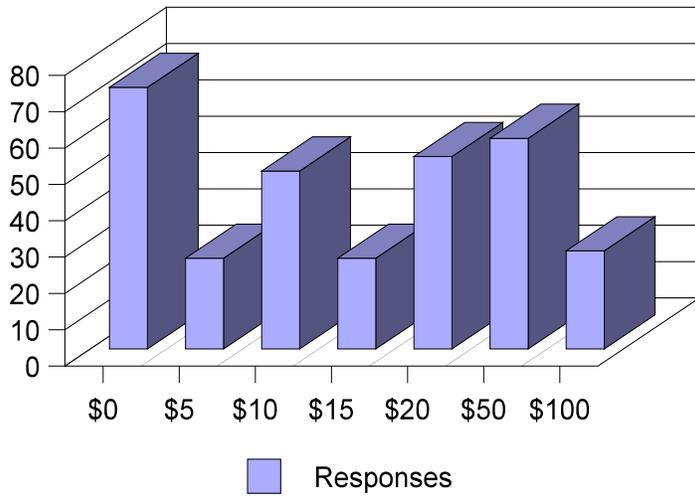
8. Are you interested in participating in a ride-share program?

No	Yes, as a driver	Yes, as a rider
231	54	53

9. Would you be willing to support alternative transportation options through your annual property taxes? If so, how much per household per year?

\$0	\$5	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$50	\$100
72	25	49	25	53	58	27

Support via Taxes



Additoinal volunteered responses to survey questions

Commute where? Other

- Smuggs, Eden
- Jeff
- Jericho, Jeff
- St Albans
- Waterbury
- varies
- Jericho, Westford
- Jeff,
- varies
- Newport
- varies
- Cambridge
- Charlotte
- Jericho
- all over
- no
- VT
- middlesex
- greensboro
- mmu
- richmond
- Underhill Jericho
- St. Albans
- Georgia
- St J
- Craftsbury
- Richmond
- Jericho
- Jericho
- Underhill
- Underhill
- Swanton
- Morrisville
- Jericho
- Stowe
- Chittenden County area
- Milton
- Richmond
- St Albans
- Jericho
- Jeff
- Richmond, St Albans
- Jericho
- St Albans
- Jericho
- All over
- All over
- Shelburne, Hinesburg
- Underhill
- Underhill
- Hospital
- Shelburne
- Underhill, Jeff - Smuggs
- Jericho, No. Ferrisburg
- Don't go far.
- stowe
- Jeffersonville
- St Albans
- jericho, cambridge, fairfax, georgia
- underhill
- Richmond
- Chittenden County
- Underhill
- Jericho
- n/a
- Chittenden County
- n/a
- Richmond
- Underhill
- Jericho
- n/a
- Shelburne
- Underhill
- Richmond, Jericho
- Underhill
- Waterbury
- St Albans
- n/a
- E Jct
- E Jct
- Underhill/Jericho
- Jericho
- nearby towns
- all over Vt
- Hinesburg
- Stowe,Jericho
- Greensboro&more
- St Albans
- E Jct
- Bolton,Fletcher
- St Albans
- NA
- town
- Jericho
- Jericho
- Swanton
- St Albans
- Jeff-
- So Royalton
- Jeff-
- retired, don't commute
- Underhill,Jericho,Richmond
- Jericho,Cambridge
- Waterbury
- johnson
- Jericho
- richmond
- all over Vt
- richmond
- Underhill,Jericho,Richmond
- green river in summer
- NW&NC VT
- Underhill,Poker to River rd
- Jericho
- various
- all over Chittenden
- west chittenden
- Johnson

There were comparatively few volunteered notes on possible inducements to use of alternative transportation, however, there were quite a few volunteered answers with respect to barriers to it

- knowledge of other commuters with like needs
- work from home
- no buses to Williston
- inconvenient
- routes that are useful
- needs room in vehicle
- uninformed about alternatives
- needs tools
- VNA
- varied schedule
- location dependent
- don't need
- work
- not satisfied with current services
- destination and time challenges
- hate public transportation
- Dog
- just learning
- to far steep hill
- need car for errands
- stay home
- irreg sched
- small kids
- 2 jobs
- Need vehicle all day
- roads not safe
- not on bustling
- need flexibility
- Only drive from Irish Settlement to MMU
- No regular schedule
- Children
- Bus stop not close to job
- need truck
- Other, no detail
- Routes don't work
- Use vehicle for work
- Pick up material goods or bring bike
- Own a business
- Don't feel safe walking/biking on RT 15
- vehicle required for work
- Need to be at UHC at 7:30am
- easier/more convenient to drive alone with my dog
- irregular hours, locations
- same
- I don't commute
- Not familiar with bus etiquette: cost? how pay? how communicate with driver? where bus travel and what is schedule?
- irregular travel times
- limited destinations
- Don't need
- flexibility
- don't need very often, haven't explored
- childcare
- don't need at present, prefer my own schedule, kids
- having to carry groceries, etc on a bus
- don't really need but support
- need midday service
- irreg sched
- need midday service
- gym @ night
- need car during day for work
- no need
- inconvenient
- unpredictable sched during day; drive to meetings
- childcare, school drop off, hard to schedule w/ bus
- no transport
- Distance from main road
- Can't bring dog on bus
- bus too cold, inconvenient stops
- Lugging groceries&varied errands
- evening meetings 1 per week
- job requires car for client visits
- retired, no regular travel to same location
- independent
- no route for travel
- other locations needed
- young children with car seats
- not needed
- comfort or having immediately available
- drop off / pickup child
- not interested
- haven't researched
- travel to get more goods than can carry
- need company vehicle
- don't know others on same time
- don't believe in them
- unaware of options/schedules
- carpenter, commuting changes often
- bus doesn't go near workplace
- bus doesn't go near workplace
- inappropriate for needs
- not frequently needed today
- various

Comments from Town Meeting day alternative transportation survey

- should be commuter to Rich PR, more bus times, better bike paths off road,
- self employed, drives all over
- need earlier bus, drives car 1 per week to do errands
- works in construction
- uses bus 1X per week,
- It's a good thing
- agree w/ needs, pers doesn't need
- don't use bus but support for others & good env
- Support for those h\who can use
- bus ruins grass
- I don't bus because my schedule varies and no regular bus. Expensive to add more times when not supporting itself now.
- \$1000 - carshare, saturating Underhill
- retired-no regular need for transport to routine destination
- maybe do ride share with neighbor
- Would use Jeff commuter more often if it went through EJ. Work is Williston. Transfers take too much time.
- Retired- no longer commuting.
- Self employed - hard to make schedule work.
- We need the bus!
- I would love to ride the bus, but I work at CCV locations and no convenient service
- Study the Arlington pilot project implemented after the bus route.
- No subsidized transportation
- Not tax based!!
- best option would be a safe way to travel on Rt 15
- Might be interested in participating in ride share program
- I am retired
- work from home, irregular hours
- Less pollution.
- Retired. Don't travel regularly
- Child in school. Need flex if need to pick up.
- We would need more mid day bus runs. We are retired.
- More frequent service. Only in Essex for a couple of hours.
- would use if there was a mid day pick up.
- Would greatly like to use alt transp, but current schedule too restrictive; unaware of other options.
- would prefer a van to a big bus; believes GMT use of lg bus depends on Fed & state funding; is a service like SSTA available for gen rides?
- if I had outside job w/ predictable schedule, would consider bus, rideshare, etc, but sched is all about appointments, errands etc, try to combine 1 or 2 days a week
- strongly support bus & alt trans; many things do not use (eg library) but support w/ taxes; alt trans key in controlling use of resources
- sometimes need car during day; erratic schedule
- would use bus to Burlington for errands and events if expand schedule mid day & late evening
- I like bus
- retired & don't travel anywhere regularly; willing to support public transp
- not sure, need more info
- need more regular bus service to Burlington
- not sure, more info needed, depends on schedule
- Support concepts but how do we address elderly?
- Property taxes already too high, Please look for other financing ways
- Bus is great but mid day trip more useful for 1/2 day in town
- Still go into town a few times a month, would use public trans and support concept
- Would like bus waiting area at J Mkt with coffee, donuts, papers and bus stop out front
- Love bus ,but work schedule unpredictable so hard to manage
- Underhill not suitable for public trans. Will be cost prohibitive, not laid out well
- Love bus , but schedule doesn't work, mostly retired and don't travel often
- would like Burlington weekend evening transpo
- Use of Alt Trans is contingent on UID school/aftercare
- Bus is good idea and wants it still working. Newly retired and tend to travel middle of day
- Would like to see bike paths
- Would use alt trans freq. Would like pedestrian & bike walk signals at Jmkt & browns trace
- Thinks bus service should grow due to cost burden of driving and environmental issues
- bus 36 is handy for commuting, but not so for shopping, amtrak, recreation, appts. Rideshare is similar with more flexible schedule, but hard to combine things
- Buses not necessary in country, city yes
- consider subsidies something everyone can benefit from
- schedule is main deterrent
- retired