



# Older Adult Transportation Coalition Meeting 1/22/2025

## What We Will Discuss Today

- Update on our new volunteer on-island transportation program - MV Connect
- Update on Chappy Connect
- Update on TAP (Transportation Access Program) & conversation with Thomas Moakley
- Update on the JTC (Joint Transportation Committee)
- A brainstorm on expanding our on-island shuttle programs in 2025
- Promoting public transportation free rides/shuttle programs - what this could look like in 2025
- Our 2025 Coalition objectives
- Anything else on your mind



# A refresh on the On-Island Volunteer Transportation Program – meet “MV Connect”!

## On-Island Volunteer Driver Program (Scheduled)

- Will provide both essential and enrichment transportation to Older Adults.
- We will utilize application specific transportation software to register and schedule participants (a first for any of our programs).
- We believe this option will **significantly reduce the cost per ride** for Older Adults and provide a mutual opportunity for **community engagement between volunteers and riders**.
  - A similar program – Vineyard Village at Home – exists today but is unable to expand their capability beyond the 25-30 members they serve.
  - GoGoGrandparent will be a back-up solution when volunteer driver cancellations occur



# MV Connect: On-Island Volunteer Transportation Program

- Where we are today
- How to sign up for this program
- How to participate as a volunteer driver



**Make a Difference in Your Community: Join Our Volunteer Driver Program!**

**Help Your Martha's Vineyard Neighbors Stay Connected**  
Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard is launching a new volunteer driver program to help older adults maintain their independence and stay connected to our vibrant community.

**Why We Need You**  
Our successful GoGo Grandparents program has helped over 500 seniors access medical appointments and enrichment activities. To expand this vital service, we're launching a volunteer-based initiative that will help more island residents while reducing our environmental footprint.

- How It Works**
- \* Use our user-friendly Assisted Rides platform to view and accept ride requests
    - \* Built-in GPS navigation makes trip planning simple
  - \* Choose your own schedule - no minimum time commitment required
    - \* Select rides that fit your availability and location

- Benefits of Volunteering**
- \* Create meaningful connections with fellow island residents
    - \* Strengthen our community support network
    - \* Help reduce single-passenger trips
  - \* Choose a flexible schedule that works for you
    - \* Simple Onboarding and training process!



**Ready to Help?**

Contact our Transportation Coordinator  
Email: [lisastewart@hamv.org](mailto:lisastewart@hamv.org)  
Phone: 508.684.8479



# A Refresh on Chappy Connect

- This will be a "door-to-door" transportation option to the On-Time ferry available for Chappy's Older Adults.
- Chappy Connect will help to even the playing field for our Chappy Older Adults, giving them an opportunity to utilize transportation options available on Martha's Vineyard including the VTA, Medivan and the Lift, Council on Aging sponsored shopping shuttles, and GoGoGrandparents.
- The program will be managed by the Edgartown Council on Aging and Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard with support from the Chappy Ferry. It will utilize an electric vehicle and initially a paid driver model. The program will be funded by proceeds from the "Point-to-Point" Chappy run.
- Estimated start date is Spring, 2025

# Chappy Connect



- Where we are today
- Decisions under consideration
- How we might be able to launch in spring, 2025

**2023 VW Id4 Pro S AWD**

**pure grey color**

**\$31,900 + tax (if applicable), title and tags.**

**21,000 miles**

It is under warranty by VW until it reaches 74,000 miles or 6 years from the original service date

# Update on TAP funding

From the MVCS website:

## **About the Transportation Access Program:**

The Transportation Access Program assists Island residents and families with excessive costs of off-Island travel due to long-term illness and health/mental health needs requiring services not available on the Island.

The Transportation Access Program began in 2016, and since then has helped over 400 Island families with off-Island travel expenses.

All Martha's Vineyard residents are eligible to apply for up to \$750.00 annually in off-island travel assistance to medical/mental health appointments. Requests over \$750.00 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

How to Apply is included in our Transportation Directory.

No funds earmarked for this Fiscal Year. No additional local funding has been identified.

# An Update on the Joint Transportation Committee

- Meets monthly with representatives from each town, VTA, SSA, MassDOT and others (convened by MVC)
- Authored the most recent 20 year regional plan
- Oversees TIP funding
- Raises awareness of projects on the Vineyard – we can weigh in



## Virtual Public Information Meeting Vulnerable Road User Systemic Safety Project – State-owned Bus Stops

### What is happening?

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public on changes to bus stops and crosswalks associated with bus stops at select locations through out the Commonwealth. Public comment and concerns are being solicited and will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

### How will this affect you?

The 2023 Massachusetts Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment found that 40% of pedestrian crashes resulting in fatal or serious injury occurred within 300 ft of a bus stop. This initial phase of locations focused on bus stops on state-owned roadways where safety countermeasures could be implemented quickly. These safety improvements include upgrading curb ramps to ADA standards, adding of refreshing crosswalk striping, constructing pedestrian crossing islands or curb extensions, visibility improvements, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons with crosswalk lights.

### When

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6:00 PM

### Attend

[www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events)



Please note this meeting will be recorded. Information will be available on the website



Town	Major Rd Name	Minor Rd Name
Tisbury	State Road	Colonial Drive
West Tisbury	Edgartown Road	Deep Bottom Road
West Tisbury	Edgartown Road	HI Martha's Vineyard Hostel
West Tisbury	State Road	Polly Hill Arboretum
Edgartown	Beach Road	Oakdale Drive
Edgartown	West Tisbury Road	Meshacket Road
Edgartown	Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road	Stop & Shop Plaza



# Brainstorm on Shuttle Expansion

- A reminder of what shuttle programs we offer today
- Describe an expanded “ideal shuttle solution”
  - Where does it go? Who does it take? When does it run? Are drivers volunteer or paid? What “unmet need” and challenges does such a solution address?
- Roles for Coalition members
  - How does this ideal solution work? Who does what? Who provides the vehicles? Pros/cons?
- What assets do we need to have in place to move forward





# Promoting Public Transportation

Ideas identified at our last meeting:

- the Coalition sponsoring an event to encourage trialing public transportation (tying it to a scheduled event such as the Health Fair, an AG hall event, a COA event etc.)
- working with Angie's marketing organization to create videos (we could identify potential heavy VTA Older Adult users)
- holding educational events at the COAs and the MVH Health Fair
- explore with Older Adults the challenges they have in using public transportation to get to COAs (i.e. having to wait for the bus in the sun, fixed route doesn't take them directly to the COA, etc.)
- on a monthly basis, offer a loop across the island to the COAs to encourage visits (upon discussion, this seemed like utilizing our shopping shuttles for this might work better)
- travel buddy program with high schoolers (Angie is going to explore)

What do we want to invest our energy/time moving forward?

# A Reminder of Our 3 Focus Areas – 2024/2025

- We've made substantial progress at creating and maintaining a number of complementary transportation solutions – moving toward 10,000 rides per year
- Demand continues to grow, with “more needing more” further amplified by increasing island-wide awareness of these programs
- The focus on the Older Adult Transportation Coalition in 2024/2025 is to
  - “right size” our existing programs
  - continue to ensure the financial sustainability of these programs
  - and add vital new options, which are more cost effective and sustainable, both on- and off- island.

# More specifics for 2025

What's on our bucket list?

- Trial a volunteer on-island scheduled transportation program (MV Connect)
- Launch Chappy Connect
- Launch off-island Medical Transportation Program
- Expand shuttle on-island program
- Renew OCB transportation
- Raise awareness/education of these programs and celebrate VTA free fare program

What's missing?

What are the challenges we need to overcome to make progress?

How can we address these challenges?

# Appendix

# Where are we from a Funding Perspective?

- On-Island Transportation (mix of GoGo and Volunteer Transportation, expansion of Shuttle programs)
  - MassDOT request (Jan, 2025 – June, 2026) - \$163,783 (HAMV/VTA)
  - MassDOT request (Jan, 2025 – June, 2026) - \$41,425 (MVC4L)
- Off-Island Transportation (Medical Transportation) – includes project manager for initial 6 months
  - MassDOT request (Jan, 2025 – June, 2026) - \$142,050 (HAMV/MVCS)
- Mobility Manager (expanding role to full time as of July 1, 2025)
  - MassDOT request (Jul, 2025- June, 2026) -\$97,035

