10-30-26

Community Rides Vermont Welcomes Two New Board Members

Barre, VT — Community Rides Vermont, a community-based nonprofit organization that operates Gopher ride service in Washington and Orange Counties, is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors.

Chris Cole of Richmond and Peter Plumeau of South Burlington join eight other board members, led by Board President Sue Minter. Both bring decades of leadership experience in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, with expertise in transportation and state government. CRVT's board of directors is responsible for organizational direction, financial oversight, and policy.

Launched in 2023 by Capstone Community Action to provide essential rides for at-risk Vermonters in all-electric vehicles, Gopher provides flexible, affordable, and dependable transportation for rural Vermonters.

As former Vermont Secretary of Transportation and former General Manager of Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Chris Cole brings critical experience and perspective to this innovative board and organization. He currently serves as GMT's Transit Development Director.

Peter Plumeau is an independent advisor on organizational leadership and governance, working with transportation agencies and nonprofit organizations. A strategist, facilitator, and change management expert with more than 30 years of leadership experience, Plumeau helps mission-driven organizations strengthen governance, align strategy, and lead through change. He previously served as CEO of EBP US, a national transportation consulting firm, and is the founding partner of the Burlington-based Reframe Lab, where he directed its Policy & Strategy Practice.

CRVT Board President Sue Minter notes that, "We are very fortunate to bring State and national leadership and expertise to our Board at a time when innovation in the transit sector is greatly needed. Increasing costs to over-burdened Vermonters leaves more people without transportation. Our Gopher service helps fill the gaps with rides to critical life services like jobs, education, and medical care. Gopher is a national model in providing essential access while helping reduce our carbon footprint through electric transportation. Chris and Peter will help our pilot launch into the next phase of growth."

Gopher offers three ride services: Gopher-It Rideshare, discounted rides for eligible Vermonters, Market Rate Rides, similar to a taxi service, and Contracted Rides for schools and businesses. The need for the subsidized program is growing. Getting people who can't afford it where they need to go relies on philanthropy. Learn more about Gopher and how to help close its fundraising gap at https://gophervt.org/.