

*Getting you where you need to go!*

October 15, 2014

Town of East Montpelier  
Select Board Members  
PO Box 157  
East Montpelier, VT 05651

CC: Bruce Johnson, Town Administrator

**RE: US2 Commuter Special Appropriation Request**

Greetings:

In April of 2010, GMTA and Rural Community Transportation (RCT) began operating the US2 Commuter, providing transportation along the Route 2 Corridor during peak commuting hours between St. Johnsbury and Montpelier. Service includes intermediate stops in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Marshfield, West Danville and Danville.

**For FY14, the US2 Commuter averaged 90.3 boarding's per day, equaling 23,021 in total ridership, a 1% increase over FY13.**

This service was initially funded by a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant, which provided federal funding to cover 80% of the net cost of the service for a three year period. The remaining service costs are covered by passenger fares and the 20% net local match from the towns served by the route.

FY13 marked the end of the CMAQ grant with FY14 transitioning the route to another state/federal funding source equaling 80% of the cost. As in previous years, GMTA will continue to request the remaining 20% match from the towns served. For FY16 local match funds, GMTA will be requesting level funding of \$8,333 per town.

GMTA requests the following language be listed as a separate Warning Article on the East Montpelier Town Meeting Ballot for March 2015 voter consideration. The purpose of this article is to ask the voters of East Montpelier if they wish to continue funding the US2 Commuter in FY16 by approving East Montpelier's share of the needed 20% local match.

**"Shall the Town of East Montpelier appropriate the sum of \$8,333 as its share of the sixth year cost of commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into Montpelier. This appropriation funds a portion of the total cost of the service, which will also be supported by appropriations from other towns, State and Federal funds, and rider fares."**

Please feel free to contact me for additional information or with questions. Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Best regards-

Tawnya Kristen  
Community Relations Manager  
tkristen@gmtaride.org | 802.223.7287



## **US 2 COMMUTER FY14 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### **SERVICE**

In April of 2010, Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) and Rural Community Transportation (RCT) began operating the US2 Commuter, providing transportation along the Route 2 Corridor during peak commuting hours between St. Johnsbury and Montpelier. In FY13, a new mid-day service between Montpelier and Marshfield was offered through the cancellation of the low performing 6:10pm one-way trip and the reallocation of those operating funds.

The route includes intermediate stops in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Marshfield, West Danville and Danville. The route is designed to not only serve the single corridor, but enables transfers to/from the Waterbury Commuter, Burlington Link Express, Montpelier Hospital Hill, City Commuter, Montpelier Circulator, Northfield Commuter and Jay-Lyn Shuttle.

### **ROUTE IMPROVEMENTS**

- VTrans is working with GMTA to fund and install a new passenger shelter at Marshfield's Old Schoolhouse Common. GMTA is hopeful that this shelter will be installed in the Fall of 2014 or Spring of 2015.

### **RIDERSHIP SNAPSHOT**

#### **FY14 Ridership**

- **23,021 Total Ridership, equaling a 1% increase over FY13**
- **90.3 Total Boarding's per day, compared to 89.7 per day in FY13**

### **COST OF SERVICE**

This service was initially funded by a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant, which provided federal funding to cover 80% of the net cost of the service for a three year period. The remaining service costs are covered by passenger fares and the 20% net local match from the towns served by the route.

FY13 marked the end of the CMAQ grant with FY14 transitioning the route to another state/federal funding source equaling 80% of the cost. As in previous years, GMTA will continue to request the remaining 20% match from the towns served.

**For FY16 local match funds, GMTA will be requesting level funding of \$8,333 from each of the three communities served within the GMTA service area.**

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the residents, local officials and all the passengers from East Montpelier, Plainfield and Marshfield and beyond for your continued support of the US2 Commuter and public transportation.

