

Getting you where you need to go!

October 20, 2016

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, GMT 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.

In FY16, the US2 Commuter averaged 79 boarding's per day, equaling 20,215 in total ridership. While ridership dipped below FY15's performance, the route is still very productive according to the metrics it is held to by the State of Vermont. Additionally, it should be noted that relatively lower fuel prices in FY16 contributed to public transit ridership losses across the country.

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. The remaining net service costs are covered by passenger fares and a 20% local match from the towns served by the route. As in previous years, GMT requests the remaining 20% match from the towns served. For FY18 local match funds, GMT will be requesting level funding of \$8,333 per town.

GMT requests the following language be listed as a separate Warning Article on the East Montpelier Town Meeting Ballot for March 2016 voter consideration.

"Shall the Town of East Montpelier appropriate the sum of \$8,333 as its share of the local match 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 passenger fares."

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

Best regards,



David Armstrong, Planning Manager
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US 2 Commuter

In April of 2010, Green Mountain Transit (GMT) and Rural Community Transportation (RCT) began operating the US 2 Commuter, providing transportation along the US Route 2 corridor during peak commuting hours between Montpelier and St. Johnsbury. In 2013, a mid-day trip was implemented between Montpelier and Marshfield, replacing an underperforming PM trip between the two towns.

The route includes intermediate stops in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Marshfield, West Danville and Danville. The route is designed to not only serve the US 2 corridor, but also offers transfers to/from the Waterbury Commuter, Burlington Link Express, Montpelier Hospital Hill, City Commuter, Montpelier Circulator, Northfield Commuter and Jay-Lyn Shuttle: Coupled with these routes, US 2 Commuter passengers have access to much of the northern half of Vermont at a very affordable cost.

Route Improvements: In FY16, GMT installed a larger passenger shelter at the Plainfield P&R.

FY16 Ridership: 20,215 total boardings
 79 boardings per day
 378 total boardings in East Montpelier
 1.5 boardings in East Montpelier per day

Cost of Service: The US 2 Commuter 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 approximate 20% local cost paid by the towns served by the route. While FY13 marked the end of the CMAQ grant, the State of Vermont has assumed responsibility for the 80% share. As in the past, the Towns along the route will continue to be responsible for the 20% local match.

GMT therefore requests FY18 level funding of \$8,333 from East Montpelier, Plainfield and Marshfield.

Thank you to the residents of the Towns along US Rt. 2, the Towns' local officials and all of the passengers of the US 2 Commuter for your continued support of the Commuter and public transit in general. For more information, call GMT at 802 223-7287, or visit www.RideGMT.com