



October 26, 2017

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.

In FY17, the US2 Commuter averaged 68 boarding's per day, totaling 17,562 in total ridership. While ridership dipped below FY16's performance, the route is still very productive according to the standards it is held to by the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation.

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 net service costs are covered by passenger fares and a 20% 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, GMT will continue to request the remaining 20% match from the towns served. For FY19 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 Plainfield Town Meeting Ballot for March 2018 voter consideration.

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

Please feel free to contact Chris Loyer, Public Affairs Coordinator at 802-540-2451 or cloyer@ridegmt.com for additional information or with questions. Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Sousa', is written over a light blue background.

Mark A. Sousa
General Manager
Green Mountain Transit