



September 27, 2019

Hello!

I am pleased to introduce myself. My name is Jenn Wood and I am the new Public Affairs and Community Relations Manager at GMT. I am eager to meet with you to learn more about your community, garner feedback and discuss ways in which we can work together to strengthen opportunities for transportation options in your area.

In advance of the annual funding letter requests, I wanted to connect with you and share some information. Please see the accompanying document that outlines the breadth and depth of GMT's impact. Without partnerships like the one we have with you, this important work that we do would not be possible.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further in person and begin to examine a path forward relative to funding that suits your community's needs and goals. As the document outlines, there is a 20 percent (%) local match we must acquire for service. We are currently in the process of reviewing the funding formulas in consultation with an outside entity to update and ensure that the equation is universally robust and equitable. For FY21, we are continuing to use the historical fair share equation to calculate the funding requests.

Another item I would like to explore with you is the option for an exemption given our status as a municipality. What this does is allow GMT to remain in the budget as a line item each year and thus, eliminate the current cumbersome process which includes petitioning and other steps typically not required for municipalities as it is for non-profit and other groups. GMT provides a critical public service that benefits the economy as well as the health and vitality of towns in Vermont.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I look forward to hearing from you in order to set up a meeting time to carry this partnership forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Wood', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jenn Wood
Public Affairs and Community Relations Manager
jwood@RideGMT.com
802.540.2451



October 2, 2019

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 FY19, the US2 Commuter had 17,940 in total ridership. Ridership improved over FY18's performance, the route is 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 FY21 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 2020 voter consideration.

“Shall the Town of East Montpelier appropriate the sum of \$8,333 as its share of the ninth year cost of commuter bus service along Route 2 with service into East



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.

Sincerely,

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Jenn Wood
Public Affairs & Community Relations Manager

GMT Funding Overview

Green Mountain Transit (GMT) is a municipality and is the first and only transit authority in the State of Vermont, serving Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Washington Counties, the towns of Washington, Williamstown and Orange of Orange County, with connecting services to Caledonia County. GMT is currently governed by a 13-member Board of Commissioners.

GMT operates 50 routes serving communities across 5 counties in Northwest Vermont.

GMT is considered a municipality and is the first and only transit authority in the State of Vermont.

In Chittenden County, GMT's urban district offers:

- Fixed routes
- Local commuter routes
- LINK Express routes
- ADA paratransit services
- Shuttles from senior housing complexes to local supermarkets
- Neighborhood specials for student transportation to Burlington schools

GMT ridership represents fifty percent (50%) of Vermont's public transit network – with the remaining provided by 7 other regional transit agencies spread across Vermont.

GMT services in Washington, Lamoille, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties provide:

- Deviated fixed routes
- Commuter routes
- LINK Express Routes
- Demand response medical shuttles
- Service to elders and persons with disabilities.



RideGMT.com | 802.864.2282
101 Queen City Park Road
Burlington, VT 05401



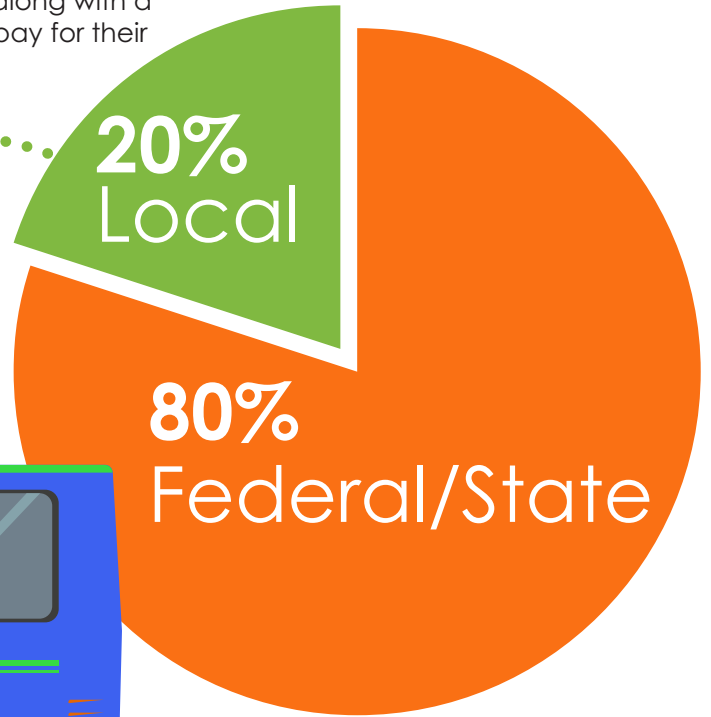
To learn more about GMT's funding structure, please click on the QR code.



GMT's Funding Goal: The goal is a 20% local share for operating funds as part of the statewide transit plan. GMT urban communities have signed on as members, and are assessed annually along with a 3% increase per year for what they are required to pay for their local share through the power of taxation.



- Fare Revenue
- Private Contributions
- Institution Contributions
- Businesses Contributions
- Municipalities
- Contracts with outside agencies



Vermont Transit Statistics:

GMT ridership represents 50% of Vermont's public transit network – with remaining provided by seven other regional transit agencies spread across Vermont.

There are 625 public transit employees in Vermont.

Public Transit's total budget in FY19 was just over \$32 million, down \$3 million from FY18. The State contribution to that total budget was \$7.8 million.

\$19,000,000 in transit payroll.

Approx. 420 buses with replacement value of \$80,000,000

255 municipalities served with an average of 16,100 riders per day.

GoVT/ Connecting Commuters provides many free benefits such as reimbursement for having to travel for an emergency after using transit and thus, not having your car readily available.