



September 30, 2020

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 FY20, the US2 Commuter had 14,566 in total ridership. Ridership during the first part of the year, prior to Covid-19, improved over FY20's performance. Generally, 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 FY22 local match funds, GMT will be splitting the request of level funding with RCT for our portion of \$1,499.94 per town with the remaining being requested directly by RCT (\$6,833.06).**

GMT requests the following language be listed as a separate Warning Article on the East Montpelier Town Meeting Ballot for March 2021 voter consideration.



“Shall the Town of East Montpelier appropriate the sum of \$1,499.94 as its GMT 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Wood', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

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.

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



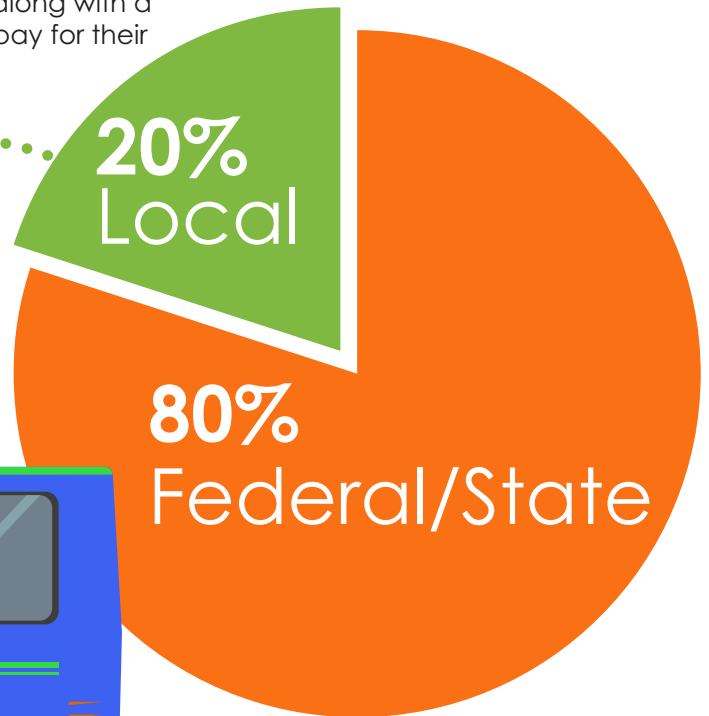
To learn more about GMT's funding structure, please click on the QR code.



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.