



Rural Community Transportation, Inc.

1677 Industrial Parkway • Lyndonville, Vermont 05851

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"COMMUNITY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME"

October 26, 2021

Town of East Montpelier
East Montpelier Town Office
P.O. Box 157
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Re: Request for town appropriation

Dear East Montpelier Voters,

Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) respectfully requests that the following special appropriation article appear on the 2022 warning for the Town Meeting:

Article: Shall the Town of East Montpelier vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$7,834.00** for the support of **Rural Community Transportation, Inc.** to provide services to residents of the Town of East Montpelier.

The request amount remains unchanged from the request submitted by RCT and GMT during route service transition that concluded as of July 2020. It comprises a request of \$6,834 for five service routes of the US2 Commuter and a request of \$1,000 for operation of the Route 14/15 Commuter. The request for \$7,834 is based on previous approved allocations and does not represent an increase.

RCT is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation which provides public transportation services throughout Caledonia, Orleans, Essex and Lamoille Counties. RCT operates bus service to residents of East Montpelier on its VT Route 14/15 Commuter and US2 Commuter buses with connections to Barre, Montpelier, Burlington (on GMT's Link), and Morrisville, serving towns and villages along these routes. In FY2021, these routes provided 10,475 rides in their services areas, at a cost of \$405,846. In East Montpelier, an average of three citizens used these routes to commute in FY2020; this decreased to one to two in FY2021 due to pandemic conditions and a movement to working from home. Post-pandemic ridership is expected to return to a normal level of five to six commuters per day. With challenges Vermont faces in its job market, there is great value in readily available commuter transportation able to connect East Montpelier residents with job opportunities across RCT's service area.

RCT operates with federal and state funding; however, our funding sources typically require between 20% and 50% locally matched dollars. All town appropriations received are used to provide the required local match, and are therefore vital to RCT's operation. In FY2021, all buses were operated fare-free.

RCT looks forward to continued service to the residents of East Montpelier.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Obenauf".

Amy Obenauf
Administrative Coordinator