

**GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AGENCY**

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www.gmtaride.org

November 10, 2008

Town of Waitsfield  
Select Board of Waitsfield  
9 Bridge Street  
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Dear Select Board Members of Waitsfield:

On behalf of the GMTA Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank the town officials and taxpayers of Waitsfield for their continued support of public transportation service. The story behind public transportation isn't adequately described in the amount of funding spent or the number of riders that the service produces. The real story behind public transportation is the accessibility it provides those vulnerable members of our community. They rely on the service for trips to the doctor, to go shopping, to visit a senior center for a nourishing meal, to receive treatment for cancer or dialysis and so many other vital travels that should be provided throughout the course of a lifetime. In short, it allows those without other means of transportation to lead meaningful and independent lives, which in turn contributes to the fabric of our great community.

Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) would like to submit a request for funding for the FY10 Town of Waitsfield budget. **We respectfully request your consideration of \$923.00 for FY10 based on our fair share assessment.** We recognize that Waitsfield, along with other communities, are having difficulties maintaining their own municipal budgets and services on the property tax and for that reason GMTA is not requesting an increase in the amount requested this year despite incurring increased operating costs.

To better understand the vast array of transportation service provided to the Town of Waitsfield residents, I have provided a service outline for the past fiscal year. This summary should not only demonstrate where GMTA travels and what need is fulfilled, but more importantly the increasing number of people who rely on GMTA for their daily transportation needs.

Once again, please accept our genuine thanks and appreciation in maintaining this successful partnership. Through collaborative efforts such as this, we are able to offer the means in which an advantageous and healthy lifestyle can be achieved. We look forward to our continuing service to the Waitsfield community. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

Tawnya Kristen  
GMTA Community Relations Manager

# Green Mountain Transit Agency

## Town of Waitsfield FY08 Annual Report



*The Green Mountain Transit Agency enhances the quality of life in Vermont by delivering safe, convenient and more environmentally efficient transportation.*

### Elderly and Disabled Service

GMTA provides medical transportation service to those who qualify for either Medicaid, Elderly and Disabled funds, or both. We offer those in need the scheduling and payment of rides and provide service through volunteer drivers or bus and/or cab service. GMTA collaborates with area organizations, such as the Central Vermont Council on Aging, to offer rides for medical treatment, meal site programs, senior center and shopping trips. GMTA not only provides the means of transportation, but also the administration and operational skills required to coordinate service.

**For FY08, GMTA provided Medicaid and Elderly and Disabled transportation service to 17 Waitsfield residents totaling 832 trips equaling 18,840 miles.** Compared to FY07 service for 14 Waitsfield residents, totaling 961 trips equaling 54,114 miles.

- **Medical Transportation-** GMTA provides medical transportation service which offers residents a ride to local health care facilities for regular medical services, pharmacy visits and in some cases, vital acute care transportation for radiation and dialysis treatments. Local trips for Waitsfield residents can include transport to the Mad River Valley Health Center, Vermont Association for the Blind, Central Vermont Medical Center and various Berlin medical facilities.

Given the possible array of a person's medical care needs, we do not limit transportation to local area facilities. When requested, we also provide transportation to larger and more distant facilities such as Fletcher Allen, Dartmouth Hitchcock, Yankee Medical Supply in Burlington, and various locations in Boston Massachusetts. GMTA believes that one's ability to obtain professional health care services should not be hindered by an obstacle of transit dependency.

- **Senior Center & Meal Sites Programs-** GMTA provides transportation service to senior center meal site programs which not only provide a hot and nourishing meal, but allow the individual to be part of a social event. We currently provide Waitsfield residents, including those at Mad River Meadows, with transportation to Evergreen Place twice a week to attend senior activities and receive well-prepared meals. Those accessing senior and meal site programs might not otherwise be able to engage in a variety of social activities while supporting a healthy quality of life.
- **Weekly Shopping Trips-** GMTA shopping trips offer the means in which the need for a larger purchasing choice can be met, thus supporting an independent lifestyle. Waitsfield residents typically travel each week to Meheron's market for food and other regularly needed items. On certain occasions, residents will take a shopping trip to the Burlington area for a broad choice of various retail stores, including Wal-Mart, Taft's Corner in Williston and the Burlington Mall. GMTA believes that services such as this allow people to maintain a level of self-reliance which in turn supports the ability to remain within their own homes.

## Mad Bus Service

GMTA provides service to the Mad River Valley through the Mad Bus winter ski season route operations. The numerous Mad Bus routes, all being free of charge except for the SnowCap Commuter, serve those who visit or reside in the Mad River Valley that seek alternative transportation to work, play or shop.

For FY08, the Mad Bus ridership went up by 6%, (52,193 in FY08 versus 49,165 in FY07), with specific increase in the following routes:

- ↑ 38.83% Saturday Evening Service
- ↑ 24.84% Mountain Condos
- ↑ 37.87% Access Road
- ↑ 10.06% Harwood Freeride Shuttle

This growth clearly demonstrates the increasing initiative to incorporate alternative transportation into work and play travel needs. For the upcoming FY09 season, we have re-designed select routes to offer greater service and accommodation where needed. In addition to improving current operations, we will begin operating the **new Warren Shuttle** service to provide faster service to Lincoln Peak than previously offered.

## Funding

The funds requested by GMTA assist the agency by meeting match requirements to draw federal and state funds that support the operations and capital needs of the agency. GMTA draws approximately 80% state and federal funds with the local funds provided by municipalities and local businesses in our service area. These funds are vital to support the services listed in this document.

## GMTA Board Member

In FY06, GMTA established our first locally appointed Board of Directors. One of our active officers is Margo Bullock Wade, a well-respected member of the Mad River Valley community. We are very grateful for Margo's ongoing board participation and her dedication in supporting the mission of GMTA. We look forward to our continuing collaboration in supporting the Mad River Valley area transportation needs, along with the needs of all communities throughout Central Vermont.

**Please contact GMTA for additional information at 802-223-7BUS or [www.gmtaride.org](http://www.gmtaride.org).**

**Thank you for allowing us to continue supporting the transportation needs  
of the Waitsfield community.**

