

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT AGENCY

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www.gmtaride.org

October 29, 2009

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.

Green Mountain Transit Agency (GMTA) would like to submit a request for funding for the FY11 Town of Waitsfield budget. **We respectfully request your consideration of \$923.00 for FY11 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 this year despite our incurring increased operating costs.

To better understand the vast array of transportation service provided to the residents of Waitsfield, 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 FY09 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 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 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 FY09, GMTA provided Medicaid and Elderly and Disabled transportation service to 16 Waitsfield residents totaling 936 trips equaling 25,289 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, Central Vermont Medical Center, Berlin Health and Rehabilitation and Montpelier private practice physicians.

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 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 coordination and 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 with transportation to Evergreen Place in Waitsfield twice a week to attend senior activities and to receive 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 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.

Social Service Programs

In addition to supporting elderly and disabled residents, GMTA collaborates with social service programs and agencies which guide the individual goals of transit dependent Waitsfield residents. Whether the ride is for essential early child care and single parent support through Agency of Human Service Reach Up programs or the Vermont Association for the Blind, each

person within the community deserves ways in which they can achieve a productive quality of living.

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 FY09, the Mad Bus ridership went up by 5.8%, (55,221 in FY09 versus 52,193 in FY08) with specific increase in the following routes:

- ↑ 53.69% Valley Floor
- ↑ 88.88% Saturday Evening Service
- ↑ 17.15% Mountain Condos
- ↑ 1.09% Access Road

Funding

The received funding of \$923 helps to assist GMTA in 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. Two of our active officers, **Margo Bullock Wade** and **Steve Gladczuk**, are both well-respected members of the Mad River Valley community. We are very grateful for Margo and Steve's ongoing board participation and their 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.

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

