

US 2 COMMUTER- FY11 ANNUAL REPORT

HISTORY

In April of 2010, GMTA and Rural Community Transportation (RCT) began operating the new US Route 2 Commuter service, providing transportation along the Route 2 corridor during peak commuting hours between St. Johnsbury and Montpelier. The service was jointly developed by both agencies using both traditional planning methods and extensive community outreach efforts based on grass root initiatives. Key contributors to this process were and continue to be local energy committees, state and local representatives and individual residents dedicated to alternative transportation solutions. The use of both traditional methods and direct community involvement continues to be recognized as a best practice example in developing successful and supported rural commuter service.

THE SERVICE

The US2 Commuter offers affordable and accessible service between Montpelier and St. Johnsbury, with intermediate stops in East Montpelier, Plainfield, Marshfield, West Danville, and Danville. As the US 2 Commuter moves into its third year of operation, demonstrated growth in ridership can be most attributed to those commuting to employment and education locations. There is also the secondary market of riders who utilize the service for their daily medical, shopping, and personal needs. Direct benefits for passengers continue to be commute/travel cost savings, reduction in traffic and air pollution and avoiding limited parking options in more urbanized areas.

the route not only serves the Route 2 corridor, but enables transfers to allow passengers greater access to areas beyond Montpelier. Transfers are currently available to/from the Waterbury Commuter, Link Express, Montpelier Hospital Hill and City Commuter routes, as well as the Jay-Lyn Shuttle. Fare structure for the US 2 Commuter is as follows: \$1/One way, .50/Discount, \$8/10 Ride Pass, \$33.50/Monthly Pass.

FUNDING

The US 2 Commuter is currently funded through a Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant, which funds 80% of the route's operating costs (net of fares) for three years. The remaining 20% is funded through approved local funding from the towns directly served. For FY13, the local funding 20% match request will remain level funded at \$8,333 per town.

FY13 will be the third and final year of available CMAQ funds for the US2 Commuter. As we look forward to FY14, efforts to secure a financial commitment from the VT Agency of Transportation for the needed 80% funds to continue service will be pursued. Historically speaking, the state has always provided these funds for those



Getting you where you need to go!

commuter services originating under CMAQ and deemed successful. Examples of this are the LINK Express, Route 100, and Waterbury Commuter.

RIDERSHIP (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011)

The US 2 continued to demonstrate substantial success in FY11 through increasing ridership numbers and rider utilization of connecting services to locations beyond Montpelier.

- **51.7 boardings per day, exceeding first-year ridership estimates of 38 boardings per day.**
- **Total ridership 13,330 annual rides**
- **Individual Town Service by Stop**

	ST. J WLCME CNTR	ST J ACDMY	ST J P&R	DNVILLE	WEST DNVILLE P & R	MRSFLD STORE	MRSFLD SCHOOL HOUSE	TWINFLD SCHL	PLNFLD P & R	PLNFLD HEALTH CNTR	GDDR COLLEGE	PLNFLD HDWRE	EAST MONT.	COLLEGE GREEN	MONT. STATE ST	DEPT OF LABOR	NATNL LIFE	TOTAL
JULY	89	5	40	43			53	10	128		20		38	64	186	3	46	725
AUG	109	6	36	6	28	10	61	2	127	10	9		27	56	214	5	47	753
SEPT	165	5	38	11	45	4	75	11	178	10	19		21	42	259	4	48	935
OCT	162	4	44	4	49	2	60	15	193	8	11		21	64	316	0	43	996
NOV	152	1	45	12	47	1	83	10	180	20	11		20	45	326	3	40	996
DEC	132	3	51	2	60	3	94	5	177	19	15		10	37	372	1	45	1026
JAN	136	8	82	12	69	3	89	3	209	19	15		20	30	372	3	64	1134
FEB	108	7	79	5	85	0	79	1	191	14	27		18	36	383	6	69	1108
MAR	139	8	66	0	163	0	101	2	237	17	11		33	54	458	14	88	1391
APR	168	13	98	1	149	2	66	1	242	18	13		19	52	478	15	71	1406
MAY	160	5	119	2	136	8	94	2	214	18	23		19	55	472	12	57	1396
JUNE	196	7	111	1	121	0	93	4	209	25	36	1	30	64	497	11	58	1464
Total	1716	72	809	99	952	33	948	66	2285	178	210	1	276	599	4333	77	676	13330
% Total	13%	1%	6%	1%	7%	0%	7%	0%	17%	1%	2%	0%	2%	4%	33%	1%	5%	

FY12- CURRENT TRENDS AND ENHANCEMENTS

The US2 continues to see increasing ridership and demand, with July-January 2012 being the highest numbers on record for the service.

- **Averaging 78 boardings per day, exceeding the second-year ridership estimate of 42**
- **On pace for >15,000 annual rides.**

Vehicle Fleet Enhancement

In efforts to meet the demands of increased ridership, GMTA has begun the procurement process for a new 34 seat vehicle. This is in direct response to the increasing demand and follows RCT's own successful implementation of a 34 seat vehicle for the US2 Commuter. We anticipate arrival of the larger vehicle in the spring of 2012.

QUESTIONS? For questions regarding the US2 Commuter and all other GMTA services, please contact us directly at 223-7287 or gmtaride.org. **Thank you for your support.**

