

ON THE ROAD WITH ACTR

July 2005

Welcome to a new periodic publication of Addison County Transit Resources. “On the Road with ACTR” is designed to keep you informed of the latest news about ACTR and our services. Feedback and comments about our services or this newsletter are always welcome. Call 388-1946 or email us at info@actr-vt.org. Thanks and enjoy!



Record Shuttle Bus Ridership Continues

For the third straight year, both the Middlebury Shuttle Bus and the Tri-Town Shuttle Bus experienced record ridership. For the period ending June 30, 2005, the MSB topped 35,500 rides (up from just 18,500 in FY02) while the TTSB achieved 14,000 rides (up from just 6,000 in FY02). Combined ridership of the two has more than doubled in those three years!



New Snow Bowl Shuttle Proves Popular

ACTR’s newest service, to East Middlebury and the ski areas and hiking trails of Ripton, has outdone expectations. We anticipated providing 4,500 rides in the first full year of service and have already passed that after only nine months! In response, we have expanded to five runs per day to create an even more flexible, user-friendly service. Now that summer is here, check out the Robert Frost Trail, the Long Trail, Lake Pleiad or the many other outdoor recreation sites – and take the bus!



And so does the Burlington LINK

The new commuter service between Middlebury and Burlington has also taken off, more than doubling daily ridership since its launch last October. Operated by ACTR’s partner, Chittenden County Transportation Authority, the LINK is a great way to avoid traffic hassles, save gas money and help our environment by reducing carbon emissions.



Volunteer Drivers Needed

You may not have known this but almost half of our services are actually provided by volunteer drivers! These drivers use their own cars and ACTR is able to reimburse them 40.5 cents per mile for their expenses. ACTR currently has 20 volunteers. In order to keep up with rising demand for rides to medical and other appointments, however, we need additional drivers. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in becoming an ACTR volunteer, please give us a call at 388-1946 or send an email to info@actr-vt.org.



ACTR Website

Have you seen our website? Check out www.actr-vt.org for all information about ACTR, including bus schedules, service descriptions, press releases and other news.



ACTR Has Purchased New Buses ...

With a record number of riders comes an increased amount of wear-and-tear on our vehicles. Fortunately, we have received enough grant support from the state to upgrade and expand our fleet to meet the growing demand. We now have 12 vehicles (up from just seven in FY02) with eight of them less than three years old.



... that Now Come with Bike Racks ...

It's true! All of our buses are now installed with bicycle carrying racks, providing riders with an easy way to link biking and public transportation. This works especially well for long-distance trips or rides up the mountain. Each rack can carry two bicycles and is easy to use. Try them! Special thanks to Rouse Tire Sales, Middlebury College, Middlebury Bike Club, the Alpine Shop and The Bike Center for providing local match funds for our bike rack grant.



... and Child Seats ...

In our ongoing efforts to create a safer ride, all of our buses now have two (2) built-in child seats. Designed to carry children between 20-60 pounds, they operate on the five-point system. Ask your driver for assistance.



... and Will Stop at Our New Bus Shelter!

We are also continuing our efforts to make our services increasingly customer-friendly – this time by installing our first bus shelter! Located at our main transfer point on Merchant's Row in Middlebury, we are pleased to be able to offer this new amenity for our riders. Special thanks to the Middlebury Rotary Club for providing local match funds for this project in celebration of their 100th anniversary.



Ride ACTR to Local Events this Summer and Fall

ACTR often provides transportation to many popular annual or once-in-a-lifetime county events. Examples of the many celebrations that have been or will be accessible by public transportation include Monument Farms 75th Anniversary Celebration, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Fourth of July Pops Concert, Festival-on-the-Green, Addison County Fair and Field Days, Vergennes Day, Bristol Harvest Festival and Dead Creek Wildlife Day. Check out www.actr-vt.org to find details and schedules as each event draws near.