

# Chittenden County Transportation Authority



The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) had another successful year in 2007 providing public transportation services to the City of Burlington and the greater Burlington area. Services include local fixed-route bus service; commuter park and ride shuttles; supermarket and school shuttles; inter-regional commuter routes; multi-county ride-sharing and vanpooling; transportation for Medicaid recipients; and contracted ADA para-transit service for those who are unable to ride the bus.

The mission of CCTA is to promote and operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative and sustainable public transportation services in the Chittenden County region that reduce congestion and pollution, encourage transit oriented development and enhance the quality of life for all.

CCTA is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners with two Commissioners representing each of the following communities: Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington, and Winooski. Burlington's Commissioners to the CCTA Board are Benjamin Truman and Chapin Spencer (Secretary).

CCTA's annual operating and capital match expenses in 2007 were \$10,341,955.65, up from \$9,773,711.17 in 2006. Equal or greater revenues in 2007 offset these increased expenses.

## Increased Ridership

CCTA is pleased to report that ridership increased by 5 percent in 2007, which represents an additional 100,118 riders for a total ridership of 2,009,371. Much of the increase is due to the continued expansion of the Unlimited Access program, the LINK Express, the North Avenue, Umall Airport, Essex, Essex Center, Riverside/Winooski, Lakeside, College St. Shuttle, CATMA, Sunday Service, Williston routes, and special services. Additionally, fluctuating fuel costs prompted many customers to look for alternative forms of transportation.

## Improved Information and Amenities

CCTA continued to advance several projects to improve the flow of information to pas-

sengers and make our transit system more convenient and user-friendly.

- CCTA completed an airport style sign system at Cherry Street to inform passengers of the on time status of arriving and departing buses. This has been a long standing rider request.
- CCTA continues to add to and enhance the quality of the bus shelters in Chittenden County. In 2007, seven new shelters were constructed. All new bus shelters have a durable and attractive timber frame and metal roof that meet ADA accessibility requirements.



**Chris Cole**  
General Manager

## LINK Express Commuter Routes

CCTA continues to expand and improve the already popular LINK Express services. These commuter routes are designed to connect commuters from Montpelier, Middlebury and St. Albans to Burlington; all LINK routes deliver commuters to FAHC, UVM, Champlain College and Cherry Street in downtown Burlington. LINK ridership grew in 2007 and the Montpelier LINK expanded its service to include a third morning trip. Total 2007 ridership on all three LINK routes was 64,329 which is an increase of 9,886 or 18% from 2006.



One of CCTA's new bio-diesel buses.



### **Environmental Commitment**

CCTA is pleased to announce that in 2007 it began the use of biodiesel in all CCTA buses. Biodiesel is a safe, clean burning fuel source which is derived from domestically produced, renewable sources such as vegetable oils, is biodegradable, and reduces key greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. CCTA will operate an 80/20 blend of biodiesel in the spring/summer/fall months and a 95/5 blend during the colder winter months.

CCTA also began replacing its older bus fleet with new state of the art clean diesel buses that reduce particulate emissions by 95%. These new buses have diesel particulate filters and the latest engine technology to be the cleanest diesel buses in the State of Vermont. CCTA is committed to replacing older buses with new cleaner buses as soon as funding is made available.

CCTA offers member communities a variety of environmentally responsible commuting alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle. The LINK routes and Vermont Ride-share services for carpooling and vanpooling are another way in which CCTA is able to reduce local congestion and improve air quality. CCTA staff worked with local businesses and communities in 2007 to promote these services and encourage participation.

### **Unlimited Access Program**

CCTA is pleased to announce that the Unlimited Access program continued to grow in 2007 with increased ridership. This program allows those with a valid UVM or Champlain College ID card to board any CCTA bus by simply swiping their ID. CCTA welcomed Champlain College to the Unlimited Access family as a full participant in fall 2006. The UA program continues to be well received by staff and students and will hopefully expand in 2008.

### **Contact CCTA for Route and Schedule Information**

802-864-CCTA (Phone)  
info@cctaride.org (E-mail)  
www.cctaride.org (Web)





### **Administration**

CSWD owns and oversees 10 solid waste or recycling facilities in Chittenden County for its 18 member municipalities. A Board of Commissioners, that sets policy and oversees financial matters, governs CSWD. One Commissioner is appointed by each member community. The Board of Commissioners Officers include: Chairman Paul Stabler of South Burlington; Vice Chair Bert Lindholm of Jericho, and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Coates of Williston. Executive Board Members include these Commissioners as well as Ken Nolan of Milton and Steve Goodkind of Burlington. The CSWD General Manager is Thomas Moreau.

CSWD wants to acknowledge all the time and effort given by Bill Leach to CSWD over the past 19 years of which 16 were served as the Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Leach passed away during this fiscal year.

The unaudited 2007 General Fund expenses were \$7,218,193 and the revenues were \$8,309,832. This represents a 6% increase in expenses and a 5.48% increase in revenues from the 2006 General Fund.

### **Significant Changes/Events**

In 2007, CSWD continued to focus on two parallel tracks; waste minimization/diversion and waste disposal in a proposed regional landfill. Concerning the first track, we finished collecting data for our Recycling Performance Research Plan, we negotiated additional recycling materials to be accepted and processed at CSWD's Materials Recovery Facility (mixed plastics and soft cover books), and we became very active in promoting responsibility of manufacturers for their products at the end of use. For the landfill project, we completed additional scenarios, discussed them with the majority of our member towns/cities' governing boards, and have now focused on a smaller landfill footprint.

### **Ongoing Operations**

- Drop-Off Centers located in Burlington, Essex, South Burlington, Milton, Williston, Richmond, and Hinesburg are available to District members who prefer to self-haul their trash and recyclables. Drop-Off

Centers collected 3,054 tons of recyclables, a decrease of 4.7% from 2006, and 7,190 tons of household trash during 2007, a 0.65% increase from 2006.

- The Materials Recovery Facility in Williston is owned by CSWD and privately operated by Casella Waste Management. In 2007, 37,121 tons of recyclables were collected, sorted, baled, and shipped to markets. This represents a 1.2% increase from the previous year. The average sale price for materials was \$93.52 per ton, which is a 21.7% increase over last year's average.
- The Environmental Depot and the Rover are CSWD's hazardous waste collection facilities for residents and businesses. In 2007, 8,787 households and 612 businesses brought in 523,350 pounds of waste that were collected and processed at these facilities. This included 47,210 pounds (4,721 gallons) of latex paint re-blended and sold as "Local Color," 13,272 pounds of waste given away through the "Hazbin" reuse program, and 95,700 pounds (9,570 gallons) of oil and latex paint processed for recycling in Canada.
- CSWD brokered 15,342 wet tons of Biosolids for our member communities in 2007, nearly the identical quantity as last year. Unfortunately, the contract to beneficially compost the County's wastewater treatment plant sludge at facilities in Quebec was abruptly cancelled by a Canadian subcontractor during the year.
- CSWD's MARKETING CAMPAIGNS raised the profile of the Electronics Recycling Program with a round-up event in conjunction with Small Dog Electronics, collecting close to 100 tons. Other events promoting reduce, reuse, recycle—rethink included the Rover round-ups, Spring Move Out Project, Waste Reduction Award, Lake Monsters sponsorship game, Green Up Day, the Appliance and Tire round-ups, Merry Mulch, paint round-up, and the Creative ReUse Showcase.
- A variety of EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS and tools are available to assist residents, institutions, and businesses to reduce and properly manage their wastes. The CSWD



**Thomas Moreau**  
General Manager



## Chittenden Solid Waste District continued

HOTLINE (872-8111), WEBSITE: ([www.cswd.net](http://www.cswd.net)), school programs, workshops, informational pamphlets, free recycling bins and signage, discount compost bins, and waste assessments for businesses are part of this positive community outreach.

- Over 14,000 employees, residents of residential complexes, students, volunteers, and clients were impacted by the BUSINESS OUTREACH PROGRAM. School presentations, equipment loans, and waste assessments and facility tours reached 6,200 students through the SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM.
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT efforts, which have dual goals of reducing the amount of waste generated and land-filled along with making programs more convenient and cost-effective, focused on recycling participation, construction and demolition debris recycling, organics diversion, alternative disposal technologies, and markets for recyclables.
- CSWD provides funding and staff time to support GREEN UP DAY efforts in Chittenden County. In May 2007, 56 tons of litter were collected, including 1,754 tires and 21 cubic yards of scrap metal. CSWD also contributed \$4,100 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of its member municipalities.
- The fall and spring APPLIANCE and TIRE ROUND UPS brought in 785 major appliances and 7,542 tires at no charge from 2,384 households.
- The COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND helps members keep their communities clean and litter free throughout the year. In 2007, almost \$12,000 were distributed to ten of CSWD's member municipalities through this program.





**T**he Winooski Valley Park District's mission is to preserve natural areas that are a short walk or bike ride from where 110,000 people live and work. Our 17 public natural areas total 1754 acres, offer miles of trail, over 13 miles of shoreline, and canoe and fishing access. In Burlington this includes the Ethan Allen Homestead, Salmon Hole Park, Mayes Landing and Derway Island. The City of Burlington has been a supporting member for 35 years. Thank you to the residents of Burlington for your support.

You can find our office at the Homestead. A seven member Board of Trustees governs the Park District, one appointed by each of the seven member communities. Your representative is Roger Marshall. Visit [www.wvdp.org](http://www.wvdp.org) for trail maps and to learn more. Highlights of the year follow:

### **New Park Opened**

Winooski Gorge in South Burlington can now be reached safely, by bike, car or on foot. A path follows the top of one of Vermont's steepest gorge with views of the Winooski River far below. Cedars on the bluffs grow slowly and reach ages of 300 years. Roadside parking for this 11 acre natural area is along Lime Kiln Road in South Burlington, just off route 15.

### **Historic Ethan Allen House Faces Uncertain Future**

The 1787 farmhouse of Ethan and Fanny Allen in Burlington was forced to close to schools and the public last fall. However, \$20,000 from the Vermont Legislature and loyal volunteers have rescued it for now. As the owners of Allen's historic house, the Park District hopes that the State will continue to support this site of state-wide significance.

### **Park Programs Led by Others**

About 350 scouts and parents camped for two nights at the Ethan Allen Homestead then masterfully "left no trace" of their visit. Flynn Arts led tweens and teens in 2 weeks of drama skits with a history theme. The YMCA held 10 days of nature camps at the Homestead. Uncle Jammers sponsored a summer camp at Colchester Pond. UVM led

classes at our parks in art, natural history, engineering, soil science and geology.

### **Volunteers Help Steward the Parks**

IBM, local schools, Youth Build, Burlington School's "On Top" program and others spent countless hours removing invasive plants and monitoring wildlife signs at the parks again this year.

### **Lessons Learned at the Parks**

Hunt Middle School routinely has students and teachers bike to the Homestead for natural and cultural history lessons. Several hundred Burlington Parks and Recreation Program participants studied wetlands, looked for bugs and learned orienteering at the Homestead. Dozens of area students fulfilled community service hours at our parks this year.

Children need wild places—which depend on skilled management that assures people and wildlife can peacefully coexist. Each year Burlington's support makes it possible for thousands of Burlington residents and Vermonters to explore our ecologically-diverse system of natural areas.



**Jennifer Ely**  
Executive Director

