



People to Jobs



PROGRESS REPORT — FEBRUARY 2009

5th Annual Edition

Expanded Bus Services Respond to Growing Needs

As people increasingly rely on public transportation, *People to Jobs* helps focus on where and how often service is needed. We're pleased to share some of what has been accomplished in the past year with your support.



In the past year, people increasingly relied on bus services

1,319,492 annual one-way trips

8,229 average monthly riders (unduplicated)

16 services supported (expanded, interregional, bus-rail connections)

It's Working in Norwalk

Norwalk Transit District enjoyed a 6% ridership increase in 2008 across all services; however those services providing work-related trips saw increases as high as **31%**. Through the Governors' Service Initiative, supported through the People to Jobs collaborative, Norwalk was able to increase service levels from South Norwalk to the most heavily used routes for employment and education, primarily along the Route 7 and Connecticut Avenue business corridors. Bus riders have expressed their appreciation for these service enhancements as well as the improved on-time performance.

It's Working in Bridgeport

Greater Bridgeport Transit has attracted thousands of riders to new and expanded services, through funding made available under the People to Jobs collaborative. Through extending evening and weekend bus services, improved frequencies, and offering reverse commute options to suburban communities, GBT is providing employees throughout the Bridgeport region with better access to job opportunities — providing the critical services and filling mobility gaps that once prevented gainful employment. Through this program, over **147,000 trips** were made in the last quarter of 2008 in the Bridgeport region alone.

It's More Relevant Than Ever

With uncertain fuel prices and a difficult job market, people are turning to public transportation in great numbers. For more than 10 years, People to Jobs has helped to ensure that public transportation is there — where and when they need it.

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People to Jobs



It's Working in Stamford

CTTRANSIT operates specific bus services targeted to getting people to and from jobs. Calendar 2008 was a banner year for **ridership**: weeknight service (extended to meet the closing times of many service/retail sector businesses) saw a whopping **526%** increase in riders. Saturday evening service saw a **27%** increase, and Sunday increased by **9%**. Many workers in the Stamford area would not be able to get to their jobs if these bus services were lost.



It's Working in the Valley

Valley Transit District, through its work with the People to Jobs collaborative, operates the Bridgeport Avenue Commuter Connection. This service connects riders of Greater Bridgeport Transit and CTTRANSIT/New Haven to employers along the Bridgeport Avenue corridor in Shelton and saw an increase in ridership of **8½%** in the last two quarters of 2008. In addition, a holiday shuttle provided extended service hours for employers in the Valley.



It's Working Regionally

Coastal Link provides seamless, inter-regional service along the Route 1 corridor through Milford, Stratford, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, and Norwalk and multiple links to Metro-North train service. Last year People to Jobs funding helped support the Coastal Link which provided over **1,000,000** one-way trips. To learn more, visit www.peopletojobs.org and click on



How You Can Help

- ◆ **Preserve Bus Transit Services** — Public transportation translates into jobs and quality of life for Connecticut's residents. In these difficult economic times, it is imperative that ALL services be maintained at current levels.
- ◆ **Restore TEIP Funding for Transit** — In the Governor's biennial budget, there is a recommendation to cut \$830,400 from the Department of Social Services' Transportation Employment Independence Program (TEIP) which will affect the Job Access program. A 25% reduction in TEIP funding in the region would have an impact on Coastal Link or other on-street transit services since DSS funding is the source for the base level of service on Coastal Link which provides commuters a seamless and affordable bus ride from Milford to Norwalk and also reduces congestion on I-95.

A Resource for Regional Growth

People to Jobs, a project of The WorkPlace, Inc., is a Regional Transportation Task Force that improves access to employment by initiating and financing positive enhancements to the public transportation system in Southwest Connecticut. **People to Jobs** will continue to reduce transportation barriers to employment, working with the business community to make sure their employees can get to work and with agency partners to assist new job entrants. To learn more, visit www.peopletojobs.org.

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