



People to Jobs



PROGRESS REPORT — FEBRUARY 2010

6th Annual Edition



Did you know?

- For more than ten years, the People to Jobs transportation program has helped thousands of Connecticut residents find and keep jobs.
- Today, many are dependent on bus transit services that were designed to meet their employment mobility needs.
- Expanded bus services, funded through the Connecticut Department of Transportation's "Transit Operations" budget and through the Connecticut Department of Social Services "Transportation for Employment Independence Program" have provided this critical link.

We encourage legislators to fully fund job access transportation services and the Transportation for Employment Independence Program to help meet the growing demand for job-related transportation.

It's Working in Bridgeport

Through extended evening and weekend services, expanded geographic coverage and improved frequencies, People to Jobs job access transportation funding has allowed thousands to find new jobs in the Bridgeport Region. Under this program, Greater Bridgeport Transit has been able to close the mobility gaps that once prevented gainful employment. During 2009, **riders boarded job access-funded services over 572,422 times.**

It's Working in Norwalk

The Norwalk Transit District provided **331,381 trips with job access-funded services** in 2009. These bus services complement Norwalk's core services as they extend the service day into the evening; extend service to seven days a week; and, extend service beyond the boundaries of the City of Norwalk to the greater region. Employment opportunities are more readily available with these service enhancements.

It's Working in Stamford

The People to Jobs collaborative continues to provide residents throughout the Stamford region with transportation to access employment centers in the area. These services have become a staple that people in Stamford have grown to depend on. Without the later night and weekend service provided through the People to Jobs program it would be impossible for many transit users to get to work. In 2009, **there were over 185,000 boardings** on CTTRANSIT.

It's Working in the Valley

Valley Transit District, working with the People to Jobs collaborative, successfully operates the Bridgeport Avenue commuter connection. This service connects riders of Greater Bridgeport Transit (15) and CTTRANSIT New Haven (F6) to employers along the Bridgeport Avenue corridor in Shelton. Providing a much-needed link for riders in the Valley, the service has connected workers who rely on public transportation to their workplace and has had great success. The Bridgeport Avenue commuter connection has continued to grow, showing an **increase in ridership of 14%** throughout 2009.

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Real People Who Rely On Public Transportation



*Originally from Pakistan, Bimit recently came to the U.S. and settled in Bridgeport, where he lives, works and goes to school. Bimit commutes between his home and his job as well as Housatonic Community College in the downtown area, where he is studying. Says Bimit, **The buses in Bridgeport have helped me build a new life in my new country.** Without them, I don't know how well I could have made it here."*

Bimit Patel
Greater Bridgeport Transit Rider

*Anita, a Bridgeport resident for only the past year, moved north from South Carolina because of better job opportunities and better access to them with public transit. Anita lives in the East Side of Bridgeport and takes the bus 4 days per week to go to work in the West End of Bridgeport. She also takes the bus one day a week to attend classes to become a Certified Nurse's Assistant. According to Anita, "Without the bus, I don't know how I would manage to do all the things I have to do – go to work, grocery shopping, school. **Here in Bridgeport, the bus is my lifeline to me being able to move ahead in life.**"*

Anita Davis
Greater Bridgeport Transit Rider



Holly Abbott
Greater Bridgeport Transit Rider

*Holly is a Bridgeport resident. Even though she has a driver's license, she does not have a car. Holly says, "**The bus is very important to me. It gets me everywhere I need to be... looking for a job, daughter's daycare, shopping, and appointments.**" What she likes about public transportation is that: "Buses for me make life easier. The cost is reasonable. The bus route schedule is pretty good. It's cheaper than taxis. Taking the bus is my only way to get around."*



What can you do?

- Employees and jobseekers need your help to eliminate transportation as one of the barriers to employment.
- Increase, or at a minimum preserve, Connecticut Department of Transportation and Connecticut Department of Social Services operating investment in bus transit.
- The operating investment (subsidy) for job access transportation is derived from the "**Transit Operations**" line item in the State's transportation budget as well as the "**Transportation for Employment Independence**" line item of the Department of Social Services budget. Over the past year (and continuing today) the funding in these line items has been threatened as the State attempts to deal with the increasing budget deficit. Any cuts in these line items will lead to cuts in service and job losses for the **more than 7,800 average monthly unduplicated riders who board job access services over 1,200,000 times** throughout the region. There is no question about these cuts — transit agencies are continuously working to increase efficiencies and there is no "low hanging fruit."

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