



People to Jobs



PROGRESS REPORT 2012

8th Annual Edition

It's Working Regionally

Coastal Link provides seamless, inter-regional service along the Route 1 corridor through Milford, Stratford, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, and Norwalk, with multiple links to New Haven Line train service. Last year People to Jobs funding helped support Coastal Link, providing over **1,200,000** passenger trips. In a recent survey of Coastal Link riders, 77% indicated they use this service to get to work.

It's Working in Bridgeport

As a result of new investment in bus service under the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program and the Connecticut Department of Social Services Transportation To Work program, Greater Bridgeport Transit expanded services connecting job seekers to employment centers that were previously not accessible by public transportation. Over the past eleven years, the number of passengers has grown and these services are now a critical part of the region's transportation system. During 2011, riders accessed these services **643,701** times.

It's Working in Norwalk

The Norwalk Transit District provided **366,884** trips with job access-funded services in 2011, an increase of 6% from the prior year. The expanded services made possible by these funds have provided transportation options for employment opportunities. Evening and weekend services have become essential for the local workforce to retain employment, and we continue to serve a growing ridership as the employment market has expanded with the provision of service beyond the City of Norwalk to the greater region.

It's Working in Stamford

The People to Jobs collaborative continues to support the Stamford region by funding transportation to access employment centers in the area. Services provided allow residents to access jobs on varying shifts. 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. This is just one way that People to Jobs is keeping Stamford moving. In 2011, there were **201,148** boardings on CTTRANSIT thanks to the People to Jobs collaborative.

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. The service has had great success connecting workers who rely on public transportation to their workplace. Continuous business development along the Bridgeport Avenue corridor in Shelton demonstrates that the JARC-funded work shuttle provided by Valley Transit District is working, resulting in a continuous increase in ridership.

Did you know?

- People to Jobs began in 1996 as a Regional Transportation Task Force. It was a pilot to improve access to jobs for low-income individuals and anyone depending on public transportation.
- Now it is an integral part of the transportation system, getting thousands of people in Southwestern Connecticut to and from work.
- Without these vital services, those who have become increasingly reliant upon public transportation could lose their jobs or be unable to access employment opportunities.
- 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.

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People to Jobs



New Access to New Jobs

There are many growing and new job centers across the State with no access to public transportation. New developments in corridors like State Route 25 from Bridgeport which enables access to Danbury and Washington Boulevard in downtown Stamford provide available job opportunities for the thousands of unemployed in neighboring cities/towns which cannot be filled due to the lack of service. Over the past 10 years, transit agencies across the State have worked to address these needs and have filled some of the gaps successfully with services like the Route 7 Link between Norwalk and Danbury and the Coastal Link between Milford and Norwalk, which today serve more than **100,000** customers each month. These agencies have worked as part of regional collaboratives and know where to grow next. Increased investment in transit operations is required to make these types of connections.



Mobility Management Project

Through a Federal New Freedom Initiative Grant, The Kennedy Center's Mobility Management project is working to coordinate transportation services in Southwestern Connecticut for people with disabilities, seniors and veterans. The project also seeks to uncover gaps in transportation through community outreach and identifying creative ways to fill these gaps. A web-based "one stop shop" and printed guidebook will assist with finding solutions to transportation challenges. A taxi voucher program is also being implemented along with a volunteer driver program for veterans.



At Adecco, we are in the business of putting people to work. Public transportation is a crucial part of our success as well as the success of our associates and our clients. We employ many wonderful people from Bridgeport who would not be able to get to and from work without the Greater Bridgeport Transit system.

Laura Sahlin
Client Service Manager, Adecco Employment
Schick Wilkinson Sword Partnership

Your Continued Support Is Needed

- Employers and jobseekers need your help to eliminate transportation as one of the barriers to employment. Reliable and cost-effective public transportation is vital to ensure service is available where and when riders need it. Any cut, large or small, will impact riders and employers.
- 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. In the past and continuing today, funding in these line items has been threatened due to State budget constraints. Any cuts in these line items will lead to cuts in service and job losses for the **more than 7,900 average monthly unduplicated riders who board job access services over 1,300,000 times** throughout the region. The potential to save money by implementing efficiencies or cutting overhead have been exhausted. Cuts to the budget for these programs will inevitably and unavoidably impact service.