

# Proposal to Expand ACTR's Tri-Town Shuttle Bus Route

## Community Factsheet



### **What is ACTR proposing?**

In response to community requests, Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) is proposing to increase service between Middlebury, Bristol, New Haven and Vergennes by expanding the Tri-Town Shuttle Bus (TTSB). The proposed service would include direct service between Middlebury and Vergennes and increase the route's frequency from every two hours to every one hour.



### **Why do we need this increased service?**

Current service on the TTSB is limited. There is no direct service between Vergennes and Middlebury and the current frequency on the route is every two hours. ACTR has heard from many community members, employers and current riders that this service is not adequate. The proposal is to create two separate loops to provide Vergennes with direct access to Middlebury and increase frequency from every two hours to every hour. The proposed service would also increase connections between Bristol and Vergennes and increase the connections to each town including New Haven.



### **How will this new service benefit the community?**

ACTR plays a vital role economically in Addison County. We provide employers with employees and businesses with customers. Major employers in the area have been contacting ACTR to say that many of their employees are asking about access to alternative transportation because they are squeezed financially due to the high gas prices and other rising costs.



### **How does ACTR know there is the demand for this expanded service?**

Beyond what we hear from current and potential riders as well as the business community, a consultant study conducted for ACTR in June 2006 found that the current service captures less than 50% of the potential ridership. The limited frequency and indirect service make it hard for people to use the current TTSB service. The proposed service will create a significant improvement in affordable and accessible public transportation in Addison County.



### **When is this proposal due?**

We expect proposals to be due in mid-May 2008 to VTrans. The proposal process is highly competitive. Public Transportation providers around Vermont compete for a finite amount of new public transportation funds from VTrans. One of the most important criteria that helps distinguish one proposal from another is the public transportation provider's ability to demonstrate community support (both ridership and potential local match monies) for the new service. ACTR is seeking this support now to ensure its proposal is as thorough as possible, which will help secure the funding.



### **How will the service be paid for?**

VTrans grants only cover 80% of the cost for the expanded service. We anticipate the total cost to increase this service will be approximately \$100,000. ACTR is responsible for raising the other 20% (or approximately \$20,000) as a local match.



### **What can we do?**

The more community support ACTR can demonstrate, the stronger our application will be. You can write a letter of support for ACTR to submit with its application that includes a pledge of your financial commitment to this new service.

Letters may be sent to:

Jim Moulton

ACTR

282 Boardman Street

Middlebury, VT 05753



### **What is next?**

Should ACTR be awarded the grant from VTrans, public hearings will be held to discuss final design of the new service.

***ACTR can't do this without you.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.***

### **AND, keep in mind!**

- All of ACTR's bus services have experienced ridership increases each year (228% total since FY02).
- Every new service ACTR has implemented has seen ridership success.
- In January 2008 we set all time ridership records in 5 of our 6 benchmarks, and ridership continues to grow (another 14.2% YTD over FY07).
- Your support will pay dividends – both to you and the community at large and you will see a tangible return on your investment.