

# ON THE ROAD WITH ACTR

July 2006

Welcome to the latest edition of “On the Road with ACTR”, a periodic publication designed to keep you informed of the latest news about ACTR and our services. Feedback and comments about our services or this newsletter are always welcome. Call 388-1946 or email us at [info@actr-vt.org](mailto:info@actr-vt.org). Thanks and enjoy!



## Total Ridership Tops 100,000 for First Time Ever!

For the 14<sup>th</sup> straight year the community rode with ACTR at a record pace. Total ridership for the year ending June 30, 2006 hit an eye-popping 109,000 – the first time it has ever topped 100,000! That is an average of 3 rides for every man, woman and child in the county over the course of the year. If you haven’t ridden with us yet, experience Addison County’s leading transportation alternative. After all – ACTR is for everyone!



## Demand Seen in Every Service

The amazing fact is that rising ridership is being experienced on every route and service that ACTR provides. In the last year alone, ridership on the Middlebury Shuttle rose 18% while the Tri-Town Shuttle increased by 9%. The growth rate on the Snow Bowl shuttle was 27% while the CCTA-operated Burlington LINK ridership almost doubled. In addition, our demand-response system – primarily transportation to medical and healthcare services and provided mainly via our volunteer driver network – experienced an increase of 4%.



## Burlington LINK Expands to Include Saturdays

Weekday commuter service between Middlebury and Burlington proved so popular this year that we were asked to expand into Saturdays, as well. Launched the last weekend in March, and operating two round-trips, this route has averaged over 20 riders per day ever since.



## More New Services in the Works?

The demand described above doesn’t end with our current services, either. In letters, phone calls and face-to-face conversations, the community has been consistently asking for new or

expanded services – and we are responding! Along with “the Bus” in Rutland County, we have already submitted a joint proposal to the state Agency of Transportation to provide service between Middlebury and Rutland. We expect to hear by Labor Day whether or not this service will receive funding. In addition, we have almost completed our grant-funded study of other potential routes and we will soon know exactly where any new efforts should be prioritized. For anyone interested, this study will be posted at [www.actr-vt.org](http://www.actr-vt.org).



## Our Own Facility?

How does ACTR expect to handle its ongoing and future growth? Well, we are hopeful to someday have our own facility with space for vehicle maintenance and storage as well as administrative offices. Such a building would enable us to improve the quality of service we provide and lower our daily operating costs. Through grant funds provided by the Community Transportation Association of America we have been working closely with a special consultant team to help us determine how to best meet our current and future needs. Once completed, this study will provide us with the necessary foundation with which to begin planning a future capital campaign.



## ACTR Goes Biodiesel

Part of ACTR’s mission is “to enhance the ... environmental health of the region” and we take that seriously. This year, besides continuing to be an alternative to single-occupancy vehicles, ACTR decided to reduce its own carbon-emissions. To do that, we began the process of converting to B20 biodiesel fuel by purchasing our first diesel engine vehicle. With two more diesel buses scheduled to arrive this summer, soon 25% of ACTR’s fleet will be running on biodiesel fuel. Over time, we expect to increase both the number of diesel vehicles in our fleet and the percentage of biodiesel fuel used.



## Safety and Convenience

ACTR continues to work towards providing you with the safest, most convenient ride possible. This year saw the installation of our first bus shelter. Located at Merchant’s Row in Middlebury, we hope to build more in the future. In addition, all of our buses are installed with both bicycle carrying racks and built-in child seats. Each rack can carry up to two bicycles and is easy to use while there are two five-point harness child-seats in every vehicle. If you are unsure how to use them feel free to ask your driver for assistance!



## Ride ACTR to Local Events this Summer and Fall

ACTR often provides transportation to many popular annual or once-in-a-lifetime county events. Examples of the many celebrations that have been or will be accessible by public transportation include the Exchange Street Block Party, Vermont Symphony Orchestra Fourth of July Pops Concert, Festival-on-the-Green, Lego Brick Blast, Addison County Fair and Field Days, Vergennes Day, Bristol Harvest Festival and Dead Creek Wildlife Day. Call 388-1946 or check out [www.actr-vt.org](http://www.actr-vt.org) for details and schedules as each event draws near.