

# Record number are riding buses

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*By The Stowe Reporter*

With gas prices going up and growing concern over both the global and economic climates, Vermonters are turning to public transportation in record numbers.

Green Mountain Transit Agency says a record number of riders used its bus system during the fiscal year that ended June 30.

“Whether it’s the commuter unable to absorb the cost of driving to work, the elderly receiving rides to meal sites or the single parent trying to save money for their kid’s day care, our service is becoming the primary source of transportation for many,” said Tawnya Kristen, the bus agency’s public outreach coordinator. “We don’t expect the demand for our services to start decreasing anytime soon.”

Ridership rose the most on commuter bus routes. Just over 54,000 people used the commuter bus linking Montpelier and Burlington last year, a 45 percent increase.

The Waterbury commuter line, between Montpelier and Waterbury, had a 24 percent jump. The Morrisville-Waterbury route, called the Route 100 Commuter, had 14 percent more riders.

In all, ridership for the entire Green Mountain Transit system, which includes the Mountain Road Shuttle in Stowe, is up almost 13 percent from last year.

In response, the agency will add a daily run to the most popular route, the Montpelier-Burlington LINK Express, beginning Aug. 25. The bus will leave Cherry Street in Burlington at 4 p.m., making all the usual stops on its way to Montpelier, then depart from Shaw’s Supermarket in Montpelier at 5:30 p.m. for the run back to Burlington.

The Montpelier-Burlington LINK Express runs weekdays during peak commuter hours, with stops in Montpelier, Waterbury, Richmond and Burlington. It costs \$4 each way, \$40 for a 10-ride ticket and \$125 for a monthly pass.

Information: 802-223-7287 or [www.gmtaride.org](http://www.gmtaride.org).