

## **MONTPELIER CIRCULATOR**

**Article 12:** “Shall the City of Montpelier appropriate the sum of \$40,000 towards the creation of a new, year-round bus route within the City of Montpelier? This \$40,000 will match approximately \$120,000 from GMTA to fully fund the service. Specific stops, route, and schedule of service will be determined jointly between the City and the Green Mountain Transit Agency with input from the public. (By Petition) (This amount is in addition to the \$29,371 for other GMTA services which is included in the City General Fund Budget, Article 2.)”

### **Background**

For the past 7 years, the Green Mountain Transit Agency has operated a route known as the Capital Shuttle in downtown Montpelier during the legislative session. This service offers connections from remote Montpelier parking areas (DOL) with the Statehouse and downtown area as well as offered connections for State employees at National Life to the Statehouse. While these areas are served well by the Capital Shuttle during the legislative session, it does not serve Montpelier residents particularly well.

The route does not travel to Montpelier neighborhoods and because it only operates during the legislative session, residents are left without service for approximately eight months of the year. The City of Montpelier has long been interested in a year-round "circulator" type route that would connect the downtown area with City neighborhoods and other important destinations.

With the history of the Capital Shuttle and the interest in the Montpelier Circulator in mind, the GMTA Board of Directors instructed staff to study whether implementation of a year-round Montpelier Circulator route could be accomplished in conjunction with changes to the Capital Shuttle route.

### **Planning of Service Route**

Upon funding approval by the City of Montpelier, the City and GMTA will jointly plan the route to include **at least** one public hearing. If the City should not agree with the planning outcome recommended by GMTA, the City may withdraw their funding support which will cease the implementation of the service.

Currently, GMTA has received suggestions and requests from various local businesses and service providers on desired service through the Montpelier Circulator. This includes:

**The Coop, Washington County Mental Health Service, Shaw’s, Montpelier Senior Center, Community College of Vermont and individual Montpelier residents.**

### **Proposed Cost of Service**

With this baseline information in mind, staff developed draft service outlines for a Montpelier Circulator route. GMTA has provided samples of possible route service for City Council review. The cost below is based on one of two samples offered. The second cost not listed was at a lower local cost but that was coupled with a lower level of service.

- \$160,000 to 170,000 (dependent on specific route)
  - \$120,000 through reprogrammed GMTA funds (75%)
  - \$40,000 (25%) from City
    - \$40k should be viewed as a minimum input for effective Circulator service



### *Getting you where you need to go!*

- Annual cost to City in-perpetuity
- Cost increases as cost-of-operation increases (fuel, etc)

