

# **ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT**

## **2011 - 2012**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was formed in 1981 by the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary region. The nine towns include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. ETD's mission is to provide local, coordinated public transportation for all residents of the area. To meet this goal, ETD operates public transit via the 9 Town Transit (9TT) service.

9TT's four deviated fixed routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. The routes include the Old Saybrook to Madison Shoreline Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Chester Riverside Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Middletown Mid-Shore Express, and the new Old Saybrook to New London Southeast Shuttle. These routes offer free connections to the New Haven, New London/Norwich, Middletown, and Hartford area bus services.

In addition to the deviated fixed routes, 9TT provides door-to-door service throughout all nine towns of the Estuary region through its Dial-A-Ride service. As with all of 9TT's services, the Dial-A-Ride service is open to all persons with no age or disability restrictions. During the year, ETD expanded Dial-A-Ride services to include the town of Haddam.

During the year, ETD expanded the service hours of its Southeast Shuttle and Mid-Shore Express services to improve availability for work and school related trips. This combined with the marketing efforts have led to an increase in ridership of 29% over the previous fiscal year to 94,163 trips and 80% of trips being persons below 60 years of age. The continued growth has led to a need to purchase larger buses to accommodate the growing passenger loads.

After completing nearly \$900,000 in capital purchases over the past two years, ETD was awarded an additional \$675,000 to purchase seven replacement buses. In addition, ETD received funding to make three of the replacement buses hybrid electric, continuing the commitment to clean fuel technology.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by the ETD Board of Directors made up of one representative from each town, each having a weighted vote based on the population of the town they represent. The Directors serve in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. In 2008, the board hired First Transit, Inc., a professional transit management company, to provide an Executive Director to manage the day to day business of ETD. Regular board meetings are held on the third Friday every other month at 9:00 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

ETD continued to grow its unrestricted fund balance during the 2011-2012 fiscal year through aggressive financial management by staff and the board. This has enhanced ETD's cash flow position, reducing the need for borrowing.

**Board of Directors**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Town</b>
Noel Bishop		Westbrook
Richard Cabral	Chairman	Killingworth
Ralph Eno		Lyme
John Forbis	Treasurer	Old Lyme
Roland Laine		Old Saybrook
Jack Spangler		Essex
Richard Smith		Deep River
Leslie Strauss	Vice-Chairman	Chester
Virginia Zawoy	Secretary	Clinton

**Administrative Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Joseph Comerford	Executive Director
Paul Tyrrell	Operations Manager
Halyna Famiglietti	Finance Manager
Sue Traskos	Lead Dispatcher