

# **ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT**

## **FY 2013 - 2014**

### **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.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints one representative, each having a weighted vote based on the population of the town he or she represents. Towns receiving contracted services appoint a non-voting member. 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 of every other month at 9:30 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

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. Free connections are offered onto 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 as well as the towns of Durham, East Haddam, and Haddam 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.

ETD's services are subsidized by federal, state and local funding. This allows for inexpensive fares of \$1.50 for deviated fixed routes and \$3.00 for Dial-A-Ride. ETD also receives a Title III grant through the area agency on aging which allows area senior citizens to ride any ETD service on a donation basis in lieu of the fare.

During the fiscal year, East Haddam began contracted demand response service with the district. Dial-A-Ride service began in East Haddam in January, and had provided 344 trips by year end. In addition, ETD began providing Dial-A-Ride service to parts of Middletown, offering improved access to medical services.

Ridership continued to grow throughout most services. Nearly 104,000 passenger trips were provided during the fiscal year, doubling the annual trips provided just five years ago. Though ETD has continued to grow senior ridership, 80% of all trips are made by persons below 60 years of age, and over half of all trips are employment related.

Though the expansion of services slowed this year, ETD is aggressively pursuing funding to provide new deviated fixed route service between Middletown and Madison along Route 81. Funds are also being sought to extend the Shoreline Shuttle hours as well as make service adjustments to improve the on-time performance.

ETD continued to grow its unrestricted fund balance, which is now at almost 12% of the annual operating budget. This has enhanced ETD's cash flow position, reducing the need for borrowing and reducing interest expense.

## Board of Directors

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

## Administrative Staff

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Joseph Comerford	Executive Director
Allison Meshnick	Operations Manager
Halyna Famiglietti	Finance Manager