



## Contoocook Valley Transportation Cooperative

*Transportation for Everyone*

### October 2007

Greetings! Welcome to our new informal newsletter...

For those of you who aren't familiar with the Contoocook Valley Transportation Cooperative, we are a grassroots cooperative, established to create an affordable, accessible, coordinated, inclusive community transportation system for the fourteen towns of the Contoocook Valley. We are always looking for new energy and ideas, so if you want to contribute, please give us a call or send an e-mail.

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It was a busy summer. CVTC went to fairs and festivals in Greenfield, Jaffrey, Dublin and New Ipswich to raise awareness of our project and of the need for community transportation. In addition, the Antrim Community Bus represented CVTC in the Hancock Old Home Days parade and the Frankestown Labor Day parade. (We won first prize and a blue ribbon in Frankestown, for "Most Appropriate".) On Saturday, the 29th of September, CVTC participated in the Rotary Club Wellness Festival in Peterborough. We had a booth with our lovely banner decorating it, and we passed out brochures and toy cars while we talked to people about the need for community transportation in our area. Transportation is indeed a health and wellness issue, as rides to physicians and stores are vital to good health.

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In July the state passed two important law changes affecting transportation services.

One change protects volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles from having their auto insurance policies revoked or their rates increased just because they are volunteer drivers. That's great news, because a lot of us depend on volunteer drivers to get around.

A last-minute amendment to the volunteer driver bill created the much-anticipated Statewide Coordination Council for Community Transportation. This council had its first meeting on the 27th of September in Concord, and will be setting up regional councils for coordinating transportation. The goal of CVTC is to become the regional coordination council for our area.

The other transportation law passed this summer set up a light rail authority that will have responsibility for developing and providing commuter rail. Jim Ryan, chair of the transportation committee in this state, came by the CVTC booth at the Greenfield Blueberry Festival and told us about it.

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We now have an official logo, as you can see. We also have new brochures (attached) that help explain our project and the need for community transportation. CVTC has become a member of the Community Transportation Association of America and the New Hampshire Transit Association.

These groups have great resources available, including information on financial support.

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Coming up soon is a public meeting to review the Department of Transportation Ten Year Highway Plan. The Milford meeting is on Monday, 15 October, in the banquet room of the Milford Town Hall at 7:00 pm. The Peterborough meeting is on Tuesday, 16 October, in the upper hall of Town Hall, at 7:00 pm. The Keene meeting is on 23 October, in the Keene Public Library Auditorium at 6:30 pm. There are also meetings in Nashua, Manchester, and many other locations throughout the month. Please attend one of these meetings if you can and voice your support for community transportation.

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Get involved with CVTC. Do you know anyone who would make a good transportation ambassador? We're forming a board of town transportation representatives, a town network if you will, that will have one or two representatives from each town in our 14-town area. This group will meet on a regular basis to exchange ideas and share information so that each town can benefit from the knowledge of activities in the other towns. In addition, these reps will help CVTC identify people in their towns who want to get involved in the project, and help CVTC meet with select boards and planning boards to discuss community transportation. Maybe you are the right person for this job? Send your recommendations right away to Rebecca Harris (phone 924-2159 or e-mail [rlharris@cvtc-nh.org](mailto:rlharris@cvtc-nh.org)).

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We are working on community workshops on how to get community transportation started in your town. Topics we'd like to present are how to implement ride-sharing programs and how to get a volunteer driver network started in your town. Please let us know if you would like to schedule a workshop in your town.

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Thank you for your interest and involvement in this very important project. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,  
Rebecca

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***Here are some of the trips already available:***

*Weekly Antrim Community Bus Trip to Seniors' Lunch at Sargeant Camp in Hancock on Tuesdays, leaving Antrim at 11:00 a.m. Phone 588-3121 to reserve a spot.*

*The Antrim Community Bus makes shopping trips from Antrim to Hillsborough and Antrim to Peterborough on alternate Wednesdays. Phone 588-3121 to reserve a spot.*

*The Senior Focus bus makes regular shopping trips. Phone 532-2426 for more information.*