



## Contoocook Valley Transportation Cooperative

*Transportation for Everyone*

### January 2008

Happy New Year! 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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Exciting things are happening here at CVTC. At the regional level, we have formed a CVTC Board of Town Transportation Representatives. These reps will pull together a group of citizens in each town whose role is to develop transportation options within their own communities. Town reps act as liaisons between CVTC and the municipalities, and meet monthly to share ideas so that developments in one town can quickly spread to the others.

In another development, CVTC has become a member of the New Hampshire Transit Association and the Community Transportation Association of America. These groups provide excellent technical assistance and support to transportation groups such as ours.

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CVTC staff and the town groups are working to establish a regional rideshare program and to create volunteer driver networks in each town. If you would like to

join this effort, phone the CVTC office at 924-2159, or e-mail [info@cvtc-nh.org](mailto:info@cvtc-nh.org).

In addition to ridesharing and volunteer driver networks, CVTC will research new transportation options such as fixed route transit along major routes, and to coordinate existing and future transportation options through information sharing. CVTC will also offer technical assistance to municipalities and other groups on issues such as transportation funding, liability insurance, and vehicle leasing and purchasing. The cooperative will be able to use bulk buying power to offer discounts on training and fleet maintenance.

All transportation options will be accessible through a single toll-free phone number and a CVTC website, which is under development. The website will also include news and information about CVTC, plus a transportation library.

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Legislation last summer enabled the formation of the Statewide Coordination Council for Community Transportation to promote the coordination of community transportation by reducing duplication of services and utilizing excess capacity in existing services. This council will oversee the creation of regional councils who will in turn select or create regional transportation coordinators responsible for the day-to-day coordination of community transportation in the regions, including dispatch service, data collection and reporting, and research

on additional funding streams for community transportation.

The CVTC steering group is forming the Contoocook Valley Regional Coordination Council (CVRCC) as part of this statewide structure. We are following the example set by the Nashua RCC, which is the first of the regional councils to form in the state.

It is important for our region to have its own council, else it is at risk of being split up among neighboring regions, which puts our towns once again at the margins of multiple service areas. The CVRCC will assume the role of the steering group in helping to establish CVTC as a nonprofit business whose goal is to create an affordable, accessible, coordinated, inclusive community transportation system for the fourteen towns of the Contoocook Valley.

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Volunteer drivers form an integral part of many rural transportation systems, and we are no exception. There are buses and vans in our region sitting idle for lack of qualified volunteer drivers. We're researching how to recruit and train volunteers to make use of these resources. At the same time, our town reps are identifying public-spirited citizens who are willing to use their own vehicles to help their neighbors get to medical appointments and grocery stores. We are researching ways to reimburse these volunteers for their mileage. If you or anyone you know wants to become a volunteer driver, please contact us at 924-2159 or [info@cvtc-nh.org](mailto:info@cvtc-nh.org).

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CVTC is a transportation project created by the people, for the people. If you want to get involved, or if you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, phone

the CVTC office at 924-2159, or e-mail [info@cvtc-nh.org](mailto:info@cvtc-nh.org).

Best wishes,

Rebecca

Rebecca Harris, Project Coordinator

Contoocook Valley Transportation Cooperative

Telephone: (603) 924-2159

E-mail: [rlharris@cvtc-nh.org](mailto:rlharris@cvtc-nh.org)

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***Here are some trips you might like to take:***

*Weekly Antrim Community Bus Trip to Seniors' Lunch at Sargent Center for Outdoor Education in Hancock on Tuesdays. 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.*

***If you know of other group destinations, give us a call at 924-2159, or e-mail [info@cvtc-nh.org](mailto:info@cvtc-nh.org). Thank you!***