

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Van Chesnut, Executive Director, Advance Transit

Main Desk Phone: 802-295-1824 x 203, M-F, 8AM-4PM

vchesnut@sover.net

www.advancetransit.com

**ADVANCE TRANSIT RECEIVES ARRA FUNDS FOR “GREEN” UPGRADES
TO IMPROVE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE AND LOWER OPERATING EXPENSES**

Wilder, VT, June 18, 2009 —Advance Transit announced today that the Advance Transit Board of Directors approved expenditures of just under \$2.653 million of the over \$3.26 million in federal and State of New Hampshire grant funds allocated to the Upper Valley’s regional non-profit public transit system.

Advance Transit is the recipient of \$1.529 million in stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (known as ARRA). Projects to be undertaken as a result of the Board of Director’s vote include the expansion of bus storage facility and rehab of the existing administrative offices (Phase I), and ARRA LEED Silver Certification work including solar collectors, rain-water re-use, energy efficient heating and cooling systems and the expanded maintenance and bus storage facility (Phase II) for AT’s fleet of 30 buses and ADA vans.

Van Chesnut, Advance Transit Executive Director stated, “We feel very fortunate to be a direct recipient of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. These funds will help us finance capital projects that we did not have resources to otherwise undertake. Our goal at Advance Transit is to ensure that our customers and the Upper Valley region receive maximum benefit from the ARRA funds that have been allocated to AT.”

AT has focused the expenditure of ARRA funds on improving the current bus operations facility, as allowed by the Act, which will reduce ongoing operating costs by investing in green upgrades to facilities and equipment.

“We are focusing on implementing capital projects that will improve our passenger experience and lower ongoing operating expenses,” remarked Chesnut. “ARRA funds cannot be utilized to support public transit operations.” This means that this money cannot be used to expand service or make-up for other potential cuts (state) to funding.

Shortly, the Board of Directors is expected to award a contract to the general contractor who entered the lowest bid for the completion of the project.

Staff began by conducting an RFQ for A&E services in the Spring of 2008. Once the qualified firm of Wiemann-Lamphere was selected, work began on identifying the capacity of our existing location to support additional bus operations. The proposal called for a three phase construction process for our existing site. Funding had been secured to work through the construction identified as Phase I. Upon learning of the possibility of receiving ARRA funds, AT immediately began to pursue the option of constructing phase two. By implementing both Phase I and II as a single project we are able to take advantage of lower mobilization costs and timing, which is critical for ARRA funded projects.

In an effort to be transparent and accountable to taxpayers who support the service, Advance Transit has posted information about ARRA related projects on its web site at <http://www.advancetransit.com>. Advance Transit (AT) has provided public transit service to the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont for over 25 years.

Advance Transit is a private, non-profit transit system that relies on federal and local government support and business and private contributions to operate. For more information on Advance Transit, visit www.advancetransit.com or call Advance Transit at (802) 295-1824.

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