



On Board

with Advance Transit



Celebrating a 40-Year Journey

Advance Transit Reaches Milestone

Advance Transit (AT), the Upper Valley's fare-free public transit service, is celebrating a remarkable milestone this year. Since its founding on January 12, 1984, AT has become a crucial part of the fabric of our towns, connecting people and ensuring accessible transportation. As we celebrate four decades of service, we're grateful to be on this journey!

From Humble Beginnings

In 1981, AT was launched as a program of the Upper Valley Senior Citizens Council, featuring fixed-route services in seven communities and transportation services for older and disabled riders in Grafton and Orange counties. It soon evolved into a larger agency to address the broader transit needs of the community.

Ridership grew steadily, from 3,157 trips in its first month of operation to 17,000 trips per month by 1984. After three years of service, AT's capital plan called for a fleet of 17 vehicles and the construction of a maintenance facility. On January 12, 1984, AT was formally incorporated as a private nonprofit corporation, with Helene Chapman as the agency's first Executive Director.

In 1987, Van Chesnut assumed the role of Executive Director until his retirement in 2022. During his tenure, he grew the organization in service offerings and staff size; developed relationships with government agencies and large regional employers; demonstrated how transit can help alleviate congestion and parking demand; opened an expanded facility in the fall of 1994; and established fare-free bus service in 2002.

Today, Adams Carroll serves as Executive Director. He and the AT team have moved forward long-planned efforts to ex-



pand service to evenings and Saturdays, developed a variety of rider resources (including new bus stop signs and how-to videos), and introduced AT's first two electric buses to the fleet, along with a growing number of zero-emission electric vehicles.

14 Million+ Passenger Trips and Counting

Today, with over 14 million passenger trips, AT has become an integral part of the Upper Valley. During these past 40 years, we've navigated bumps on the road, from infrastructure changes to financial hurdles, and even a pandemic! Yet, our team of drivers, mechanics, and office staff have remained strong, and your community support has helped us weather these storms, emerging even more committed to our mission.

Celebration and Gratitude

We invite the community to join us on Saturday, June 22, 11am to 2pm, to celebrate our 40th anniversary at the Van Chesnut Transit Operations Center, located at 120 Billings Farm Road in White River Junction. Go for a ride on one of our buses, experience a bus wash, and take a guided tour of our garage. There will be lively music, delicious treats, and transit-inspired crafts.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated staff, loyal riders, community partners, government agencies, and generous donors. As we reflect on the past and look to the future, we express our deepest gratitude. Together, we'll continue to ensure that AT remains at the heart of our communities—a link that connects us all. Thank you for 40 incredible years!





Connecting with Community

A Summer of Events and Experiences

As the weather warms and the days grow longer, we are excited to share with you a season filled with service and collaboration. Our commitment to fostering connections within our community is the driving force behind our participation in a series of vibrant local events this summer.

Mark Your Calendars!

We invite you to join us at the following events:

- **Norwich Farmers Market**
281 Route 5 South, Norwich, VT
Saturday, June 1, 9:00am–1:00pm
Saturday, September 7, 9:00am–1:00pm
- **Enfield Farmers Market**
Huse Park, 331-301, US-4, Enfield, NH
Saturday, June 8, 10:00am–1:00pm
Saturday, August 10, 10:00am–1:00pm
- **Hartford Community Center Block Party**
Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St, White River Junction, VT
Wednesday, June 19, 5:00–8:00pm
- **Lebanon Farmers Market**
Colburn Park, 51 N Park St, Lebanon, NH
Thursday, August 15, 4:00–7:00pm
- **Canaan Farmers Market**
On The Common Ln, Canaan, NH
Sunday, August 18, 10:00am–2:00pm



Photos (top-bottom): Table at Lebanon Farmers Market, 2023; Hosting Leadership Upper Valley session, 2024; Guided trip with Dartmouth students, 2023.

Hop Aboard for Guided Rides

This summer, in addition to events, we're also focusing on shared experiences. We'll be hosting guided rides in partnership with local organizations. These rides are designed to help community members feel more confident in using public transit and to provide opportunities to explore the Upper Valley together, offering a firsthand experience of the convenience and comfort of AT. Stay tuned for more information.

Stay Connected

Don't miss out on any updates or additional events! Sign up for our emails at advancetransit.com/subscribe for the latest news and details. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Navigating with Ease

A Guide to Advance Transit's Rider Resources

Ready to explore the Upper Valley hassle-free? With an array of rider resources, your journey with Advance Transit is bound to be seamless and stress-free. Whether you're a seasoned commuter or a first-time rider, we've got everything you need to navigate our fare-free buses like a pro.

Remember, Advance Transit is more than just a mode of transportation. We're your partners in exploration, your allies in accessibility, and your champions of convenience. With our rider resources at your fingertips, navigating the Upper Valley is a breeze!



Visit Our Website

Dive into the world of easy transit with a visit to our How to Ride page (advancetransit.com/how-to-ride). Here, you'll find a treasure trove of essential information tailored to your needs. From downloading schedules to planning your trip, our website is your one-stop destination for all things transit.



Scan to visit
How to Ride page

Watch Our Videos

Easily access Advance Transit's How To Ride video series on youtube.com/@advancetransit. They offer step-by-step instructions that will guide you through the ins and outs of using our services. Whether you're figuring out how to plan your trip or mastering the art of making transfers, our videos have got you covered.



Scan to visit AT's
YouTube channel



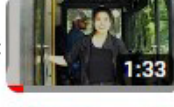

Pick Up Our Rider Brochures

Packed with handy tips and useful insights, these printed resources are your pocket-sized guides to riding the bus. Grab your copies at our Transit Operations Center or swing by the community organizations listed on our website.



Scan to see a list of
brochure pick-up
locations



	Boarding and Exiting the Bus Advance Transit How to Ride...	⋮
	Planning a Trip Advance Transit How to Ride Series	⋮
	Making a Transfer Advance Transit How to Ride Series	⋮
	Using the Bike Rack Advance Transit How To Ride Series	⋮



Your support has a lasting impact!

Service and community are at the heart of our work. But we can't do it alone. That's why we're incredibly grateful to our generous donors, whose gifts help us provide free transit services to meet community needs. And, donations offer more than just a ride. From connecting people to helping the environment, your gifts make a lasting impact!

At Advance Transit, our mission is to provide safe, friendly, and FREE public transportation services to help assure the continued livability and accessibility of Upper Valley communities in New Hampshire and Vermont.

We are committed to offering a crucial service that:

- **Increases access to jobs and housing**
- **Connects people to community resources**
- **Expands mobility for people with disabilities**
- **Helps older riders participate fully in their communities**
- **Reduces traffic congestion and manages parking demand**
- **Provides a sustainable mode of transportation**



Donate today

advancetransit.com/donate

Connecting People and Places

Our buses take commuters to work, students to school, older riders to doctors' appointments, families to the grocery store, and friends to parks and restaurants. Our buses don't just link people to places; they also connect them with each other.



565,860+
Fixed-route rides
in 2023



6,460+
Paratransit rides
in 2023

Operating Sustainably

Operating sustainably is part of our mission – both on the road and off. That's why we've implemented eco-friendly processes at our operations center. Ultimately, these efforts don't just help Mother Nature, but the community as well.



Two electric buses

added to the fleet



Actively harvest rainwater

to wash buses



Recycle used motor oil

into a heat source



Use a solar array

to help power a LEED-certified facility

"Thank you for being active in the community! I support this invaluable service because I know first-hand the importance of safe and reliable public transport."