The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was formed in 1981 by the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary region. The nine towns have now grown to twelve and include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Durham, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, 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 under the name 9 Town Transit (9TT) and XtraMile.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints one representative who serves in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. Regular board meetings are held on the second Friday of every month at 9:00 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

ETD’s five routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. Door-to-door service is provided 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. ETD also provides a taxi voucher program to provide half price taxi trips to seniors and people with disabilities and is the operator of the Clinton Trolley.

ETD’s services are subsidized by federal, state and local funding. This allows for inexpensive fares of $1.75 for deviated fixed routes, $.85 for people with disabilities, and $3.50 for Dial-A-Ride. Students of participating state colleges and universities may ride any route for free with a UPass. 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.

ETD continued to be severely impacted by COVID-19 during the year. Supply chain issues have impacted the ability to repair and replace vehicles, fuel costs have significantly increased and labor shortages have impacted staffing. Despite these challenges, ridership grew during the year, and by June are near pre-COVID levels. Federal relief funds have been critical in allowing ETD to continue operating service at regular service levels.

Throughout the year, ETD worked with Middletown Transit District to transition into one combined agency. The towns of Durham, Middlefield and Middletown joined ETD in preparation for the July 1, 2022 merger date. The newly combined ETD will operate 66,000 hours of service over 1.3 million miles annually. Property has been purchased in Middletown for a shared maintenance facility for the combined fleet of 40 buses.

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments completed a study of the countywide transit needs in the seventeen town region served by ETD. The study provided many service improvement suggestions including expanding the span of service hours, new Sunday service, increasing frequencies and improving transfers between routes. ETD will begin implementing the suggestions over the next year, pending availability of funding.

**Board of Directors**

**Name Town**

John Hall Westbrook

Joan Gay Vice-Chairman Killingworth

David Lahm Lyme

Tim Griswold Secretary Old Lyme

Charlie Norz Treasurer Old Saybrook

D.G. Fitton Essex

Angus McDonald Deep River

Leslie Strauss Chairman Chester

Karl Kilduff Clinton

Vacant Durham

Jim Irish Middlefield

Beverly Lawrence Middletown

Bobbie Knoll Peterson Middletown

**Administrative Staff**

**Name Position**

Joseph Comerford Executive Director

Jared Whitcomb Operations Director

Halyna Famiglietti Finance Manager

Patrick Hevrin Maintenance Director