

# **ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT**

## **FY 2023 – 2024**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was formed in 1981 by the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary region with a mission of providing local, coordinated public transportation for all residents of the area. The nine towns have now grown to thirteen and include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Durham, Essex, East Hampton, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. Service is operated under the name River Valley Transit.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints representatives who serve 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 offers multiple transportation services in the region, operating over 100,000 hours of service and about 1.5 million miles annually. Twelve routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. ADA paratransit service is provided along fixed routes for people with disabilities. Seasonal ParkConneCT service is provided from Hammonasset beach for free to customers.

Door-to-door service is provided throughout all member towns as well as East Haddam and Haddam through Dial-A-Ride service. XtraMile provides general public on-demand service serves areas in Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Essex, East Hampton, Madison, Guilford and Middletown. ETD also provides a taxi voucher program to provide half price taxi trips to seniors and people with disabilities.

ETD's services are subsidized by federal, state and local funding. This allows for inexpensive fares of \$1.75 for routes and XtraMile and \$3.50 for Dial-A-Ride and ADA paratransit. Students of participating state colleges and universities may ride any route for free with a UPass. ETD also offer discounted fares for seniors and people with disabilities on some services.

During the year, ETD implemented recommendations from the regional bus study conducted in 2019. These changes reduced trip lengths on many routes, provided new Old Saybrook local bus service and improved bus connections to reduce travel time for customers. In May, ETD increased service by 30% with their largest expansion ever. This included expanded weeknight, Saturday night and Sunday service on bus routes as well as two new XtraMile zones.

The district also continued work on several major projects that will continue into the new year. These include design of a new maintenance facility in Middletown, acquisition of property for a new Shoreline division facility, procurement of new fare collection equipment, Middletown Transportation Center renovations and the procurement of the district's first electric buses.

#### **Board of Directors**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Town</b>
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
David Cox		East Hampton

Kathryn Russell	Chairman	Deep River
Leslie Strauss		Chester
Michelle Benivegna		Clinton
Brendan Rae		Durham
Jim Irish		Middlefield
Beverly Lawrence		Middletown
Christine Marques		Middletown

### **Administrative Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Joseph Comerford	Executive Director
Jared Whitcomb	Operations Director
Halyna Famiglietti	Finance Director
Patrick Hevrin	Maintenance Director