

# **ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT**

## **FY 2024 – 2025**

### **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 fifteen and include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Durham, Essex, East Hampton, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook. Service is operated under the name River Valley Transit.

ETD 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 about 100,000 hours of service over 1.5 million miles providing 365,000 trips 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. A seasonal trolley service is also operated for the town of Clinton.

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.

This year was the first full year of ETD's expanded weeknight, Saturday night and Sunday service on bus routes redesigned route structure as well as two new XtraMile zones. These enhancements resulted in a ridership increase of 26% over the prior fiscal year. The year also saw the addition of Portland and Haddam as member towns.

ETD also launched two pilot projects to demonstrate new transit technology. This included their first two battery electric transit buses which began operating in April of 2025 and a contactless fare payment system on board all route buses in October of 2024.

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 and Middletown Transportation Center renovations.

#### **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    |           | Deep River   |
| Leslie Strauss     | Chairman  | Chester      |
| Michelle Beniveгна |           | Clinton      |
| Brendan Rae        |           | Durham       |
| Robert McGarry     |           | Haddam       |
| Jim Irish          |           | Middlefield  |
| Beverly Lawrence   |           | Middletown   |
| Christine Marques  |           | Middletown   |
| Michael Pelton     |           | Portland     |

### **Administrative Staff**

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Position</b>      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Joseph Comerford   | Executive Director   |
| Jared Whitcomb     | Operations Director  |
| Halyna Famiglietti | Finance Director     |
| Nick Kulakowski    | Maintenance Director |