

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT

FY 2025 – 2026

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 nearly 450,000 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 and city of Middletown.

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.

ETD's recently expanded weeknight, Saturday night and Sunday service on bus routes redesigned route structure as well as two new XtraMile zones helped to increase overall ridership by 15%, providing nearly 450,000 trips over the year. ETD's contactless fare payment system, launched in late 2024, has simplified fare payments and shifted riders from cash to credit card payments, making up 10% of all trips.

The district made progress on facility projects over the year. Preliminary design was completed on the new Middletown maintenance facility and on Middletown bus terminal improvements, while an environmental study was completed on a parcel for a new Shoreline division facility.

ETD continued to work on a new fare collection system, in cooperation with the state. A contract award is expected in 2027. ETD also worked collaboratively with the state on a unified statewide fare, with a goal of an agreement in FY 2027. This would simplify bus fares statewide and enhance connections to neighboring bus systems.

Board of Directors

Name		Town
John Hall		Westbrook
Joan Gay	Vice-Chairman	Killingworth
Vacant		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
Vacant		Middlefield
Beverly Lawrence		Middletown
Christine Marques		Middletown
Michael Pelton		Portland

Administrative Staff

Name	Position
Joseph Comerford	Executive Director
Jared Whitcomb	Operations Director
Halyna Famiglietti	Finance Director
Nick Kulakowski	Maintenance Director