



Souhegan Valley Rides

The Regional Community Transit Bus Service
Serving Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford since 2008

(1/31/13)

Vote YES on Warrant Article 9

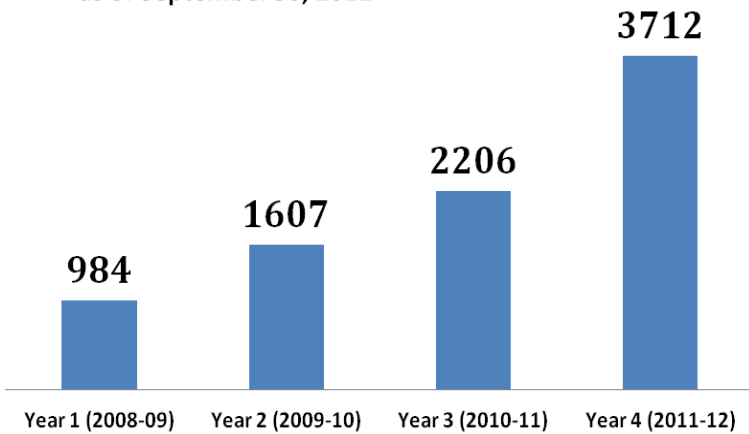
Souhegan Valley Rides is the dial-a-ride bus service implemented in 2008 to address a documented need for affordable, non-emergency, wheelchair-accessible transportation in our region. Although additional types of rides are available, the focus remains on healthcare related transportation. Buses, drivers and call center operations are contracted from the Nashua Transit System (NTS).



The NTS buses have “low-floor, step-less” entry for ease of passenger use, increased safety and more efficient service.

Souhegan Valley Rides (SVR) has experienced steady growth in ridership over the past five years and needs continued community investment and support to roll forward.

Total Rides by Year (Oct - Sept)
as of September 30, 2012



In July 2011, SVR was able to leverage federal funding on an 80% federal - 20% local match basis. These funds allowed the service to expand from 3 days per week to 5 days per week, add later afternoon hours and add new types of rides.

SVR is applying again for federal funding to assist in providing the current level of service. But local funding will still be needed for the federally required match and for service not covered by the federal funds.

Milford residents took the vast majority of bus rides!

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5 (1st 3 months)	Overall Total
Milford residents rides	646	1220	1583	2844	659	6952
% of Total Rides/Year	65.65%	75.92%	71.76%	76.62%	77.08%	74.24%

Souhegan Valley Rides

A regional curb-to-curb bus service using wheelchair-accessible buses

Current Towns Served

Amherst, Brookline, Hollis & Milford

All residents of the participating towns are eligible to use the service.

Schedule

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (including travel time to/from the NTS garage)

Types of rides provided

- Non-emergency healthcare appointments, including doctor visits, dialysis, physical therapy, counseling and hospital services.
- Rides to social service agencies, senior centers, pharmacies, town facilities & more
- Rides to five local shopping plazas are available on Mondays and Thursdays.

Ride coverage area

Rides are provided to and from destinations in Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford, and in Nashua.

Fare

Riders are asked to pay \$2.00 each way. Exact Fare Only – No change can be given. Bus pass program is available to those in greatest need – call for details. Service animals are permitted and Personal Care Attendants ride free.

To register or to schedule a ride

Call 880-0100 ext. 1
Monday through Friday and
at least 48 hours in advance

**For more information, please call
880-0100 then dial extension 1**

Ride services including
scheduling, vehicles and drivers
are contracted from the
Nashua Transit System



NRPC Fiscal agent for SVTC - Nashua Regional Planning Commission WWW.NASHUARPC.ORG

www.SouheganRides.org - P.O. Box 753 Hollis, NH 03049 - Info@SouheganRides.org

Community Benefits - Provides an invaluable service to residents who, either temporarily or permanently, are unable to drive. It is the type of transportation infrastructure that adds to the overall “livability” of our hometowns.

Budget Objective - Assure that Souhegan Valley Rides will be able to operate at least 8 hours/day 3 days/week in the event that federal funding is not available and meet any matching fund requirements.

Community Shares - Are based on percentage use per community, anticipated direct service costs and any carry-over in municipal funding from the previous fiscal year.

Town	Percent of service used*	2013-2014 Community Shares requested	Previous year shares
Amherst	13.8%	\$5100	\$4800
Brookline	3.9%	\$1500	\$1100
Hollis	5.6%	\$2100	\$4400
Milford	76.6%	\$28,100	\$26,500
Total		\$36,800	\$36,800

*Percent use between Oct. 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2012 used to determine 2013-2014 community shares

Proposed FY13-14 Local Funding Summary

Direct Services expenses =	\$ 64,637
Administrative expenses* =	\$ 9,775
Total proposed local funds =	\$ 74,412

* All administrative expenses including \$2000 for the free bus pass program are funded through grants and donations.

The **Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative** (SVTC) is a local grassroots organization of residents, appointed or supported by their Boards of Selectmen, who represent their hometowns and together oversee the bus service. All participating communities are guaranteed representation on the SVTC Board of Directors and a voice in guiding the evolution of this regional transportation service.