

Press Release: Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative

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Blue Bus expands shopping rides!

The Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative is pleased to announce the expansion of its rides for shopping on Mondays and Thursdays to three more shopping locations in Milford.

As of May 4th, the Souhegan Valley Rides bus service will be adding Ocean State Job Lot, Family Dollar at the Granite Town Plaza, and the 222 Elm Street Plaza in Milford as shopping destinations. The bus service also provides rides for shopping on Mondays and Thursdays to Shaw's at Lorden Plaza and Market Basket in Milford, Walmart in Amherst, and Hannaford's on Coliseum Avenue in Nashua.

Souhegan Valley Rides, locally known as "The Blue Bus", is a curb-to-curb, dial-a-ride bus service available to residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Milford, Mont Vernon and Wilton. The service provides transportation within the six towns and to and from Nashua for healthcare and social services appointments, and other essential activities, such as, rides to town facilities including the local libraries, to local senior activity centers, and to the St Joseph Community Dining locations in Milford and Hollis.

Souhegan Valley Rides focuses on providing transportation to non-emergency healthcare appointments and assisting those in greatest need - elderly residents and individuals living with a disability. Other residents may use the service as space is available.

Rides are shared with other passengers which may add some time to your ride but offers an opportunity to socialize while getting to or from your destination. As one longtime passenger said "I just bring a book or my knitting and enjoy the trip!"

The service is available Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm including travel time to and from the garage in Nashua. Riders are asked to pay \$2 each way. A free bus pass program, solely funded by donations, is available for eligible residents who cannot afford the bus fare.

Pre-registration is required and applications are available by calling 880-0100 ext 1 and on the Collaborative's website at www.SouheganValleyRides.org. Rides must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance by calling 880-0100 ext 1 on weekdays. When a scheduled ride is no longer

needed, passengers are expected to call and cancel their ride, preferably, at least the day before. The sooner scheduling changes can be made, the more efficient the service is for all passengers.

The wheelchair-accessible buses, drivers and call center operations are contracted from the Nashua Transit System. A volunteer Board of Directors, known as the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative, oversees the Souhegan Valley Rides service and includes representation from all six of the participating communities. For more information please call 880-0100 ext 1 or visit www.SouheganValleyRides.org .

Alternate/additional photo - all courtesy of SVTC

Pictured in both photos (above and below) is Paul McManus the principal Nashua Transit System driver serving the Souhegan Valley. Paul always has a smile that says “Welcome Aboard”!

