



On Route to Sustainability

Advance Transit Capital Campaign

AT is undertaking two strategic initiatives that will support current and future transportation needs and lead the way to protect our local environment – the purchase of new, lower emission buses, including three diesel-electric hybrid buses, and the expansion and renovation of the AT Operations Center.

AT will replace many of its current buses with low-emission diesel buses. The new buses will meet the rigorous 2007 EPA emission standards for heavy duty diesel engines, reducing nitrogen oxides by up to 95% and particulate matter by up to 90%. AT will also purchase three diesel-electric hybrid buses, the first in the Upper Valley.

The renovation and expansion of the Operations Center will allow for the following improvements:

1. Permit AT to house its buses indoors ~ Currently, more than half of the bus fleet sits outside making it particularly difficult during months of heavy snow and ice for drivers to inspect buses and a longer amount of time to bring the bus temperature up to a comfortable standard.
2. Provide for a 12,000-gallon fuel tank ~The current tank capacity is only 1,000 gallons, requiring costly daily deliveries.
3. Provide for enhanced maintenance and equipment storage facilities for the enlarged and increasingly sophisticated fleet of buses.

AT will incorporate many green building technologies, such as rain-water harvesting for bus washing, solar photo-voltaics and oil burners that use was oil from bus maintenance, leading to LEED Silver Certification for the building.

Purchase of the new buses and the expansion and renovation of the Operations Center will require a capital expenditure of \$8.31 million. AT has received combined federal/state grants totaling \$7.64 million for these planned capital projects leaving a local match requirement of \$670,000.

To secure the matching funds AT has launched a capital campaign, led by the AT Board of Directors, to raise a minimum of \$500,000. We have been very fortunate to have already received nearly \$250,000 in gifts and pledges from our internal campaign (board, management and employees) and from Upper Valley donors such as Mascoma Savings Bank, Ledyard National Bank and the Byrne Foundation along with many generous individuals. The campaign has recently expanded to invite all residents of the Upper Valley to participate.

The greatest and most positive impact of AT is on the residents who use our services - those with individual needs such as students, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and low-income families – as well as those who commute to employers such as Dartmouth College and DHMC. Our community needs a robust public transit system to strengthen the economic vitality of the region. This Capital Campaign will ensure AT's viability for many years to come.