

Meriden Transit District

CITY OF MERIDEN CONNECTICUT **Description of Department Function**

Department name: Meriden Transit District

The Transit District for the City of Meriden was established under the authority granted by Charter 103A of the Connecticut General Statutes, State of Connecticut, Revisions of 1961 as amended. It was established in order to develop, maintain, and improve modern systems of transportation for the citizens of Meriden.

Specific areas of responsibilities

COMMUTER BUS SERVICE

With the granting of funds by the 1981-82 City Council to the Meriden Transit District, the District has been able to provide commuter bus service to Hartford for those Meriden citizens in need. While serving 18,000 passengers in 2012, energy conservation savings were approximately 500,000 miles. The FY 12-13 ConnDOT subsidy to the District for this service is \$213,000. In addition, as the result of a District initiative, the State of Connecticut constructed a commuter parking lot on Bee Street serving approximately 78 commuter trips daily.

FIXED ROUTE BUS SERVICE

While operating and capitol funds for this service are provided by ConnDOT, the District acts in an “oversight” role. The District makes every effort to monitor the quality of service furnished by the provider, serves as the local contact for complaints, as well as the outlet for information, certain tickets sales, and schedules for the system. Using a \$10,000 grant provided by ConnDOT, the District undertook a marketing program to promote this fixed route service, with our efforts resulting in an increase in ridership from 102,556 in 1995 to 170,000 in 2012. This program includes monthly advertising of the system in the local print media. Using a mix of federal and city dollars, the District installed six bus passenger shelters on the streets of Meriden to better serve its users.

MERIDEN TO MIDDLETOWN BUS SERVICE- “M LINK”

In November 2000, this District, working with the Middletown Area Transit District, initiated daily bus service between the two towns. With Federal Transit Administration funding, provided through the Regional Growth Connection, this “Job Access” program operates service along routes designed to provide access to employment for residents of both towns. Operating six days per week, it serves almost 600 users per week.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

With the passage of the American with Disabilities Act, door-to-door transportation, to those who qualify under ADA guide lines is furnished by the Northeast Transportation Co. with all capitol and operating funds from ConnDOT. As members of the Meriden ADA Advisory Committee, the District assists in providing local oversight.