

Municipal Corner – Carpooling & Public Transportation

The newly adopted Town Plan under *Transportation Task#22* states, “Explore options for commuter parking lots in appropriate locations.” The Stowe Selectboard recently expressed an interest in learning about how many motorists are carpooling in Stowe and how many more would if a convenient designated parking lot was available, so the Town has developed an online survey available on our municipal web site www.townofstowevt.org. If you don't have access to the internet, then hard copies are available at the Stowe Town Offices or call 253-7350 and we can mail one to you. You are encouraged to complete the survey if you are resident or non-resident.

There are no time restrictions to park in Stowe's municipal parking lots during the day. However, we do ask that commuters do not park in the heart of the Village Center (e.g. Rec Path Parking Lot & Union Bank Parking Lot) due to their high demand. I park in the municipal parking lot adjacent to the Depot & Pond Street intersection and there is typically plenty of room. Also, just south of this intersection there is plenty of on-street parking on Depot Street that is rarely used and there are no time restrictions during the day.

While we recognize that carpooling is not practical for everyone, there are many positive benefits for those that carpool. It saves money, reduces carbon emissions, help relieve traffic congestion, and can be a great way to get to know people. The Vermont Agency of Transportation provides a service through its Go! Vermont Program that matches commuters who would like to car pool. To find others in the area who are looking to get together for rides, go to www.connectingcommuters.org/.

Another alternative to driving your car alone is public transportation which has similar benefits. The Rte. 100 Commuter travels between Morrisville and Waterbury each day. In Waterbury there are connections to Montpelier and Chittenden County. Schedules are available on our municipal web site or the Green Mountain Transit Agency web site (www.gmtaride.org). They are also posted at the bus stops and available at the Stowe Town Offices. In the winter, there is also the Mountain Road Shuttle that travels from the Village up and down the Mountain Road. Questions about the Rte. 100 Commuter or the Mountain Road Shuttle can be directed to CCTA by calling **223-7287**.

Please take time to fill out the survey. Also, please consider carpooling and/or taking the bus. You might just find you like it.