

**Agenda Summary**  
**October 9, 2024**

**Agenda Item No. B-1**  
**Mountain Road Shuttle Route and Stops**

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**Summary:** Christopher Damiani and Monica White will be in attendance electronically to go over the ridership of the Stowe Mountain Shuttle and to review the proposed route/stops proposed for this winter.

Due to the difficulty of circulating large buses on the side streets off Main Street and particularly the left turn off from School Street onto Main Street, GMT is proposing to eliminate using or stopping on Thomas Lane, Depot Street, Pond Street, and Park Street, on which there was previously only one stop at the Depot Street/Pond Street intersection.

GMT provides two options. Option 1 would reroute to go down Weeks / Mayo / West Hill Road which would add a stop on Weeks Hill and utilize the parking at Events Field A and a stop at Shaw's Supermarket parking lot. However, it would eliminate stops on Rt. 108 between the Rt. 100 intersection and Weeks Hill Road. Enclosed is an email from Heidi Scheuermann, owner of West Branch Apartments, stating, in part, "I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Green Mountain Transit Mountain Road Shuttle Service...as the owner/management agent of the West Branch Apartments \*(276 Mountain Road and current GMT stop), I am extremely concerned that one of the proposals is the elimination of the stop at the West Branch Apartments..."

Option 2 would turn around at Shaw's subject to confirmation by them that they are agreeable. This would create a stop at Shaw's Supermarket Parking Lot and preserve the stops on Rt. 108 between the Rt. 100 intersection and Weeks Hill Road.

**Town Plan Impact:** Conforms with the Stowe Town Plan (2018) Transportation Goal: "To provide an efficient, cost effective, multi-modal transportation network that provides for the needs of Stowe's residents and visitors."

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no change in the fee to the Town as a result of the revised route/stops as proposed.

The Town share for FY'25 is budgeted at \$36,818, Stowe Mountain Resort and the Mt. Mansfield Company/Spruce Realty contribute \$136,945 and \$25,000 respectively. It also receives Federal/State funding. Finally, the Town also provides the Moscow Bus Barn buildings for \$1 per year to GMT.

**Recommendation:** Move to approve the Option 2 route as proposed, contingent on approval by Shaw's Supermarket for a turnaround and stop at their store.



## MEMO

**To:** Town of Stowe Selectboard

**From:** Chris Damiani, Director of Planning

Monica White, Director of Central Vermont Services

**CC:** Charles Safford, Town Manager, Stowe

**Date:** October 3, 2024

**Subject:** Transit Service Change Proposal for Route 108 Mountain Road Shuttle

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### 1. Introduction

- The purpose of this memo is to inform the community about proposed changes to our transit services in Stowe, aimed at increasing ridership through additional opportunities for park and ride access as well as reducing conflict points among our operations to provide safe and reliable transportation for all riders. As Green Mountain Transit continues to adapt to rider needs, these changes are designed to align with our long-term goal of reduced congestion along Route 108 by creating more opportunities for people to hop onboard the Mountain Road Shuttle. This memo outlines the rationale behind the two proposed options for adjustments and the anticipated impact on our riders and community.

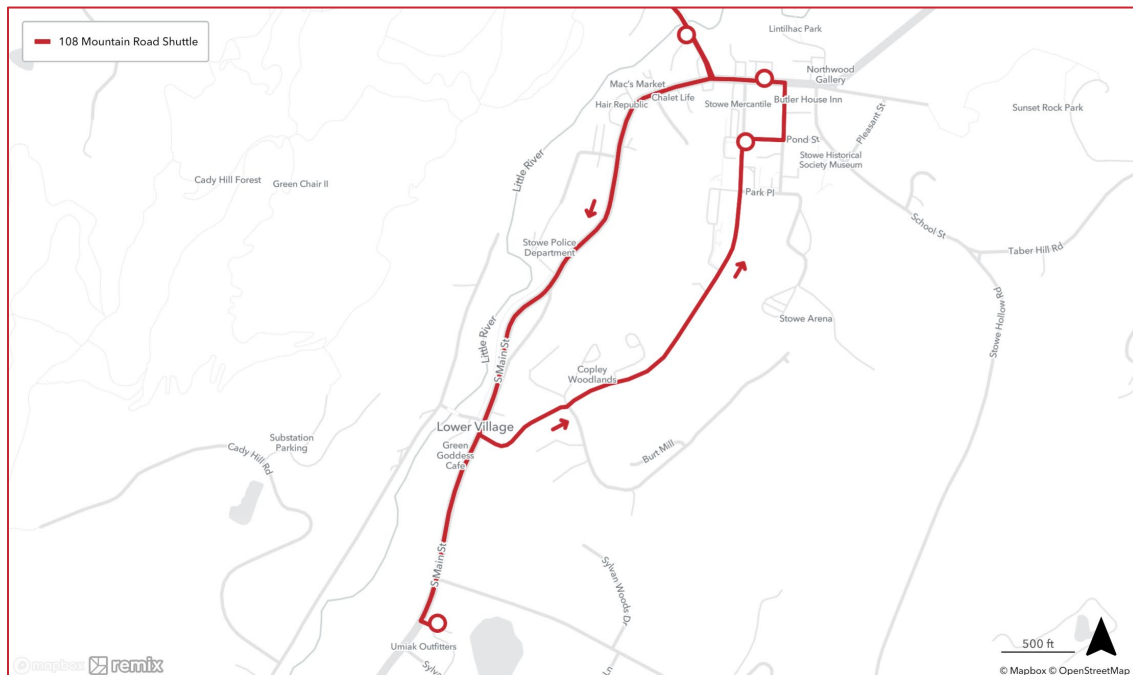
### 2. Background

- Over the past few months GMT in consultation with local and regional partners as well as representatives from Stowe Mountain Resort have reviewed the performance of the Mountain Road Shuttle and have identified some challenges and opportunities to redesign the current service we operate. During the winter season of 2023-2024, GMT operated the Mountain Road Shuttle a total of 136 operating days moving a total of 108,420 riders up and down the mountain. The route generally operates every 30 minutes on weekdays, every 15 minutes on weekends, and have been able to provide service every 20 minutes on peak weekdays (Christmas Break, Presidents Day, MLK Day, School Break Week in February/ March). The route originates at Commodores Inn and travels through Stowe Village via Thomas Lane/ Depot Street. The bus then travels along Pond St, School St., Route 100 onto Route 108 for the duration of the time before going to Stowe Mountain Resort via Spruce Peak, Gondola, and Mansfield Base areas. On the Downhill, the route travels on Route 108 to Route 100 back towards Commodores Inn. Maps below are included to show the current routing as well as insets of the routing through Stowe Village as well as at the Stowe Mountain Resort base areas.

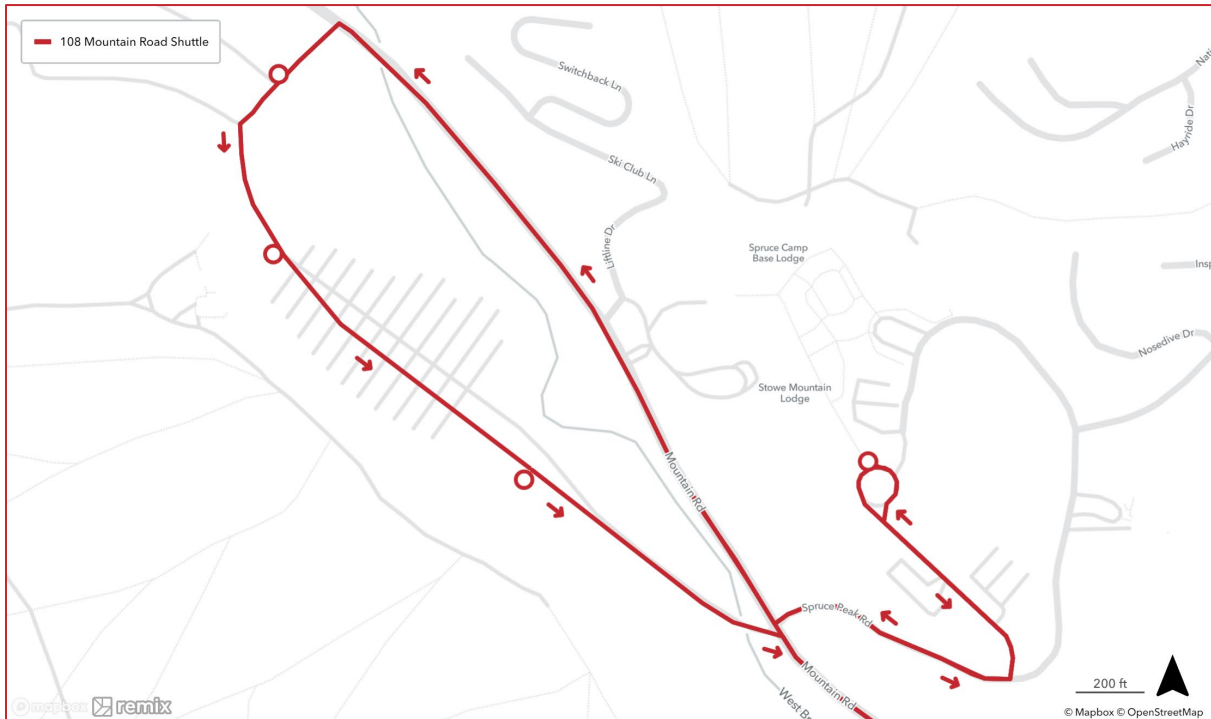
## Mountain Road Shuttle Route Overview



## Mountain Road Shuttle: Stowe Village Current Routing Inset



## Mountain Road Shuttle: Stowe Mountain Resort Base Area Current Routing Inset



### 3. Summary of Proposed Changes

- GMT aims to reroute the Mountain Road Shuttle for the upcoming 2024-2025 winter to bypass the Depot St./ Pond St./ School St. neighborhoods of Stowe Village. There are two potential re-routes that GMT is bringing forward for consideration.

#### Option 1

This option bypasses the Mountain Road between the intersection of Route 100 & 108 and Weeks Hill Road.

This will be accomplished by continuing the route up Route 100 through the Village and connecting back to the Route 108 via W Hill Rd./ Mayo Farm Rd./ Weeks Hill Rd on both the uphill and downhill trips. This will result in a number of Bus Stops that will be either be new or used for this new routing.

In Stowe Village, GMT plans to utilize the bus stop that is Opposite of Stowe Town Hall which is currently utilized by Rural Community Transit. This stop will be the primary stop in the Village for riders who access the bus here to go up the Mountain Road.



This new routing also creates a new connection to the Shaw's Supermarket where Bus Stops and associated signs will be installed.

Finally, this routing also will include Bus Stops and associated signs to be installed on Weeks Hill Road adjacent to the entrance to the Stowe Events Field.

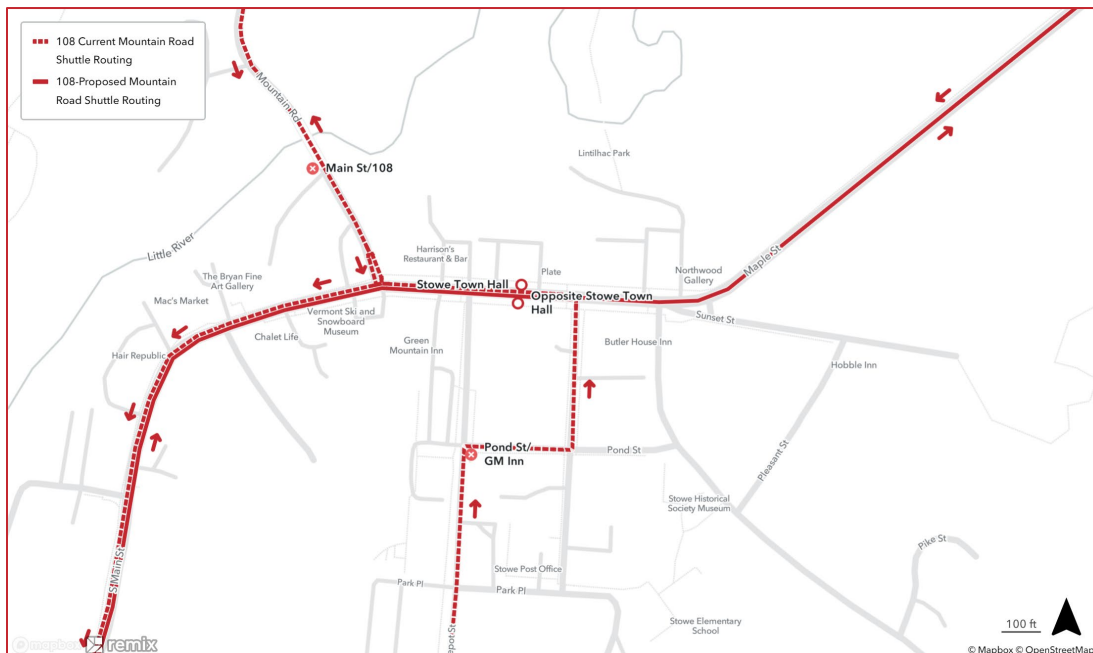
This routing change will result in the following stops no longer being utilized:

Uphill: Pond St. at Depot St., West Branch Apartments Uphill, Baggy Knees, Opposite Cady Hill Lodge East Entrance.

Downhill: Cady Hill Lodge East Entrance, Opposite Baggy Knees, Opposite West Branch Apartments, Main St. At Route 108(near Remarkable Things)

See Maps Below for Summary of Routing Changes

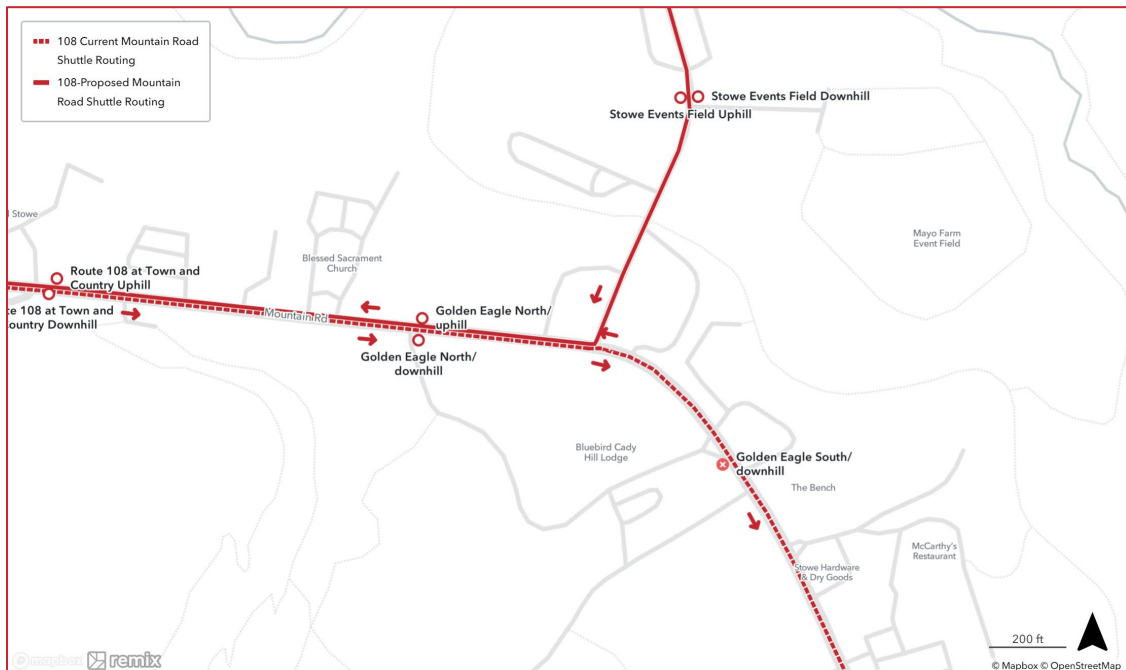
### Mountain Road Shuttle Proposed Routing: Stowe Village



### Mountain Road Shuttle Proposed Routing: Route 108 & W Hill Rd. Intersection



### Mountain Road Shuttle Proposed Routing: Stowe Events Field



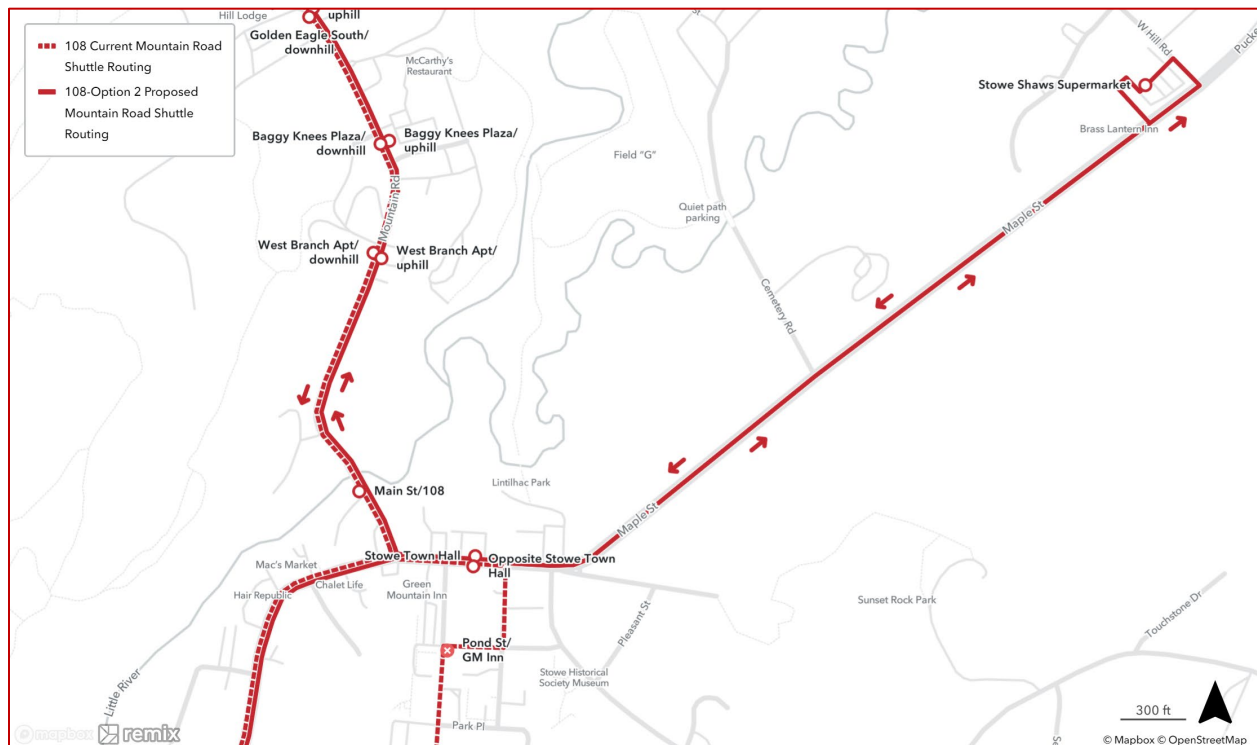


## Option 2

This option maintains most of the current routing of the route except on the uphill the bus will continue on Route 100 from Commodores through Stowe Village. In Stowe Village if a passenger needs to go to Shaw's, GMT plans to utilize the bus stop that is Opposite of Stowe Town Hall which is currently utilized by Rural Community Transit.

The bus will continue Route 100 and turn left onto W. Hill Rd. and turn into the Shaw's Parking Lot. We will install a bus stop sign here for passengers to get on/ off to access grocery shopping. From there the bus will go up the private access drive and turn right onto route 100 and continue down towards Route 100 towards Stowe Village stopping in front of the Stowe Town Hall where the service currently stops and is the primary stop for passengers who want to go up the hill towards the mountain.

The viability of Option 2 is contingent upon being able to minimize conflicts with Shaw's delivery trucks; GMT and Shaw's are working through logistics strategies as of the date of this memo, and we expect to have greater clarity before the 10/9 Selectboard meeting.





## 4. Rationale for Changes

- The changes to the Mountain Road Shuttle for the upcoming winter come out of a number of challenges and opportunities with the current routing.
  - **Safety for Bus Operations:** Over the past few years, there have been a number of close calls and accidents with buses making a safe left hand turn from School St. onto Route 100. As the service has increased in frequency over the years as well as the use of our large heavy duty buses combined with the narrower village streets and sightline issues, this particular intersection and turn poses safety issues for our Operations. With the limited amount of spare heavy duty buses, any major incident with our buses that puts it out of service could jeopardize the level of service provided.
  - **Access to Additional Parking Spaces:** If Option 1 is selected which provides access to Weeks Hill with this routing, this will allow us to help limit congestion of cars traveling up and down the Mountain Road particularly on the weekends and on significant winter weather events where Stowe Mountain Resort see an increase in visitors. Two winter seasons ago, GMT utilized the Stowe Events Field where ridership was very minimal. We feel that we will see an increase in usage in this lot from the 2022- 2023 winter as we will serve the stop consistently on every trip and the bus will not need to utilize the actual parking lot which caused some issues for our larger heavy duty vehicles during icy or warmer days which lead to inconsistency for our ability to service the stop.
  - **Access to Food:** In both options which propose the routing going near the Shaw's Supermarket in Stowe, this will provide residents, visitors and mountain employees a car free way to access food in and around the community.

## 5. Impact on Riders

- Option 1 has a larger impact on current riders than option 2 particularly in the section of the Mountain Road between between Route 100 and Weeks Hill Rd. Option 2 will provide increased access to grocery shopping. Any riders who are coming down the hill from the Mountain Road will need to ride the bus down to Commodores if they want to go shopping at Shaw's Supermarket. Below is a chart which show the Average Ons and Offs at the impacted stops for our highest ridership days which often are Saturdays and Sundays. To put it into perspective on the weekends our ridership averages over 1,000 boardings a day.





Saturday Uphill		
Stop Name	Total Ons	Total Offs
Pond St at Depot St	2	1
West Branch Apt/uphill	10	1
Baggy Knees Plaza/uphill	15	4
Rt 108 at Opposite Cady Hill Lodge South	19	2
Sunday Uphill		
Stop Name	Total Ons	Total Offs
Pond St at Depot St	2	1
West Branch Apt/uphill	8	1
Baggy Knees Plaza/uphill	13	4
Rt 108 at Opposite Cady Hill Lodge South	15	1

Saturday Downhill		
Stop Name	Total Ons	Total Offs
Rt 108 at Cady Hill Lodge South	1	21
Baggy Knees Plaza/downhill	3	12
West Branch Apt/downhill	1	9
Main St/108	3	61
Sunday Downhill		
Stop Name	Total Ons	Total Offs
Rt 108 at Cady Hill Lodge South	1	15
Baggy Knees Plaza/downhill	3	12
West Branch Apt/downhill	1	11
Main St/108	3	54

## 6. Implementation Plan

- After the October 9, 2024 Stowe Selectboard meeting the route change that is identified to be the preferred alternative will be implemented in time for the start of the upcoming winter season for the Mountain Road Shuttle which is slated to start on November 29<sup>th</sup>. If Option 2 is selected as the preference, that will be contingent on final approval from Shaw's to install a bus stop on their property. In either case, GMT will work with seasonal partners (Stowe Mountain Resort, Town of Stowe, Stowe Area Association, Lamoille County Planning Commission) to outreach the changes to the route for this winter.



## 7. Contact Information

- Please contact below regarding changes to the Mountain Road Shuttle for this winter.

Chris Damiani, Director of Planning [cdamiani@ridegmt.com](mailto:cdamiani@ridegmt.com) 802 540 2537

Monica White, Director of Central Vermont Services [mwhite@ridegmt.com](mailto:mwhite@ridegmt.com) 802 338-7065

## Will Fricke

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**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] GMTA Changes to Rte 108 Shuttle

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**From:** Heidi Scheuermann <[heidi@heidischeuermann.com](mailto:heidi@heidischeuermann.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 5:14 PM

**To:** Charles Safford <[csafford@stowevt.gov](mailto:csafford@stowevt.gov)>; Billy Adams <[billyadamsvt@gmail.com](mailto:billyadamsvt@gmail.com)>; Paco Aumand <[paco.aumand@gmail.com](mailto:paco.aumand@gmail.com)>; Nick Donza <[nickdonza@aol.com](mailto:nickdonza@aol.com)>; Jo Sabel Courtney <[josabel@me.com](mailto:josabel@me.com)>; Ethan Carlson <[ethancarlson85@gmail.com](mailto:ethancarlson85@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] GMTA Changes to Rte 108 Shuttle

Dear Members of the Stowe Select Board –

I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Green Mountain Transit Mountain Road Shuttle service. From what I understand, you will be talking about these proposed changes at your next Select Board meeting.

To be clear, I am not familiar with all of the details of the proposed changes, or why they are being proposed, but as the owner/management agent of the West Branch Apartments (276 Mountain Road and current GMT stop), I am extremely concerned that one of the proposals is the elimination of the stop at the West Branch Apartments.

As most of you are aware, the West Branch Apartments is a housing complex for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities. The residents of WBA depend upon the GMTA transportation to get around town and the county (Morrisville shuttle).

I would respectfully request that you do all you can to ensure the stop at the West Branch Apartments remains on the GMTA Mountain Road Shuttle Route.

Thank you very much, in advance. Please be in touch if you have any questions. I can be reached via this email or by phone at (802) 793-3889.

Sincerely,

Heidi Scheuermann



*Heidi E. Scheuermann*  
*Owner, Allegro Properties*  
*P.O. Box 908*  
*Stowe, Vermont 05672*  
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*(802) 253-9314*

# MOUNTAIN ROAD SERVICE AT A GLANCE

The 2023-2024 season provided an optimistic outlook on the long standing partnership between Green Mountain Transit and the Stowe Area. The Mountain Road Shuttle saw record breaking totals, which greatly helped reduce traffic congestion during the winter. This can largely be attributed to significant investment in recent years.

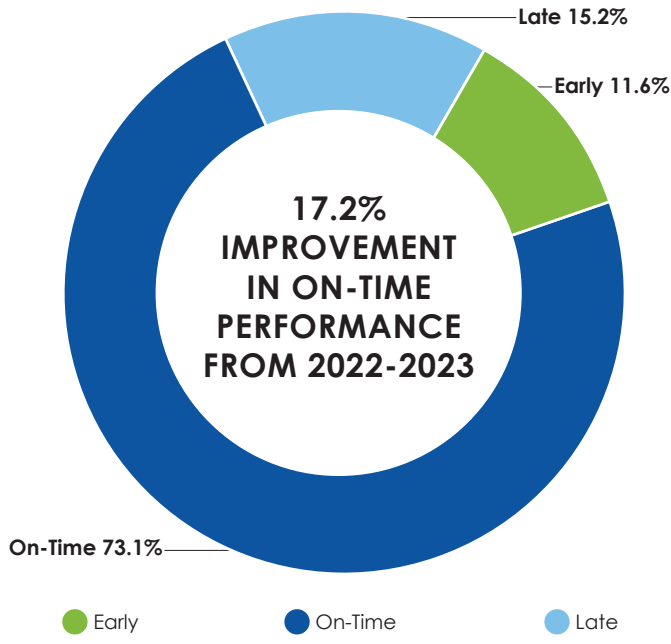
Mountain Rd Service started on November 24, 2023 and ran till April 8, 2024 for a total of 137 operating days, in which it provided transportation to over 108,000 people.



Green Mountain Transit

## ON-TIME PERFORMANCE A PEAK INTO THE SEASON

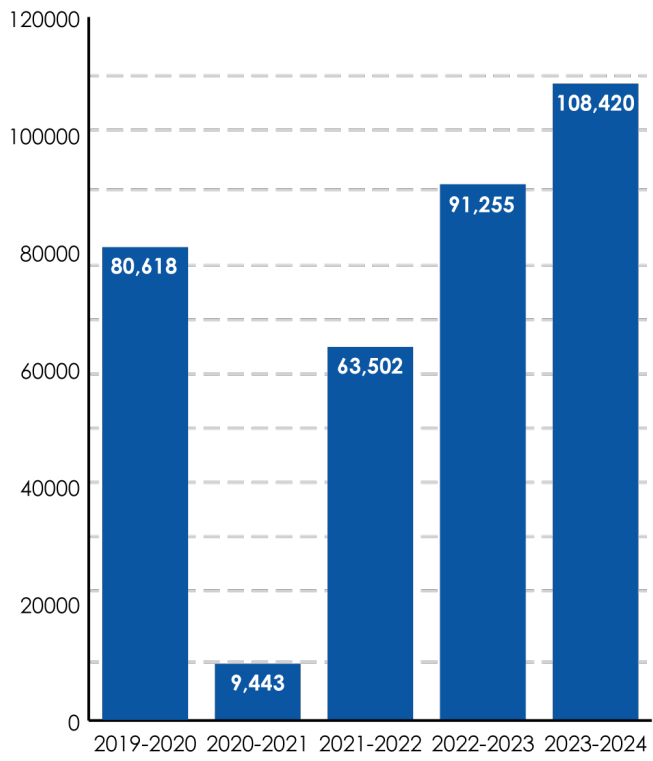
The following graphic provides on-time performance data for seasonal service in Stowe over the last ski season. A total of 39,646 timepoints were among were monitored along this route.



**Early-** vehicles departing the stop more than one minute early  
**On-Time-** vehicles departing the stop less than one minute early & less than five minutes late  
**Late-** vehicles departing the stop more than five minutes late

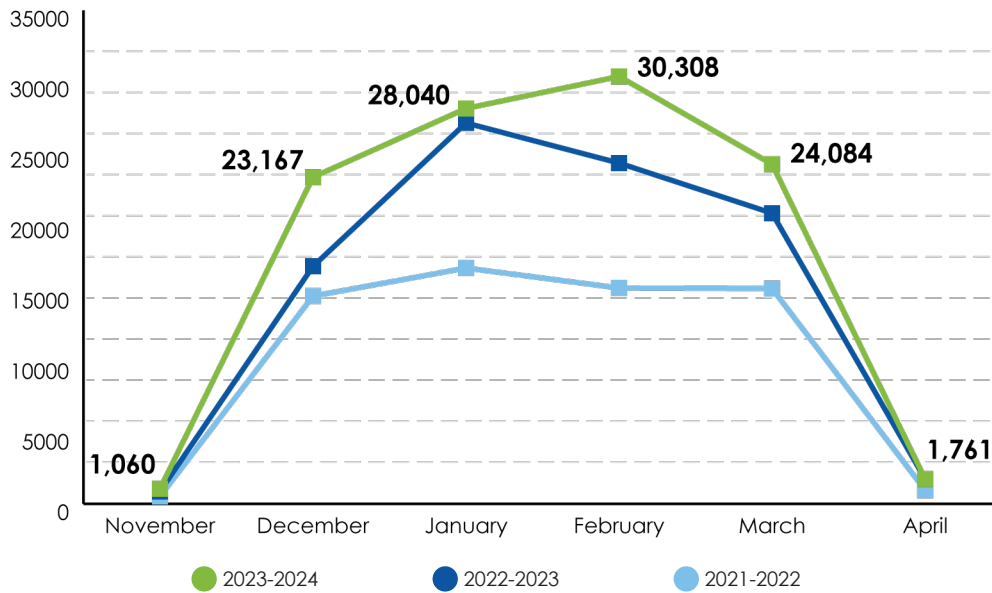
## TOTAL RIDERSHIP A LOOK BACK AT PAST SEASONS

Ridership saw a 34.5% increase over the 2019-2020 season that was minimally affected by the pandemic. It is safe to say that the Mountain Road Shuttle has recovered since Covid.



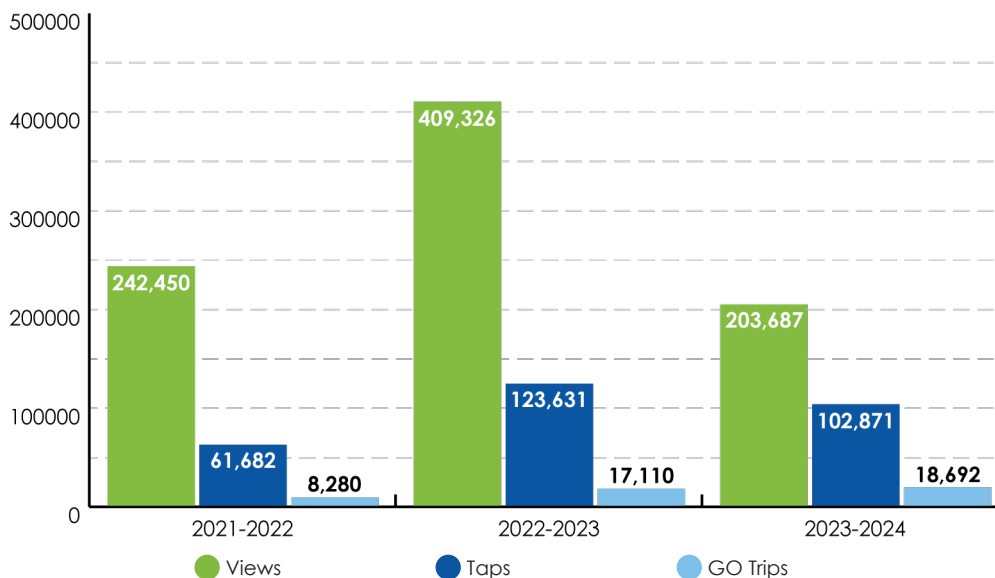
## TRENDS IN MONTHLY TOTALS LOOKING BACK AT THE LAST THREE YEARS

Ridership tends to be lowest in November and peaks around mid-season. Across all months ridership was lowest in the 2021-2022 ski season, which can be attributed to lingering effects of the pandemic.



## LOOKING BACK AT TRANSIT USAGE

Transit is a mobility app that allows passengers to track their bus in real-time. The following graph shows the break down of views, clicks and go trips over the last three seasons. App usage is down from previous seasons, which can be attributed to the printing of bus map and guides for the first time since 2019.



**Views**- number of times a route is displayed on the list of nearby options

**Taps**- number of times an app user taps on a particular route

**GO Trips**- number of riders who utilized the [GO function](#) within the app