



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS RELEASE

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE • P.O. BOX 317546 • NEWINGTON, CT 06131-7546

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
TELEPHONE: (860) 594-3060
FAX: (860) 594-3066
HOME PAGE: ct.gov/dot

For more information
Please contact
Phil Fry, CTTTRANSIT Planning and Marketing Assistant General Manager
860-522-8101, ext. 222

I-BUS RIDERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) announced today that ridership on the I-BUS, the interstate express bus route operated by CTTTRANSIT between Stamford, CT and White Plains, NY, increased by 11 percent in 2007.

“The popularity of this route really shows the way travel patterns have changed, and how we have been able to adapt and re-orient our services,” said ConnDOT Acting Commissioner Emil H. Frankel.

The busiest month for the 10-year-old service occurred in October, 2007, when 13,209 rides were provided. The number of riders has been steadily increasing since the inception of service in June, 1996. In 1997, the first full year of service, the route carried 58,976 trips. That number has increased to 123,674 trips in 2006 and 137,272 trips in 2007.

Leslie Stroh of White Plains, NY and a recent recipient of a free 10-ride ticket for first time riders said that the I-BUS has made his commute much more relaxing.

“I’m 61 years old and I drive a stick shift,” said Leslie. “It’s much easier to ride the bus than trying to drive with the traffic.”

Leslie said that he has been commuting from White Plains to Stamford since 1999 and has been aware of the I-BUS, but between the daily grind of driving and rising gas prices, it became an increasingly attractive option.

“I decided to look into it and the service has been very good,” he said.

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Since trying it out, Leslie has become a frequent rider and purchases multi-ride passes. He uses pre-tax dollars to pay for his pass through a commuter tax benefit option that many employers offer.

“Customer satisfaction with the route is high and probably a factor in the increased ridership on the I-BUS,” said Tom Crispino, Division Manager of CTTRANSIT Stamford. “Other factors include recent adjustments made to the schedule to improve on time performance and the higher price of fuel. This is a great service that meets the transportation needs of many passengers in this corridor, and the increase in riders is good news.”

A one-way trip takes about 30 minutes from downtown Stamford to the White Plains Transportation Center and costs \$2.50. The service operates approximately every 30 minutes during peak rush hours. The express route runs seven days a week, with a reduced schedule on Saturdays and Sundays.

The I-BUS is a public service funded by the Connecticut and New York State Departments of Transportation, operated by CTTRANSIT, in cooperation with the Westchester County Department of Transportation and MTA/Metro-North Railroad.

For I-BUS route and schedule information, please call 1-888-BUS-RIDE (1-888-287-7433) or visit www.ibusexpress.com. For more information about Connecticut’s Commuter Tax Benefit program, call 1-888-399-9323 or visit www.commutertaxbenefit.org.