



****For Immediate Release **For Immediate Release **For Immediate Release**

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COAST Ridership Sets Another Record in May in the Seacoast

Dover, NH- Recent ridership reports of the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) show that record numbers of residents and visitors to the region are looking to public transit to get them where they need to go without using increasingly expensive gas in their own vehicle. In May, ridership on COAST buses exceeded 35,700, a level never before achieved. Despite setting numerous records in 2007, annual ridership is well on track to jumping another 4-5% in 2008. Thus, 2008 will mark the 6th year in a row that COAST will set a record for the number of passengers carried on the region's public transit system.

Executive Director Rad Nichols says, "Annual ridership on the COAST system is projected to reach 390,000 trips." Nichols adds, "In the last 8 years, the number of passengers riding the system annually has soared 95%. All of the dedicated staff at COAST are extremely proud of this achievement."

Nichols stated, "With gas prices continuing to hover around \$4.00 per gallon, we project more and more people will embrace public transit. I don't know of any other way to get from Rochester to Portsmouth and back for just \$2.00." A monthly pass, good for unlimited rides on the COAST system, is only \$35.00.

COAST buses and trolleys serve and connect eleven communities in the Seacoast, including Rochester, Somersworth, Dover, Portsmouth, Farmington, Newington, Greenland, Stratham, Newmarket, Exeter, Berwick, ME and the Pease Tradeport. Bus routes operate through the heart of each of these communities. During peak commuting periods most buses operate hourly, and stops are conveniently located approximately every ¼-mile along the bus routes.

Individuals interested in receiving more information about COAST should call (603) 743-5777, or visit the COAST website at www.coastbus.org.

COAST is Seacoast NH's public, non-profit transit system, and has proudly served residents of the area since 1982 with safe, convenient and affordable transit service. Riding the bus or trolley is fun, simple and green. Call today or visit COAST's web site at www.coastbus.org to find out more about how easy public transit is to use.

Riding and supporting public transit is one of the best ways to advocate for expanded public transit services in the future, and ever more convenient and affordable alternatives to driving your car.

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