



# Portions of COAST Route 7 Service to be Saved

Exeter & Newmarket Partner to Retain Bus Service

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dover, NH** – After months of work focused on retaining a public transit service in the Exeter/Newmarket region, a solution appears to have been fashioned. “Having observed how important COAST service is in their communities at the public hearings held in April, we are very happy to have had town leaders from Exeter and Newmarket refocus efforts to retain a meaningful service,” stated Rad Nichols, COAST Executive Director. The public hearings, held March 31, April 1 and 2 were heavily attended and many riders and their families spoke about the hardships that eliminating the service would present.

“We went back to the drawing board again, and looked at limiting the geographic coverage of the service in order to retain a connection between Exeter and Newmarket, through Stratham,” said Nichols. “The result, given the funds we have available from these communities; hourly service between approximately 9:30am and 5:00pm, on three weekdays and Saturday. The Saturday option will be new and something we are excited to offer,” continued Nichols. The new service has been designed to make timely connections to the Wildcat Transit route 5 bus in downtown Newmarket, allowing passengers to travel to Durham, Dover, Newington, Portsmouth and beyond.

The new route has been designed to help residents affordably access area shopping, medical, social and recreational services. Hourly departures on the days operated increase the frequency of bus service by nearly 300% over what is available today.

The new service can also be operated within Exeter and Newmarket’s FY15 budgets and the amounts previously approved for COAST.

What service remains will allow qualified individuals with disabilities to continue to access COAST’s ADA paratransit service, which is of high importance. This service provides critical transportation services to these individuals for accessing doctor appointments, shopping and other life essential needs. The geographic coverage will be limited to the new route’s coverage area; however through a connection to Wildcat Transit’s fully accessible fleet, further travel will be possible.

“Our goal is to implement this new service on June 29, pending the approval of our Board of Directors at their May 27 meeting,” added Nichols. “I am very pleased that the services we will retain are so robust and something we can optimally expand in the future.”

The Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) has provided public transit service to the Greater Seacoast New Hampshire region since 1982. Over 13 million passengers have boarded COAST buses in that time. The positive economic impact of COAST operations within the Greater Seacoast region is estimated to equal just under \$22M in 2015. COAST is a public, non-profit transit system that relies primarily on federal and local government support to operate.