



# Redesigned COAST Route 7 Service Announced

Exeter & Newmarket Partner to Retain Bus Service

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

**Contact: Rad Nichols, Executive Director, COAST  
603-743-5777**

**Dover, NH** – After hearing loud and clear how vitally important COAST public transit service is to residents in Exeter and Newmarket at public hearings held in late March and early April, the last two months have been spent attempting to find a way to retain a service that will be robust enough to be sought after by riders in those communities. A solution to retain key elements of a redesigned service was approved for implementation on June 29, 2015 by the COAST Board of Directors at their May 27 meeting.

“We had to relook at limiting the geographic coverage of the service to operate between Exeter and Newmarket, through Stratham,” said Rad Nichols, COAST Executive Director. “The result, given the funds we have available from Exeter and Newmarket; hourly service between approximately 9:30am and 5:00pm, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. The Saturday option will be all new and we hope very attractive to local residents,” 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 on to Durham, Dover, Newington, Portsmouth and beyond.

The route has been redesigned 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 on Route 7.

The new service will 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.

Nichols added, “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.