



Gopher Ride Service 2024 Recap



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FRIENDS OF GOPHER!

What a year it has been. We are very pleased to share the news of our successes since we kicked off our humble initiative.

In May 2023

Gopher started our program to provide emission-free transportation service to low-income Vermonters who lack transportation to meet their essential needs.

We especially want you to know that there is no way we would be where we are today without your critical support.

A Community Resource

In a very short time, Gopher has become a strong community resource with a growing team, new funding partners, our Gopher riders, and the local Barre community.

One Year Later

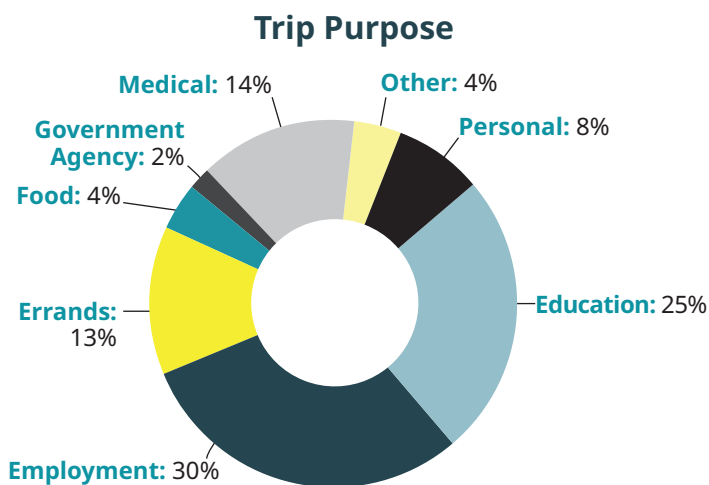
We celebrated our first year of service in May 2024 with a community celebration to publicly thank our partners, employees, and our riders for all the good work that we collectively accomplished. We were thrilled to have our garage packed with over 80 community members, including Senator Peter Welch who announced a federal grant award to help Gopher expand into its own garage and office space.

2024 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

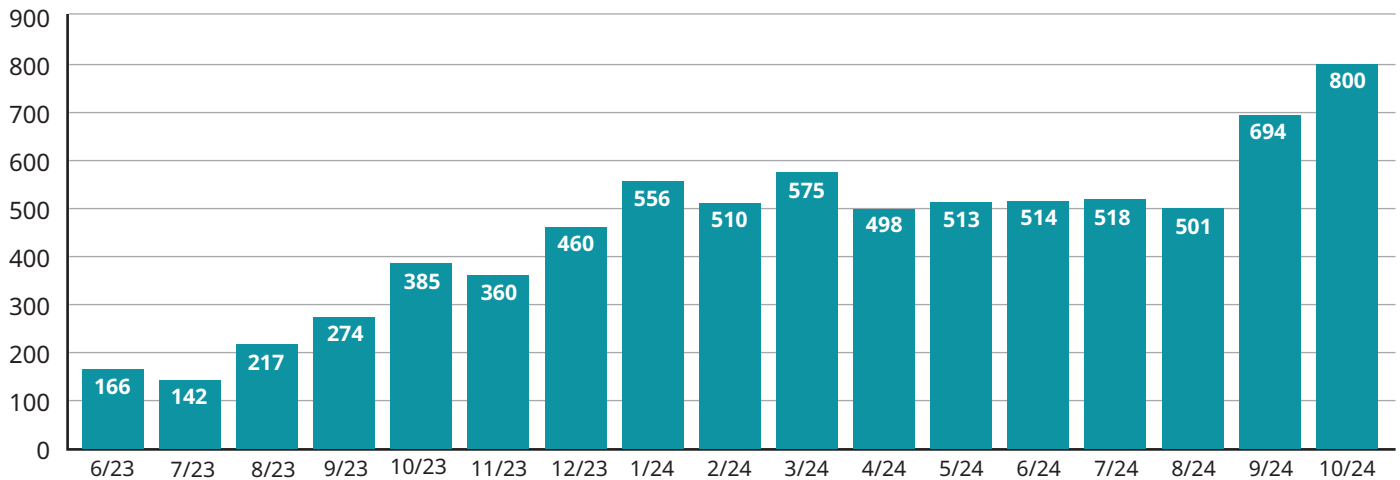
- 6,264 trips were provided this calendar year.
- 101,408 zero emission miles driven in 2024.
- We have expanded our service from five (5) days a week to seven (7) days a week.
- Our company has grown from seven (7) employees to thirteen (13) employees today. Our goal is to add four (4) more drivers by the end of the year.



L to R: Community Rides VT ED Chris Cole, Capstone ED Sue Minter, US Senator Peter Welch, Gopher GM Amanda Carlson, and Gopher Project Manager Laura Brooke at Gopher's Public Launch Celebration May 30, 2024 at Capstone Community Action. Photo: David Goodman



Number of trips per month, inception to date



Stories From The Road

Rides to Work

Gopher has provided hundreds of rides for low-income residents who work primarily in service industry jobs. We have been able to transport them to and from work until they are able to save money for their own vehicle or find a job closer to where they live, at which point they do not need Gopher's service anymore.

Our service provides a level of reliability and stability that allows people to achieve personal autonomy and create a better life for themselves.

Weekend & Evening Ride Services

In our recently launched weekend service, Sunday mornings have been busy as we help transport people to church services. Prior to our weekend launch of service, there has been no other public transit services available in Central Vermont on Sundays. Our riders share with us what a difference it has made to be able to access church, helping to heal the sense of isolation they hold without the ability to access social activities. Our Monday-Wednesday evening services have also been well received by the community. Evening rides can be critical for essential workers who commute to work by public transit and need a ride home after the public transit service has ended for the evening.

Looking Ahead

Community Rides VT Is in a Growth Stage as We Approach the End Of 2024

We are in the middle of hiring a new round of drivers and are adding vehicles to increase our fleet size. Though we have recently moved into a new office space within the Capstone building, the reality is that we are still in need of more space to house a larger fleet of vehicles, and more driving staff.

New Garage Space

We have been working for almost two years now to access our Federal Earmark funds. We are in the middle of negotiating a long-term lease agreement for a garage space on Main Street in the City of Barre that would utilize those funds. Our goal is to be in a new combined office/garage space by this time next year.



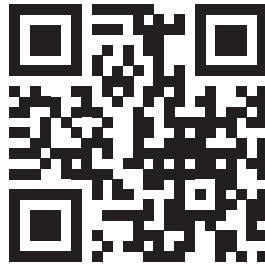
Help Us Meet Our Goals and Improve Mobility for Rural Vermonters in 2025

We look forward to your continued support and feedback as we aim to meet Vermonters' everyday transportation needs throughout the coming year.

Various ways to donate to our mission are listed on **GopherVT.org/donate**.

We'd be happy to answer any questions at **1-855-467-4375**

or **rides@communityridesvt.org**.



Community Rides
20 Gable Place Barre, VT 05641



With Gopher gratitude, the Community Rides Vermont team wishes you a Happy New Year!