

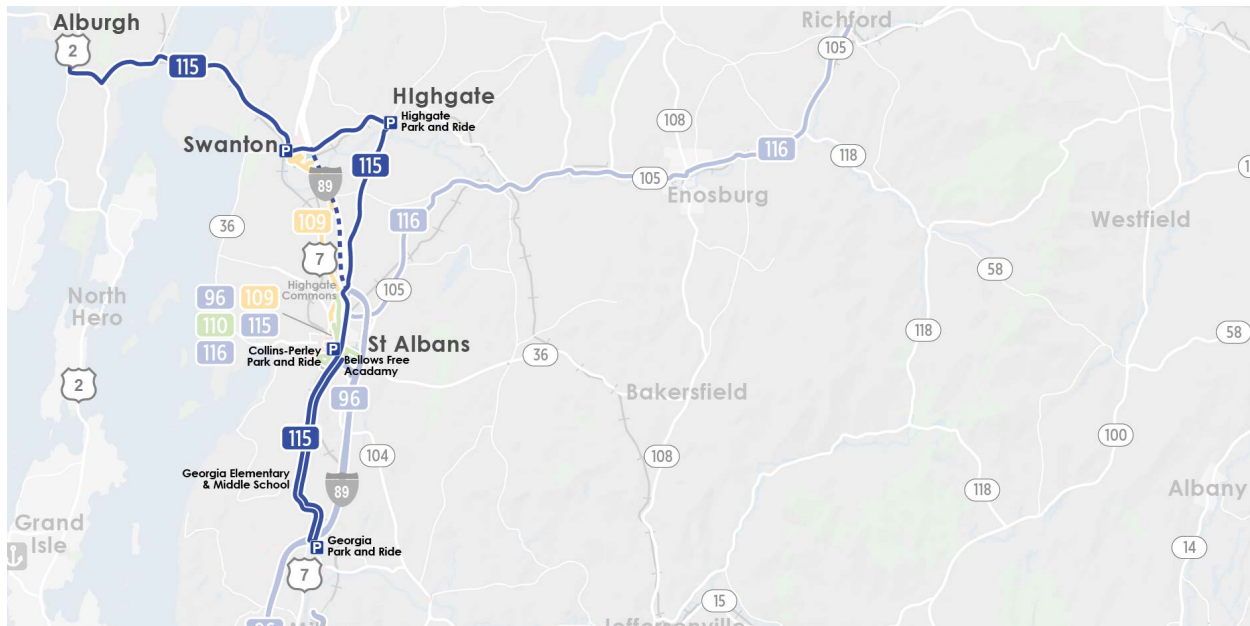
ROUTE 115

Alburgh/Georgia Commuter

ROUTE OVERVIEW

Route 115 is a commuter route that operates between Alburgh and St. Albans via Georgia with stops in Swanton, Highgate, St. Albans and Georgia. The alignment is unusual in that it operates between Alburgh and Georgia via St. Albans, and then doubles back to St. Albans. It does this to provide service between George and the Bellows Free Academy. The route also serves Swanton and Highgate, including service to various industrial parks and park-and-ride lots, and the Georgia Elementary School (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Route Map



On weekdays, Route 115 provides one trip in the morning and one trip in the afternoon (see Table 1). The schedule is set to serve trips to and from the St. Albans Industrial Park and Bellows Free Academy. No Saturday or Sunday service is provided.

Table 1: Schedule Statistics

SERVICE DAY	SPAN OF SERVICE	FREQUENCY (MIN)	DAILY TRIPS (OUTBOUND/INBOUND)
Monday-Friday	5:25 AM to 7:10 AM; 3:15 PM to 5:15 PM	—/—/—	1/1
Saturday	—	—/—	—/—
Sunday	—	—/—	—/—

Peak frequencies are calculated for service between 6:00 am – 9:00 am & 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Midday service is from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Evening service is for service after 6:00 pm. Saturday and Sunday frequencies are shown as AM/PM.

Inbound, service departs from Alburgh and operates via VT Route 78 to Swanton and Highgate, then via VT Route 207 to St. Albans, and then via US Route 7 to the Georgia Elementary School. Service then reverses direction and operates back north via US Route 7 to the Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, where service ends. Two inbound stops – the Highgate Commons and Georgia Dairy Industrial Park/Park & Ride – are served by request only.

Outbound, service generally operates in reverse, but with a number of differences. The most important is that when there are no passengers traveling to Highgate, service operates directly to Swanton via I-89. Also, seven stops, including Highgate, are by request only.

RIDERSHIP

Route 115 carries 32 passengers per weekday, or 16 passengers per trip.

Ridership by Stop

Only boarding data is available for Route 115. On inbound trips (see Figure 2):

- Two passengers board in Alburgh at the Church Yard stop
- Five passengers board in Swanton – two at 4th Street at Grand Avenue and three at 1st Street at Grand Avenue
- One passenger boards in Highgate at the park and ride lot.
- Two passengers board in St. Albans – one at City Hall and one at the St. Albans Industrial Park
- Five passenger board in Georgia – one at the park and ride lot and four at the Elementary School

On outbound trips (see Figure 3):

- Five passengers board at Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans to travel south to Georgia
- Four passengers board in Georgia – one at Georgia Elementary, two at Arrowhead Industrial Park, and one at the park and ride lot
- Seven passenger board in St. Albans to travel to points north –five at St. Albans Industrial Park and two at Food City

These boardings indicate that most passengers use the route to travel between Alburgh and St. Albans and between Georgia and St. Albans, with most of the ridership between Georgia and St. Albans to and from Bellows Free Academy. Only one person travels to and from Highgate, which is a four mile detour for other passengers.

In total, it appears that 10 of Route 115's 32 passengers travel between Georgia and Bellows Free Academy. The Bellows Free Academy has informed GMT that it intends to provide its own service to and from the school, which would reduce ridership on the Georgia – St. Albans service to zero to two passengers per day.

Ridership by Trip

Weekdays

Route 116 ridership averages 16 on each of its two trips(see Figure 4). Route 115 operates with a cutaway bus, which is likely large enough for the number of passengers on Route 115 but close to seated capacity.

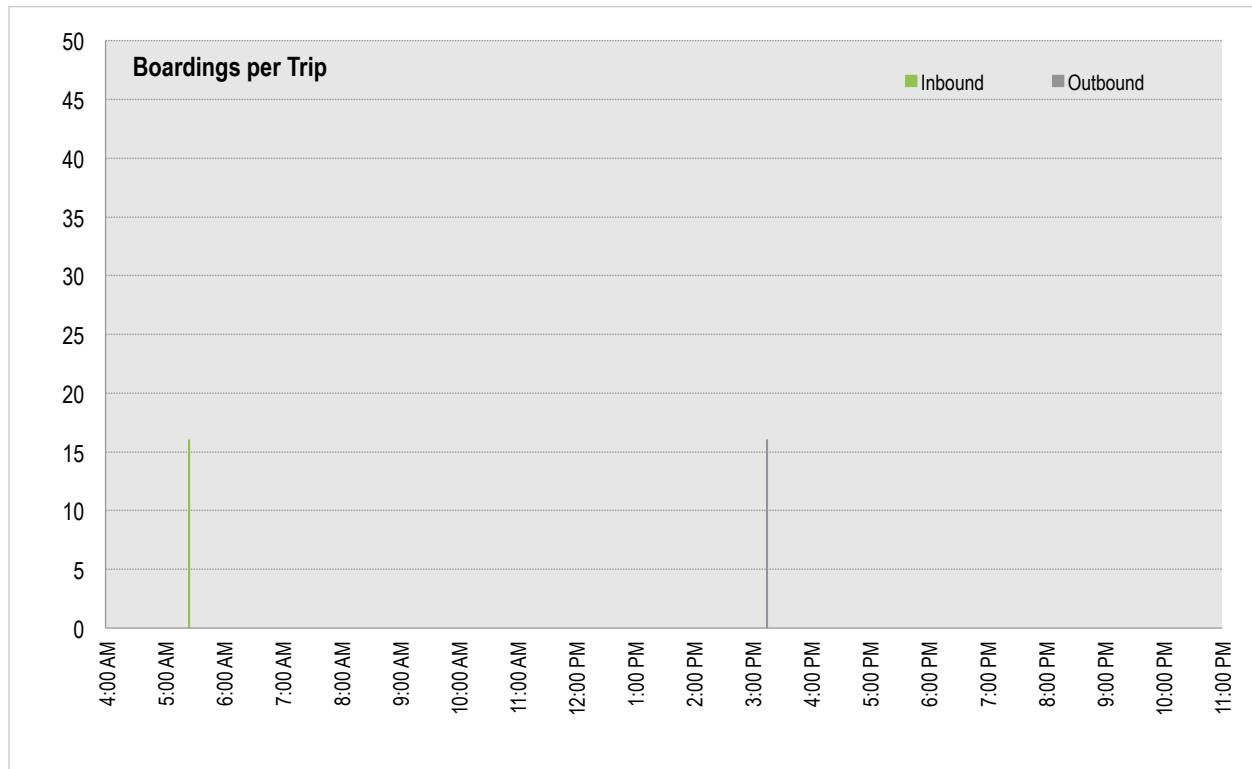
Figure 2: Weekday Inbound Ridership by Stop



Figure 3: Weekday Outbound Ridership by Stop



Figure 4: Weekday Ridership by Trip



SERVICE PRODUCTIVITY

Route 115 carries 32 passengers per weekday, or 8.4 weekday passengers per revenue hour at a cost of \$11.58 per passenger trip (see Table 2). These figures are within VTrans' thresholds for productivity and cost-effectiveness.

Table 2: Productivity Statistics

	MONDAY-FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Average Daily Ridership	32	—	—
Pax/Revenue Service Hour	8.4	—	—
VTrans Productivity Threshold	5.93	5.93	5.93
Pax/One-Way Trip	16.0	—	—
Commuter Average	7.3	—	—
Pax/Revenue Mile	0.5	—	—
Commuter Average	0.4	—	—
Cost/Passenger	\$11.58	—	—
VTrans Effectiveness Threshold	\$18.06	\$18.06	\$18.06

Source: Green Mountain Transit, May 2016; VTrans Performance Reviews (2016)

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

Route 115 is a very specialized route that is designed primarily to serve trips to two locations: the St. Albans Industrial Park and Bellows Free Academy, with the timing of the single AM and PM trips timed to serve those trips. Considering the small market that the route serves, it performs well. However, with current plans by Bellows Free Academy to provide its own transportation, ridership will drop by about a third. Also, service to Highgate is barely utilized – so much so that outbound trips are scheduled to skip service to Highgate when there are no riders. Potential changes to improve service for nearly all passengers include:

- **Serve All Stops as Regular Stop:** Many stops are served by request only, but are used on a daily basis. These stops could be converted to regular stops to simplify the schedule, reduce uncertainty, and relieve passengers of the need to make a reservation.
- **Discontinue Service to Highgate:** An average of one person per day uses Route 115 to travel to and from Highgate, and this service takes most passengers four miles out of their way. Considering that the AM inbound trip departs at 5:25 AM and the PM trip arrives back in Alburgh at 5:15 PM, these riders already have very long workdays that are made longer by the service to Highgate.
- **Discontinue Service between Georgia and St. Albans:** If Bellows Free Academy starts to provide its own service, then remaining ridership south of the Arrowhead Industrial Park in Georgia will drop to between zero and two, which will be too low to justify continued service.
- **Reschedule and Operate Two AM and PM Trips:** The current route is largely scheduled to serve school schedules at Bellows Free Academy, and mostly by coincidence, some other work times. However, the schedule is not convenient for the broader community. If service is no longer needed to Bellows Free Academy, then service between Alburgh, the service could be rescheduled to provide more convenient service to remaining riders. A second AM and PM trip could also be added to provide greater flexibility and serve a broader range of potential riders.