

ROUTE 46

The 116 Commuter

ROUTE OVERVIEW

Route 46 is a Commuter route that operates between Middlebury and Burlington. The route is operated through a partnership between GMT and ACTR, with GMT providing service between Hinesburg and Burlington and ACTR providing service between Middlebury and Burlington. The route travels primarily along Route 116 (see Figure 1). Route 46 provides service to Middlebury, Bristol, Starksboro, Hinesburg, Butler Farm, UVM Medical Center, and Burlington.

Route 46 provides weekday peak period commuter service, with two round trips during each peak period, one of which operates the full length of the route between Middlebury and Burlington, while the second only operates between Hinesburg and Burlington (see Table 1). GMT operates the Hinesburg – Burlington trips, and ACTR operates the Middlebury – Burlington trips. AM service arrives at Burlington's DTC at 7:45 and 8:30 AM and PM service departs at 4:50 and 5:15 PM. Reverse direction trips are provided largely to position buses for the AM peak inbound and PM peak outbound trips. No weekend service is provided.

Figure 1: Route Map

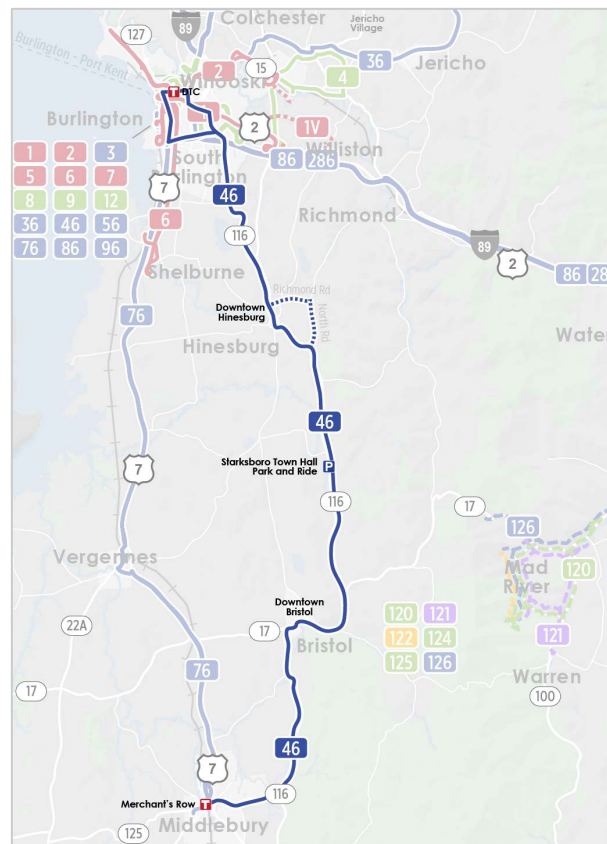


Table 1: Schedule Statistics

SERVICE DAY	SPAN OF SERVICE	FREQUENCY (MIN)	DAILY TRIPS (OUTBOUND/INBOUND)
Monday-Friday	6:45 AM to 7:45 AM 4:50 AM to 5:15 PM	45-60/—/—	4/4
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.

GMT operates its four Hinesburg – Burlington trips with four different service patterns that make service very complex (see Table 2).

Table 2: Service Variants

VARIANT	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	UNIQUE FEATURE	TRIPS PER DAY		
				WKD	SAT	SUN
INBOUND				2	—	—
46-3	Hinesburg	DTC	AM peak inbound service. Serves Butler Farm and UVM Medical Center, but not the Hinesburg Library, Richmond Rd at North Rd, Meadowland Drive at Thompson St, or Shelburne Rd at Farrell St.	1	—	—
46-4	Hinesburg	DTC	AM peak inbound service. Serves Richmond Rd at North Rd and UVM Medical Center, but not the Hinesburg Library, Butler Farm Richmond Rd at North Rd, Meadowland Drive at Thompson St, or Shelburne Rd at Farrell St.	1	—	—
OUTBOUND				2	—	—
46-1	DTC	Hinesburg	AM peak outbound service. Serves Shelburne Rd at Home Rd and Timberlane Ln, but not UVM Medical Center or Butler Farm. Stops upon request at Meadowland Dr at Thompson St and the Hinesburg Library	1	—	—
46-2	DTC	Hinesburg	PM peak outbound service. Serves UVM Medical Center and Timberlane Ln, but not Shelburne Rd at Home Rd, Meadowland Dr at Thompson St, the Hinesburg Library, and Richmond Rd at North Rd. Stops upon request at Butler Farm.	1	—	—

RIDERSHIP

The Hinesburg trips that GMT operate carry only 16 passengers per weekday, making it GMT's second lowest ridership commuter route.

Ridership by Stop

Only limited ridership information is available for Route 46 (boardings but not alightings). However, an examination of both inbound and outbound boardings (see Figure 2 and Figure 3) indicates that nearly all ridership at the route's outer end is to and from the routes first stop at

Figure 2: Weekday Inbound Ridership by Stop

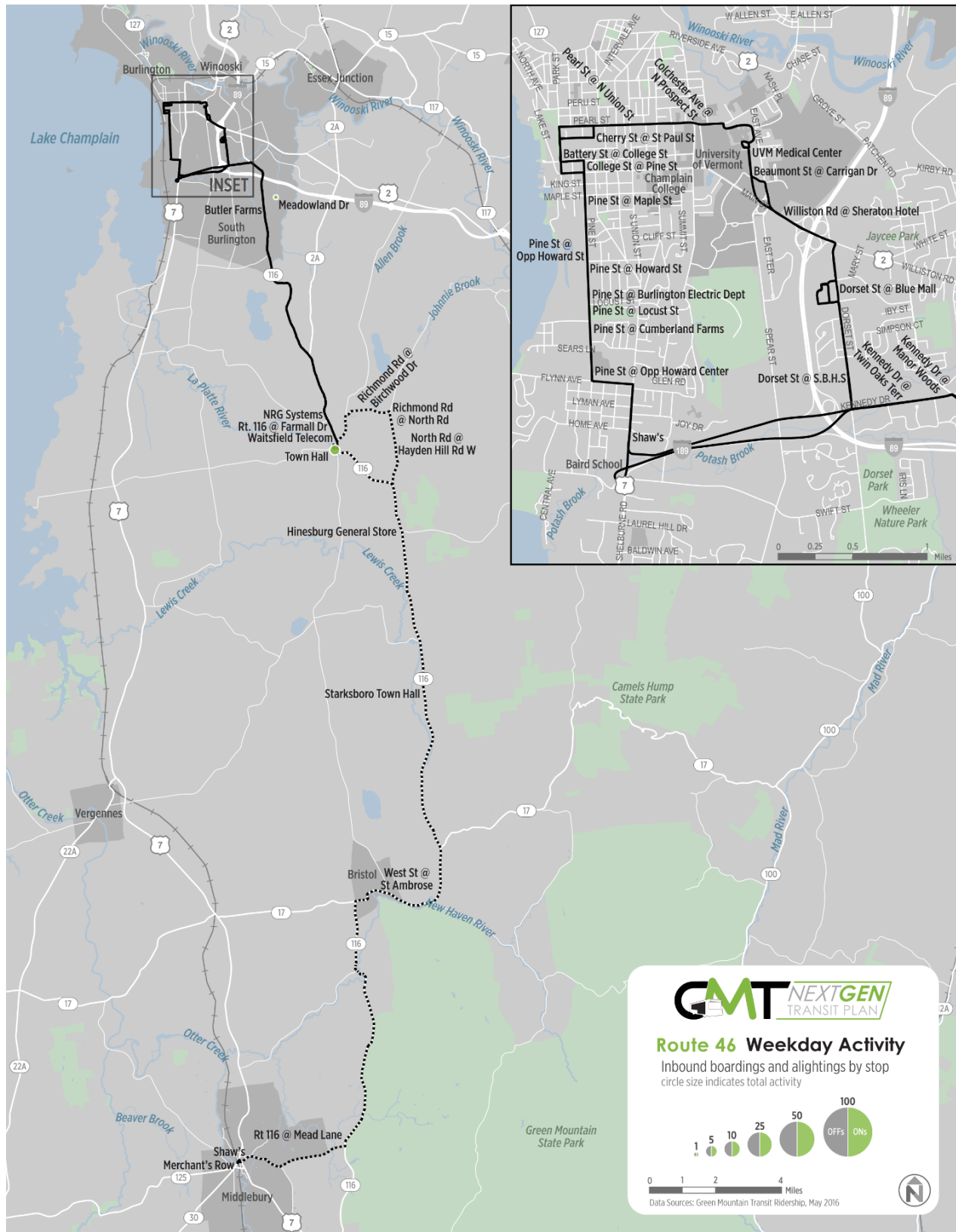
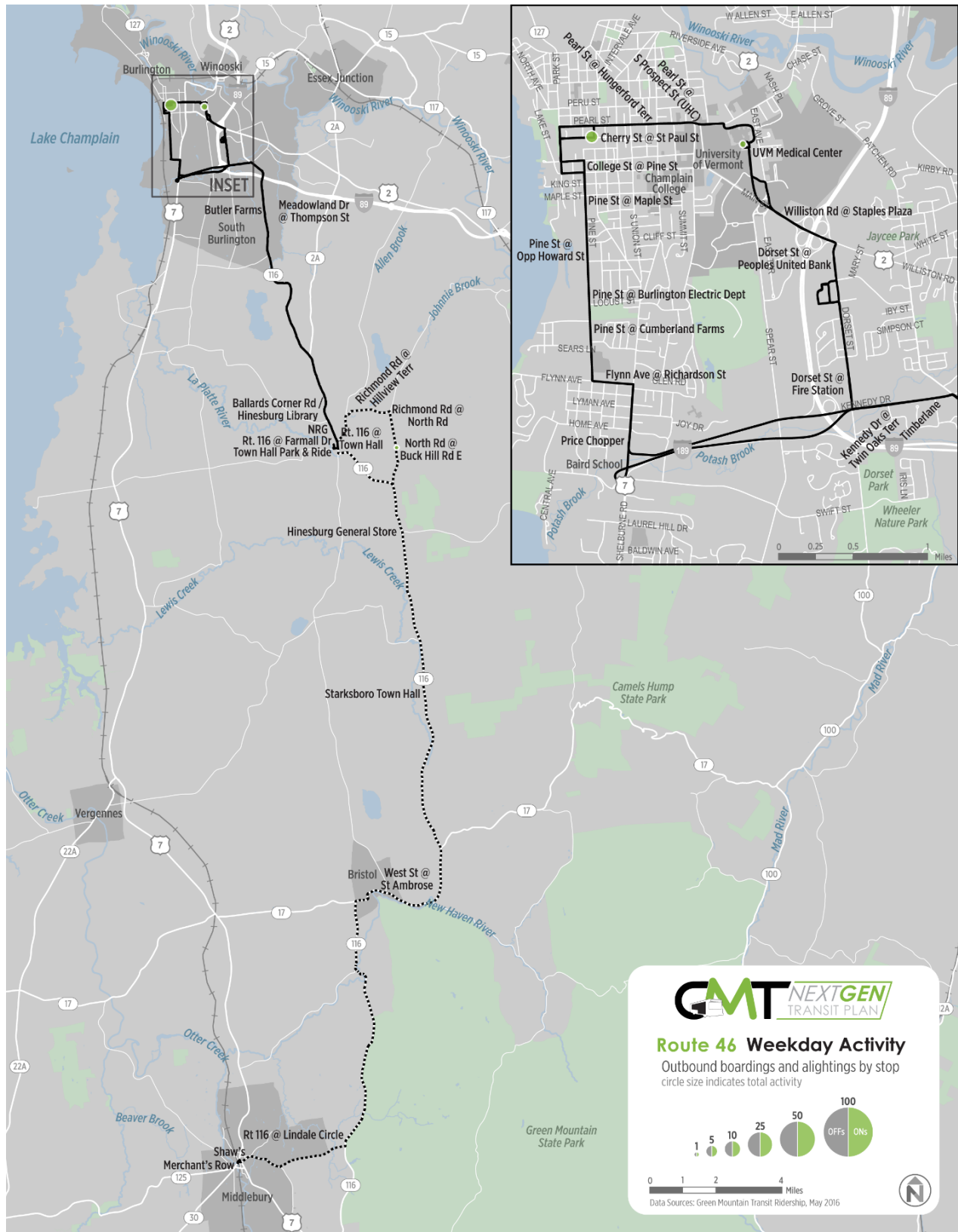


Figure 3: Weekday Outbound Ridership by Stop

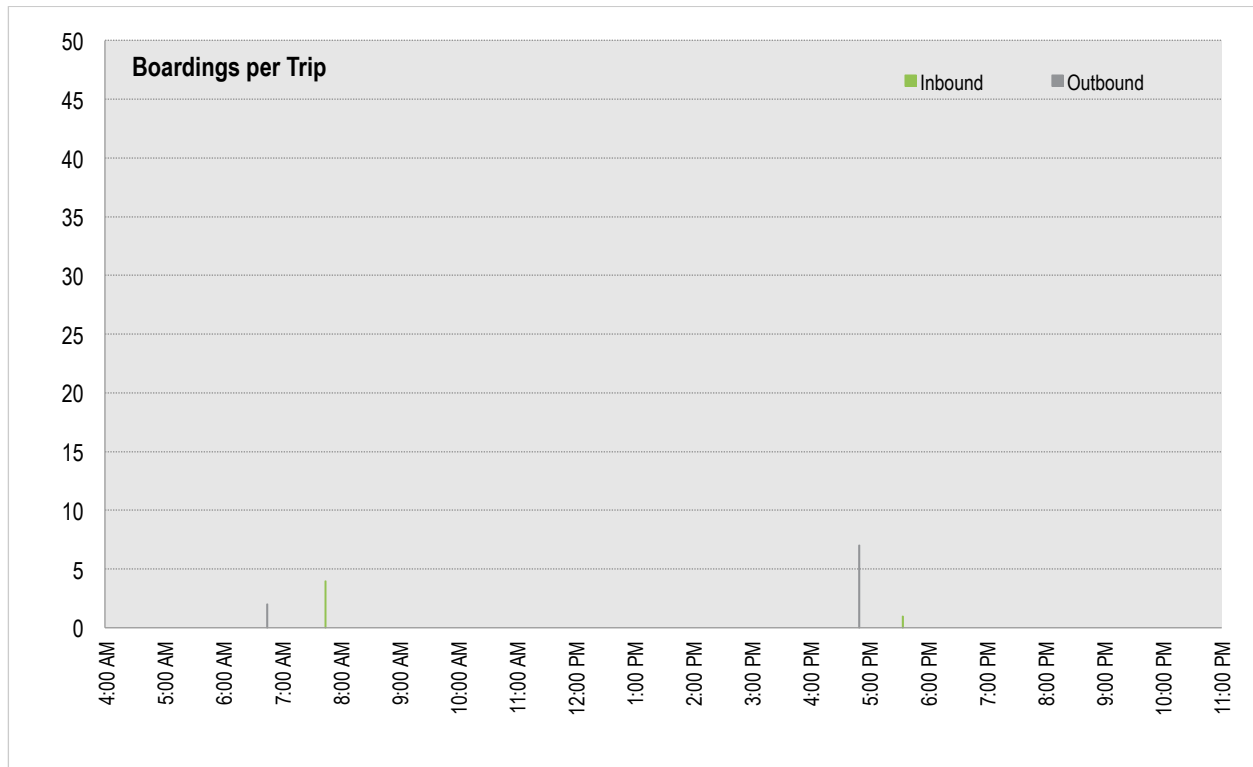


Hinesburg Town Hall. At the route's inner end, about 2/3rds of ridership is to and from the DTC, and 1/3 is to and from the UVM Medical Center.

Ridership by Trip

Ridership is very low on all trips (see Figure 4). The AM inbound trip carries four passengers and the PM outbound trip carries seven passengers. The AM outbound trip carries two passengers, and the PM inbound trip one passenger.

Figure 4: Weekday Ridership by Trip



SERVICE PRODUCTIVITY

Route 46 ranks 14th of the 15 Commuter routes in terms of weekday ridership and 12th of 15 in terms of ridership per vehicle vehicle hour (see Table 3). The route carries an average of 16 total passengers per day, and only two passengers per trip. Route 46 fails to meet VTrans thresholds for productivity and effectiveness by a large margin.

Table 3: Productivity Statistics

	MONDAY-FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Average Daily Ridership	16	—	—
Pax/Revenue Vehicle Hour	5.5	—	—
Commuter Average	8.8	—	—
Pax/One-Way Trip	2.0	—	—
VTrans Productivity Threshold	17.35	17.35	17.35
Pax/Revenue Mile	0.2	—	—
Commuter Average	0.4	—	—
Cost/Passenger	\$19.70	—	—
VTrans Effectiveness Threshold	\$10.59	\$10.59	\$10.59

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

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

Opportunities to strengthen Route 46 are listed below. Some suggestions may be contradictory, as there is usually more than one approach to improving a route.

- **Discontinue Route 46.** Ridership on Route 46 is very low, as is productivity and cost-effectiveness. Service could be discontinued to provide service elsewhere where demand and needs are higher.
- **Simplify Service.** Route 46 serves different sets of stops and request-only stops on each of the eight trips provided. The reasons for these differences are not known, and they have not worked to build ridership. Simpler service could attract a few additional riders.