

ROUTE 76

Middlebury LINK Express

ROUTE OVERVIEW

Route 76 is Commuter route that operates between Burlington and Middlebury, primarily along US Route 7 (Shelburne Road/Ethan Allen Highway) (see Figure 1). Route 76 provides service to downtown Middlebury, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Shelburne, downtown Burlington, and the UVM Medical Center. Customers can transfer between Route 76 and other GMT services at Burlington's Downtown Transit Center (DTC) and to services operated by Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) and Marble Valley Regional Transit District (The Bus) at Merchant's Row in Middlebury.

On weekdays, Route 76 provides two AM round trips and two PM round trips (see Table 1). As with most Commuter routes, Route 76's schedule is oriented toward inbound trips to Burlington in the morning and outbound trips in the afternoon. The opposite direction trips are operated primarily to cycle buses for the peak direction trips. The AM inbound trips depart from Middlebury at 6:10 and 7:10 AM and arrive at UVM Medical Center at 7:39 and 8:39 AM and the DTC in downtown Burlington at 7:45 and 8:45 AM. The PM outbound trips depart from UVM Medical Center at 4:40 and 5:20 PM and from the DTC at 4:50 and 5:30 PM and arrive in

Four round trips are also provided on Saturdays, service with trips spaced widely apart. GMT operates the weekday service and Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) operates the Saturday service.

On weekdays, Route 76 operates with two inbound and two outbound service patterns (see Table 2). The AM outbound trips begin service at Burlington's DTC, while the PM outbound

Figure 1: Route Map

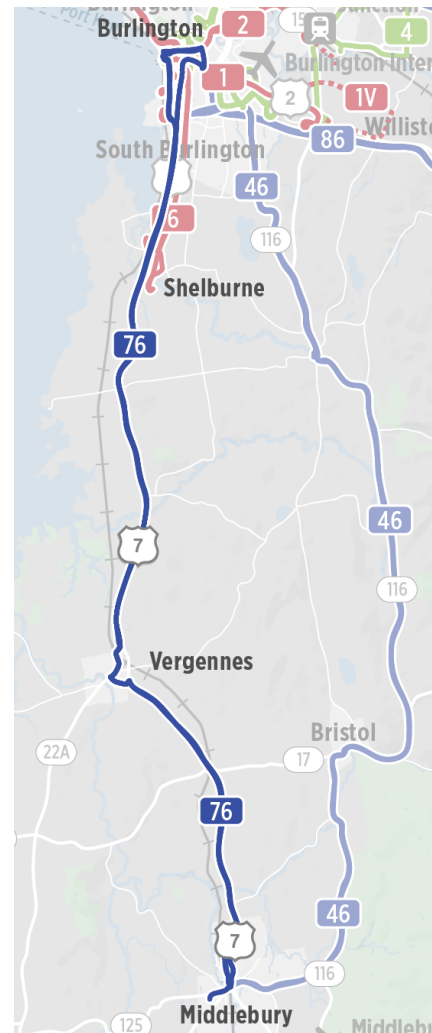


Table 1: Schedule Statistics

SERVICE DAY	SPAN OF SERVICE	FREQUENCY (MIN)	DAILY TRIPS (OUTBOUND/INBOUND)
Monday-Friday	5:05 a.m. to 07:50 p.m.	60/—/35	4/4
Saturday	9:45 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.	145-275	4/4
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.

trips start service at UVM Medical Center and then operate via the DTC.

Inbound trips all begin at Exchange Street in Middlebury. Morning trips stop at UVM Medical Center before serving the DTC and terminate on Pine Street at Lakeside Avenue. Afternoon inbound trips operate via Pine Street to the DTC, and serves the Ferrisburgh Park-and-Ride and Church Hill Road Park-and-Ride by request only.

On Saturdays, trips begin and end in Middlebury at Adirondack Circle before serving Merchant's Row, and generally follow the same alignment as on weekdays. All trips terminate in Burlington at the DTC with no service to UVM Medical Center. Trips operate infrequently throughout the day.

Table 2: Service Variants

VARIANT	ORIGIN	DESTINATION	UNIQUE FEATURE	TRIPS PER DAY		
				WKD	SAT	SUN
OUTBOUND				4	—	—
76-1	DTC	Merchant's Row	Begins at DTC; serves Church Hill Rd P&R by request only	2	—	—
76-2	UVM Medical Center	Merchant's Row	Begins at UVM Medical Center; skips Church Hill Rd P&R	2	—	—
INBOUND				4	—	—
76-3	Exchange St Storage	Pine Street at Lakeside Ave	Serves UVM Medical Center, ends at Pine St/Lakeside Ave	2	—	—
76-4	Exchange St Storage	DTC	Ends at DTC; Church Hill Rd P&R and Ferrisburgh P&R by request only	2	—	—

RIDERSHIP

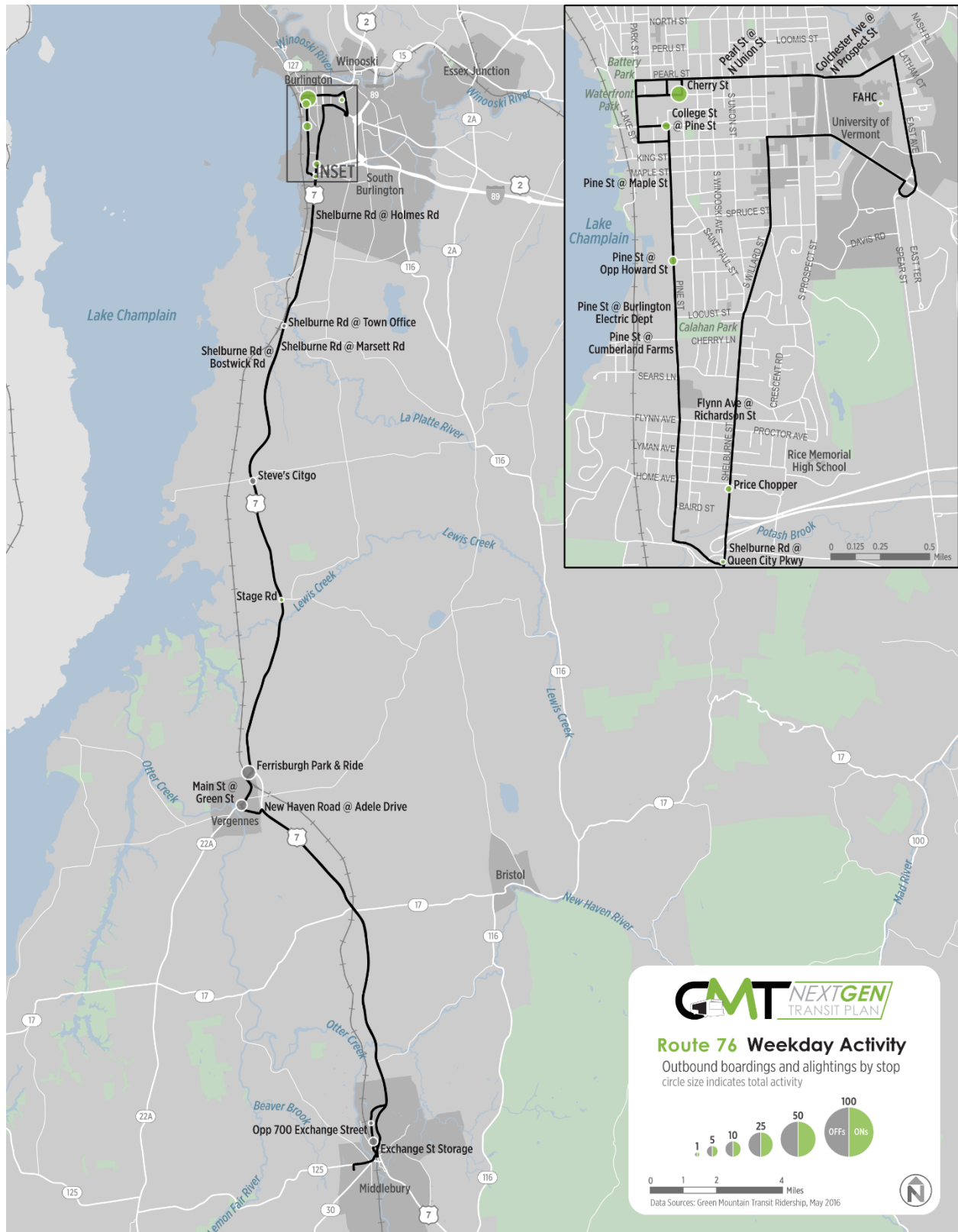
Route 76 carries 67 passengers per weekday. By weekday ridership, it ranks fifth out of GMT's 15 Commuter Bus Routes. Saturday ridership for Route 76 is not available as Saturday service is operated by ACTR.

Ridership by Stop

Weekdays

Inbound, the largest number of passengers board at Merchant's Row in Middlebury (20), Green Street at Main Street in Vergennes (9), and the Ferrisburgh Park and Ride lot (six) (see Figure 2). The largest number of alightings is at the DTC (20), and UVM Medical Center (seven). Outbound, only one rider boards at UVM Medical Center, and 11 board at the DTC (see Figure 3). Most riders alight at either Ferrisburgh Park-and-Ride (eight) or in Vergennes at Main Street and Green Street (five). Four riders alight in Middlebury.

Figure 3: Weekday Outbound Ridership by Stop

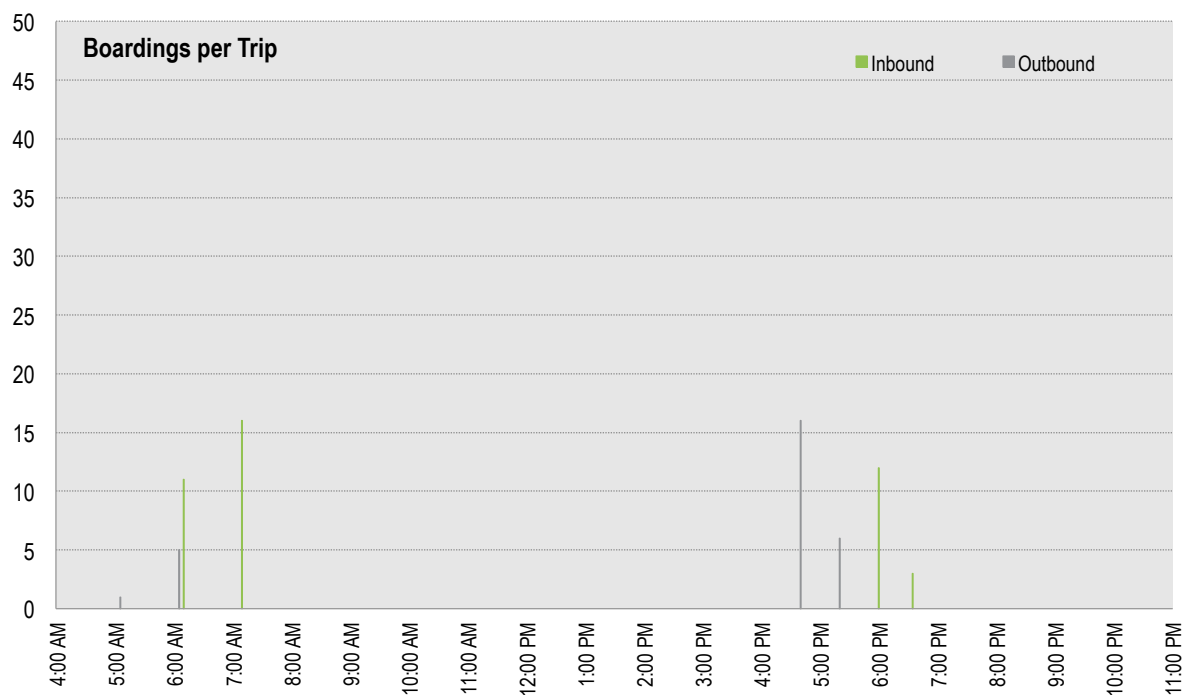


Ridership by Trip

Weekdays

Ridership on Route 76 generally follows the traditional commuter peaks (see Figure 4). During the morning peak, inbound ridership is much higher than outbound ridership, and the two inbound trips carry 11 and 16 passengers, respectively. The two PM outbound trips carry 16 and seven passengers respectively. However, one of the reverse direction (inbound) trips carries 12 passengers. Low ridership on the last outbound trip could indicate that this trip leaves too early, especially considering that the second inbound trip doesn't arrive at the DTC until 8:45 AM.

Figure 4: Weekday Ridership by Trip



SERVICE PRODUCTIVITY

Route 76 ranks fifth of the 15 Commuter routes in terms of weekday ridership, but only 10th in terms of ridership per revenue hour (see Table 3). On weekdays, the route carries an average of 67 passengers per day, or 6.3 passengers per revenue hour. Route 76 does not meet the VTrans thresholds for productivity and effectiveness.

Table 3: Productivity Statistics

	MONDAY-FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Average Daily Ridership	67	—	—
Pax/Revenue Service Hour	6.3	—	—
Commuter Average	8.8	—	—
Pax/One-Way Trip	8.4	—	—
VTrans Productivity Threshold	17.35	17.35	17.35
Pax/Revenue Mile	0.2	—	—
Commuter Average	0.4	—	—
Cost/Passenger	\$14.51	—	—
VTrans Effectiveness Threshold	\$10.59	\$10.59	\$10.59

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

Note: Route 76 runs on Saturdays, but is operated by ACTR. Ridership and performance data for Saturday service is not available.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

Opportunities to strengthen Route 76 are listed below. Some suggestions may be contradictory, as there is usually more than one approach to improving a route.

- **Operate AM Inbound Service to the DTC before UVM Medical Center.** Downtown Burlington is a larger market than UVM Medical Center, and service to the DTC before UVM Medical Center would provide faster service to the greatest number of passengers.
- **Consolidate Stops in Burlington.** Route 76 makes several stops on Shelburne Road and Pine Street and circulates through downtown making additional stops. Making fewer local stops and providing more direct service would save travel time for riders and maintain the integrity of the LINK brand as an express service.
- **Reschedule Service.** The first PM outbound trip that departs the DTC at 4:40 PM carries 11 passengers, but the second that departs at 5:20 PM carries only six. The first PM outbound trip departs from the DTC nine hours and five minutes after the first AM trip arrives in Burlington, which is a span that allows for an eight hour work day, lunch, and time to and from the bus. However, the second PM trip departs 8 hours and 45 minutes after the arrival of the second AM inbound trip, which may be slightly too short of a span. Either the second AM inbound trip could be shifted to depart slightly earlier on the PM trip shifted to depart slightly later.
- **Operate additional peak period trips.** Ridership is highest on the last trip of the morning and the first trip of the afternoon, indicating potential demand for another trip later in the morning and one earlier in the afternoon. Additional trips will provide more flexibility for riders and make the route a more attractive option for commuters.