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For Immediate Release

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CCTA Board of Commissioners Vote to Support Burlington's Street Outreach Program Program Provides Assistance to CCTA Bus Drivers and Operations Personnel

Burlington, Vermont: At their last meeting, members of the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to provide financial support to Burlington's Street Outreach Program. The Street Outreach program was created in 1996 and delivers street-based counseling to individuals in downtown Burlington who have psychiatric disabilities, substance abuse programs, homelessness issues and unmet social service needs. This program provides assistance to CCTA bus drivers, station attendants and field supervisors when they are faced with escalating or problematic behaviors from the public.

"I am pleased that the CCTA Board has agreed to help fund this program, for without it, our drivers would be left to handle aggressive or inappropriate behaviors while driving their vehicle and tending to the needs of other passengers," says Chris Cole, General Manager of CCTA. "As the State locates more halfway houses and support services in Burlington, it is important that street-based outreach programs such as this are funded as well to help people who are having some difficulties get the support they need," adds Cole.

The CCTA Board of Commissioners agreed to provide the Street Outreach Program with \$5,000 from CCTA's Fiscal Year 2007 operating budget. This financial support will allow this program to continue through 2006.

"The Street Outreach team does a wonderful job supporting residents and visitors who need assistance while out in the community, which makes downtown Burlington a more pleasant place to work, shop and visit," says Dave Davis, Chairman of the CCTA Board of Commissioners.

The Chittenden County Transportation Authority operates Chittenden County's public transit buses and provides 1.8 million rides per year in the greater Burlington area. CCTA has a fifty-one bus fleet, which services Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, Winooski and a portion of Colchester. The mission of CCTA is to make efficient transportation services available to all residents of and visitors to the Chittenden County region that are safe, accessible, reliable, clean, affordable and sustainable, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all. For CCTA route and schedule information, please call (802) 864-CCTA or log onto www.cctaride.org.