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15 Industrial Parkway  
Burlington, VT 05401

Phone (802) 864-CCTA  
Fax (802) 864-5564

## **ARTICLE FOR RELEASE**

Contact: Rose Getch  
Public Affairs and Marketing Manager  
(802) 864-CCTA or [rgetch@cctaride.org](mailto:rgetch@cctaride.org)

### **CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TRAINS DRIVERS TO BE CCTA-SAFE ON ICY ROADS**

Burlington VT (January 30, 2012) – With temperatures warmer than usual this winter during the daytime and dipping in the evening, there is a lot of concern about icy conditions on Vermont roads. I've often wondered how CCTA drivers are so good at winter driving. So, to find out how they get to be some of the safest drivers on the road, I went to Brad Greenwood, CCTA Operations Trainer.

What I learned from Brad is that CCTA drivers are not just pros because they drive for a living. They are trained to be the best. Operations supervisors go through "training the trainer" courses. These well-trained and experienced operations supervisors are the ones that bring new drivers step by step through an extensive new driver-training course. Supervisors and drivers participate in the Smith System Driver Training program that is known worldwide for training experienced commercial drivers to drive to the highest standards of safety.

Each year in the Fall, drivers participate in winter weather driving technique classes. Some of the topics include weather conditions, road conditions, time of day (when temperatures drop), how to adjust bus heat to compensate for number of passengers on a bus to prevent windows from fogging up creating poor visibilities. CCTA trains drivers on how to respond to accident situations, precaution measures, keeping bus steps salted, and advising passengers about slippery conditions.

If you have the option to ride the bus rather than drive this winter, why not consider curbing your car and leave the driving to CCTA. See you on the bus!

*The mission of CCTA is to operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative and sustainable public transportation services in the Chittenden County region that reduce congestion and pollution, encourage transit oriented development and enhance the quality of life for all.*

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