



Southwestern Community Services

People helping people in Cheshire and Sullivan Counties since 1965

Press Release

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### Claremont to Lebanon Transit Link Achieved

Officials from the City of Claremont, Sullivan County and Southwestern Community Services (SCS) are celebrating the establishment of the first fixed route, public transit “linkage” between the Cities of Claremont and Lebanon, NH. This connection is the result of a long sought-after effort; first publicly identified in a study published by the Upper Valley/Lake Sunapee Region Planning Commission in 2009. Local officials took a celebratory ride to and from Claremont and Lebanon on Monday morning August 30, 2021. The ride was among the first county-to-county trips on the newly “wrapped” bus commissioned by the City of Claremont and created by our local “Ink Factory”. This specific bus will be making daily trips into and out of the Lebanon area, promoting our Claremont and Sullivan County regions.

*"The public has voiced the need for bus transportation between Claremont and Lebanon for well over a decade. So much so that the need for this was incorporated into our City Master Plan. We are grateful to Southwestern Community Services for taking the initiative to make this a reality. It will connect two major cities in the Upper Valley and provide better access to rail and air travel, expanding employment, tourism and service opportunities for the people of our region."*

**Charlene Lovett**  
Mayor, City of Claremont

“SCS has been thrilled to operate the public transit for Sullivan County since October 2016. Since that time, a goal has been to follow through with the creation of a bus route linking Sullivan County to Lower Grafton County. We are pleased to now be offering this to residents. Many SCS Board, town and county representatives, agency staff, and transit supporters in the community had a hand in this effort, from fundraising to planning to implementing, and we are proud of, and grateful for, them all.”

**Beth Daniels,**  
SCS' Chief Executive Officer

SCS, the region’s Community Action Agency, with no prior public transit experience, stepped up to administer this program soon after another local, social service provider had shut it down during the summer of 2016. By mid-October 2016, several drivers and one critical dispatcher had been re-hired, software was installed, vehicle ownership had been transferred and the program was back up and running. Since that time, SCS has maintained daily M-F routes from Claremont to Newport as well as Charlestown while operating several daily routes throughout the City of Claremont. In addition, SCS has been operating the Volunteer Driver Program and a Dial-a-Ride service to assist those who live outside of the bus route systems throughout Sullivan County. This program will continue to grow to serve the needs of our communities.

More information on this, and other SCS’ programs, can be found on our agency website at

[www.scshelps.org](http://www.scshelps.org)

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