

## **Transportation Solutions**

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Public and alternative transportation will vastly improve transportation and parking in Glastonbury. These are simple solutions, but potentially effective one. In Glastonbury, it is necessary for one to have a car in order to get from point A to point B. This model is highly impractical, and impedes consumers of all ages from reaching business hubs such as Main Street, Somerset Square, and beyond. As parents work and young adults are often too young or lacking in funds to own their own vehicle, individuals of all ages are incapable of leaving their own homes — especially when the weather turns cold.

Particularly, the implementation of a bus route would greatly improve the mobility — and thus the spending power — of individuals without vehicles at their own disposal. For example, two hours following the end of school, there is a system of busses which takes students directly home from Glastonbury High School. These are called “activity buses.” However, there are no such buses which take students directly to areas which are often frequented by teenagers their age, such as popular gyms (i.e. “Work Out World”) or shopping centers (Somerset Square). Furthermore, there is no bus route which might take these students home following their excursions or — as many students have jobs — following their shift.

Should a small bus system be implemented, it can be made more affordable for the town by allowing a sponsorship system to be made available for local businesses. This means that shops, restaurants, and gyms can choose to pay a small fee toward the upkeep of the route in return for an active bus stop being placed by one or more of their locations.

More importantly, the induction of such a system would not only benefit students, but would also make Glastonbury a more attractive location to settle for families of lower incomes. Cars are expensive, and only become more so once it becomes necessary for each member of a family to have his or her own. If there were a public transportation system in our town, it would allow families unable to have multiple cars to live in the area, while keeping the entirety of the town’s

features available to these members. Meanwhile, the sheer volume of vehicles on the roads would decrease as more people turn to the ease of using public transportation.

Yet, despite the obvious benefits of a bus system, implementing such a thing can be expensive either for the town or for smaller businesses who cannot partake in the proposed sponsorship program. Luckily, there is another way to further improve transportation in town, as well as for business to increase their foot traffic: bikes. By strategically placing bike racks, and possible specialized bike lanes, around shops and parks, the town and business owners can encourage those without a car to still traverse Glastonbury with ease. Currently, there are many bike owners who find it difficult to move from place to place, as there is nowhere for them to store their vehicles. Simply investing in racks removes this difficulty and will even reduce the traffic, as well as its related parking difficulties, in heavily frequented areas., since even those who do own cars will turn to alternative modes of transportation in the warmer months.

Thus, it can be concluded that the induction of a public and alternative transportation system would benefit the town by not only reducing traffic, but also economically.