

**June 30, 2023**

## **Proposal**

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson owns a small 20-passenger bus with a wheelchair lift that it uses in its senior programs once a week (prior to the pandemic, it was used twice a week) and twice a month for weekday trips. The bus is also used occasionally for special events.

The original idea for expanding the use of the bus came from a survey conducted in the business community in 2019 to help connect the various business districts in the Village. There have been successful uses of the bus for special events most recently during the Big Easy event in May when the Croton Business Council supported the bus running from the train station to the Upper Village for the event. Due to the hilly terrain in Croton, not ample parking in business districts, and the opportunity to draw visitors to Croton from the train station. There is an opportunity to pilot an expansion.

## **Some Ideas for the Use of the Bus**

### **Business-Focused Expansion**

- Running the bus on a regular loop from the train station on weekends to support local businesses.
- Running in conjunction with Blaze to Village Restaurants
- Support Local Events run by Croton Business Council or Croton Council on the Arts with use of the bus

### **Expand Recreation Programs (focus on local teens who lack transportation)**

- Partner with the Town of Cortlandt to bring teens to Cortlandt Teen Center, Cortlandt Ice Rink, and Cook Pool facility.
- Revive Middle School Friday After School Program (this was run in partnership with the school district using school buses to take the kids to various places around the county)
- Croton Parks loop in the summertime

## **Finances**

The Village has access to a pool of drivers that work for the Croton Harmon School District. These drivers are vetted and have a rate of \$38 an hour. Operating the shuttle from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. one day a week (April – October) would cost \$7,904 in salary and benefits.

The bus runs on regular gasoline and drives about 6 miles per gallon. The approximate mileage per day would be 66 miles and the cost per day (based on current gasoline price of \$2.85/gal paid by the Village) would be \$31.35, or \$815.10 for the period of April to October.

