



Long Branch approves year-round shuttle bus service

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[LONG BRANCH](#) – Thanks to a little bit of vision – and a lot of federal money – residents and visitors can leave their cars behind when visiting several Long Branch destinations.

Beginning May 15, the jitney shuttles circulating passengers debarking at Long Branch’s New Jersey Transit Station will begin their new year-round service to locations around the city, most specifically along the waterfront.

The Long Branch council approved the new service last week

“We were very successful with our shuttle service last summer,” Mayor Adam Schneider said. “People were using more than we anticipated.”

The bus service will cost \$198,000, 75 percent covered by a U.S. Department of Transportation grant, the remaining 25 percent, or \$49,500, picked up by the city.

Schneider said the new service caters to a growing contingent of area residents who are eager to eschew their automobile-centric lifestyle.

“We have a lot of Monmouth University students living in the city and around the waterfront,” Schneider said. “A lot of these students don’t have cars – or don’t want to drive everywhere.”



Long Branch's NJ Transit station will be one of the regular stops on a year-round shuttle carrying residents and visitors throughout the city.
(Christopher Robbins / NJ.com)

The service, provided by Woodbridge non-profit Meadowlink, will make stops at the train station, the Broadway campus of Brookdale Community College, Pier Village, Monmouth University Health Center, Cedar Avenue, Brighton Avenue, and Ocean Boulevard at West End Avenue.

The buses will fit 20 passengers and come equipped with a wheelchair lift.

Rides will cost \$1 – the service will not be available on weekends, but Long Branch is bringing back its summer shuttle service for weekend riders.

The transit service should provide a boost to area businesses, too, by getting motorists out of their cars.

“The route was designed to encourage people to shop at local businesses,” Schneider said. “After Sandy, business was hurting, people have had some miserable winters, anything we can do to spur business on is a benefit.”

Brookdale and Monmouth University students will ride for free.