

Business

SUPPORTING COMMUTERS: Four Vermont employers are named to the EPA and U.S. Department of Transportation's list of New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters. **Page 4A**

IBM CHIPS: IBM is going after the \$30 billion market for wireless communications chips with an offering based on technology unique to its plant in Essex Junction. **Page 4A**

Commute conscious, Employers lauded for aiding workers

By Aki Soga

Four Vermont employers were named to the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Transportation's list of New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters, released Thursday.

The federal program recognizes organizations that offer "an outstanding level of commuter benefits," such as subsidized mass transit passes and support for car poolers.

The four Vermont organizations on the list are:

- Chittenden Bank, Burlington
- Fletcher Allen Health Care, Burlington
- Rural Community Transportation, St. Johnsbury
- University of Vermont, Burlington

Fletcher Allen and UVM credited the Campus Area Transportation Management Association, formed by the hospital, the university, Champlain College, the American Red Cross and the city of Burlington, for making the list.



A CCTA shuttle bus picks up employees of Chittenden Trust Co. outside their office on the corner of Bank and Pine streets in Burlington on Thursday evening. PETER HUOPPI, Free Press

The association members jointly plan, manage and share transportation and parking resources in the city's Hill section. The aim is to offer alternatives to people driving to work in their own cars to lessen congestion.

Its programs include Guaranteed Ride Home, which provides car poolers a free taxi ride home in an emergency; a free, confidential car pool-matching service; a Bike/Walk Reward program; incentives to park off-site, including shuttle service; and a commuting rewards program.

At Rural Community Transportation, about 25 percent of employees car pool, said Carole-Ann Mastroianni, rideshare coordinator. In addition, the organization offers bus transit passes to all employees, she said.

Chittenden offers a free shuttle service between the banking firm's headquarters near the corner of St. Paul and Bank streets and parking on Lakeside Avenue near the General Dynamics plant, as well as subsidies for CCTA buses and parking for those who car pool.

"We're trying to support public transportation," Debra Daymon of Chittenden's human resources program said.

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