The Newmarket-Exeter Connector

The Newmarket-Exeter Connector simplifies travel between Newmarket and Exeter. Operated by **COAST**, this shared-ride service is open to everyone without applications or eligibility requirements. Book your seat and enjoy the ride!

Service Days & Hours:
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday*, and Saturday
- 9:30 AM – 5:15 PM

Friday service is a pilot program. Use it often to show the need for long-term support.

Fare:
- **$3.00 per boarding**
- **Cash:** Drivers accept exact change only
- COAST Demand Response Ticket

Where to Buy:
- Book a book of tickets from your driver ($30 cash)
- Visit the COAST Admin Office
- Online at coastbus.org/store

How to Schedule:
1. **Call ahead:** Book by **5:00 PM the business day before** your travel
2. **Plan in advance:** Schedule trips up to **2 weeks** ahead
3. **Regular commuter?** Ask about "standing orders" for recurring trips
4. **Stay flexible:** Your final pickup time may vary by up to an hour to efficiently serve group passengers. You'll receive an automated call or text with your finalized time.

COAST is closed on major holidays, including New Year's Day, MLK Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve/Day.



Three Months Until Turtle Fest '26 - Where are the Turtles Now?

Turtles, cold-blooded reptiles, rely on external heat sources to survive in winter. During warmer months, you may have seen them basking on logs in ponds, marshes, or the Great Bay. This behavior helps them warm up and counteract the cold. When they overheat, they submerge in water to cool down.

As winter approaches, water sources freeze and the ground is covered in snow. Turtles enter a state called brumation, a reptilian hibernation. Different turtles use various methods and locations for brumation. Snapping turtles may burrow in shallow mud in water or nest in hollow logs or leaf litter near water. In water, they enter a state of torpor, slowing down enough to survive beneath the ice.

Other turtles like Box and Painted Turtles seek land areas to burrow and wait out winter. As the earth warms and daylight increases, they return to their metabolic processes, peeking out from their burrows before fully emerging. During brumation, their body temperatures hover just above freezing, allowing them to remain healthy and inactive for 3-6 months.

As spring approaches, signs of turtle emergence become evident. Melting snow reveals colonies of Skunk Cabbage, which generates heat and causes the snow around it to melt first. This plant's emergence signals that turtles will begin to emerge from their burrows, hollow logs, or muddy banks.

By Newmarket's Turtle Fest '26, turtles will be on the move, continuing their life cycles. Dedicated volunteers or municipal staff will reopen the New England traditional folded "Turtle Crossing" signs to guard safe crossings for nesting turtles. Newmarket displays open format signs year-round to ensure driver awareness and turtle habitat protection. If you see a turtle crossing the road, help it reach the side of the street where it was headed, but don't turn it around, as it will habitually return to its original location.

Turtle Fest '26 on May 9th has expanded its offerings to include presentations about turtle habitats. Start your day with a birdwatchers' walk led by Dick Lutz, a dynamic and experienced birder. After informative presentations, wind down with a walk to vernal pools and learn about the watershed. Enjoy lunch at a Newmarket restaurant, including the Stone Church, which will open its kitchen for lunch during the "Shell-abration" with donations accepted for an animal habitat preservation or rehabilitation non-profit.



Feel like you're in brumation like our turtles, but we can warm up with a brisk walk, hearing the crunch of snow or appreciating the moody winter sky. Explore town trails or Great Bay!