



*Greater
Hartford
Transit District*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 22, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT: John Boit (jboit@melwoodglobal.com) – 202.468.9413

Encompass Launches \$5 Taxi Rides for Seniors and Passengers with Disabilities

(NEW HAVEN, Conn.)—M7, Connecticut’s largest taxi transportation company, and the Greater Hartford Transit District are pleased to announce the launch of Encompass, an exciting new program that allows seniors and anyone in the disability community to travel anywhere in the Greater Hartford area up to eight miles for just \$5—any time, any day, for any reason.

The low-cost rides are now available in Berlin, Cromwell, East Hartford, Farmington, Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Plainville, Rocky Hill, West Hartford and Wethersfield. Encompass plans to include an additional 12 towns within the next few months.

“We wanted to do everything we could to help our seniors and our passengers with disabilities get where they need to go—to the doctor, the pharmacy, the grocery store, or just to see family,” said Bill Scalzi, owner of M7. “We want to help get America moving again, and this innovative partnership helps Connecticut make that a reality.”

The new program is made possible through a strategic partnership with the Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD) and a generous grant from the Federal Transit Administration which subsidizes the cost of the ride.

“During these unprecedented times it is vital to provide more mobility options to those who need it the most,” said Vicki Shotland, Executive Director of GHTD. “The evolution of this program will hopefully fill a current gap in service and be a model for similar programs in the future.”

Anyone can apply in minutes to be included in the program by going to Encompass.M7Ride.com and clicking the “Apply Now” button. Passengers must be 60 years of age or over or provide proof of a disability to apply. Trip payments are made online through a personal Encompass account created by the passenger. Passengers can easily load funds into the account via credit card payments or direct bank transfers. When a ride ends, the trip is automatically paid and the passenger simply exits the vehicle. There is no limit to the number of trips a passenger can take, and trips beyond eight miles are charged at a rate of \$2 per mile. The passenger is given the exact trip cost at the time of booking and the fare is automatically deducted at the end of each ride.

All M7 drivers are fully trained and vetted, and all vehicles are fully licensed, inspected and insured. Every M7 vehicle is wiped down with disinfectant after each ride, and all vehicles undergo further deep

interior “fogging” cleaning several times each week at the company’s state-of-the-art maintenance facility.

About us: M7 is Connecticut’s largest, full-service transportation company utilizing the latest in global technology, providing responsive service throughout CT. M7 provides wheelchair accessible and ambulatory non-emergency medical transportation, and traditional taxi services transport services throughout the Greater New Haven, Bridgeport and Hartford, and New London areas, 24/7/365 Visit us at www.m7ride.com.

###