

Transit Systems in Kentucky Rally for State Funding Support

FRANKFORT, KY – Over 150 people joined forces on “Community Transportation Day” recently to rally for \$8.5 million for transit from Kentucky Governor Paul Patton and the Kentucky State Legislature. As participants from more than 30 transit systems poured out of 25 buses and vans onto the steps of the Kentucky State Capitol, they hoisted signs that read, “Need a Job? You need transportation. Support Community Transportation” and “Community transportation = Access to jobs and job training.”

The event was sponsored by the Kentucky Public Transit Association’s “Partners for Public Transportation”, a coalition recently formed to promote

the importance of public transportation in Kentucky.

KPTA President J. Barry Barker said community transportation is Kentucky’s lifeline, providing over 24 million rides statewide and service to the 156,000 Ken-

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Supporters of public transportation from throughout Kentucky gather at the state capitol in Frankfort to rally for transit funding initiative.

Jeffers awarded national CCTM certificate

Sue Jeffers, Director of Transportation, Blue Grass Community Action Agency, Inc., Frankfort, Kentucky was designated as a Certified Community Transit Manager (CCTM) by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA).

The Certified Community Transit



Sue Jeffers

Manager Program recognizes community transit managers for specific skills they have acquired through experience, education and professional development and a passing score on the certification exam. Ms. Jeffers, through her years of service has demonstrated proficiency in human resources, finance, operations and development of transit programs.

Two years in the making, this program is the first of its kind in the community transit industry. The program marks a giant step forward in the professionalism of community transit.

Community transportation is an essential public service without which millions of Americans would be shut off from the mainstream of community life. Certified Community Transit Managers play a vital role in making transportation more accessible, affordable and available

FTSB Address

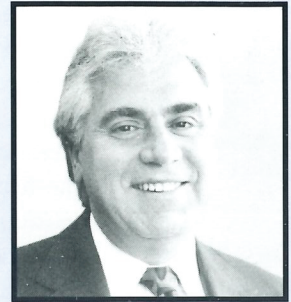
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Dear KPTA Members:

Let the Analysts and pundits say what they will about the recently concluded General Assembly session. The results are a resounding success for public transportation. Funding available to leverage federal dollars increased by approximately 270 percent.



The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet understands what's needed to provide effective, responsive public transportation. The Cabinet's request included additional funding for on-going programs and grant matches. In a very tough budget year, the budget sent to the General Assembly doubled the amount of funding available for grant matching. That funding survived in the House, Senate, Conference Committee and appeared in the final budget. Both Louisville and Lexington were able to win support for major projects in addition to the base budget. Funding for facility construction in Lexington and preliminary engineering for light rail in Louisville was approved.

On the policy side, Empower Kentucky and the reforms in Medicaid transportation are better understood and drew significant support. Ultimately, the people of Kentucky will receive better service for their tax dollars.

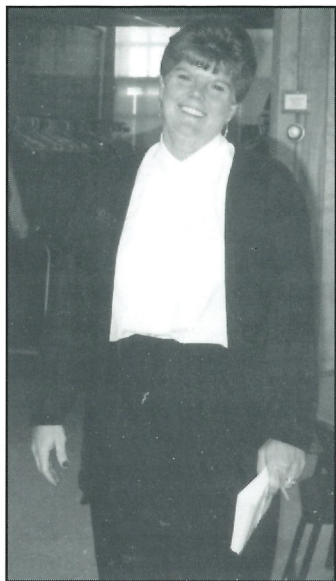
We are on a roll and there are lots of folks to thank in the Transportation Cabinet, in the Executive Branch, and certainly in the legislature. Organizations such as the Kentuckians for Better Transportation, Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Disabilities Coalition and many more lent their support.

We are making gains, but we have miles to go before we sleep. We have to look to the future and build on the support we have. With light rail being planned in Louisville and Northern Kentucky, with the aging of the population, with the need to connect people with jobs, with the contribution public transportation makes to a livable community, the demand for public transportation will increase.

Kentucky needs to move beyond funding public transportation on an exception basis and develop a sustained funding mechanism for the future. All modes of transportation — are important to Kentucky's future viability. They need to be treated equally. The concept of the six-year road plan needs to be expanded to include all modes of transportation.

Thanks to everyone!

J. Barry Barker, KPTA President
Executive Director
Transit Authority of River City (TARC)



Florence Tandy, Assistant Executive Director of Kentucky River Foothills, resigned her position effective December 18, 1999.

Tandy accepted a position as Executive Director for the Patty A. Clay Foundation. She was employed at Kentucky River Foothills for 12 years and was an advocate for transportation for her tenure.

***Next
KPTA Meeting
July 19, 2000
at TANK***

Paratransit in Lexington

For over 20 years, the American Red Cross WHEELS program has provided transportation to the elderly and disabled in Fayette County. The WHEELS program has greatly expanded since it began as a limited pilot program in 1968.

Today, under contract with the Lexington Transit Authority WHEELS provides close to 81,000 trips. This service is provided as door-to-door service and covers all of Fayette County.

WHEELS also, provides over 50,000 trips annually for Federated Transportation Services of the Bluegrass as a subcontractor in the Region 10 Human Service Delivery project.

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Ridership climbs for Southern Community Action

Southern Community Action Agency ridership climbs by 28 per cent over the last nine months. Last month ridership also increased by 700 trips according to Keirsten Jaggars with Barren River ADD.

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PATS shuttles visitors to Quilt Festival

This year Paducah Area Transit System (PATS) transported over 25,000 passengers in four days from April 12-16. People from all across the world invade Paducah for quilting activities.

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TARC's Job Hunter Bus Gets Support

The Transit Authority of River City recently received a check for \$2,000 from the Louisville Employment Specialists Consortium to help fund the authority's Job Hunter Bus, which provides transportation service to job recruitment sites in the greater Louisville area. The money was raised through a job fair hosted by TARC.

* * * * *

LexTran Bus Shelters

LexTran is currently working on a project that will place 74 new bus shelters throughout the community. LexTran staff has been reviewing all bus routes in order to identify the best locations for these shelters.

Each bus shelter costs \$5,000, and the total estimated cost of the project is \$370,000. This is an important effort in providing safe, comfortable service for LexTran passengers.

It is anticipated that the shelters will be in place by the end of the year 2000.

General Fund - Transportation
FY 2000 Actual Compared to FY 2001, FY 2002 Enacted

	FY'00	FY'01	FY'02
Grants to Local Transit	\$882,500 ¹	\$2,908,800 ²	\$2,002,800
Transit Administration		354,300	371,800
Update Rail Plan		150,000	
Multi-Modal Planning	624,500	662,700	685,700
Non-Public School Transportation	2,500,000	2,750,000	3,000,000
Human Services Transportation Delivery		0 ⁴	0 ⁴
Air Transportation	2,267,000	0 ⁵	0 ⁵
Railroad Commission	72,000	75,300	78,100

¹ Includes funds for Transit Administration

² Includes \$820,000 for TARC light rail study; \$266,100 to match federal funds for LexTran in FY 2001 and \$652,500 in FY 2002.

³ Includes \$820,000 for TARC light rail study.

⁴ Restricted funds: FY 2001, \$829,600; FY 2002, \$858,300.

⁵ Program will be funded with sales and use tax on jet fuel; FY 2001, \$5,531,200 (est); FY 2002, \$5,532,200 (est).

Transit in Kentucky.....

Continued from Page 1

tucky households that don't have a car.

"Public transit plays a critical role in attracting economic development and tourism, preserving vibrant neighborhoods, revitalizing downtowns and preserving precious Kentucky farmland," Barker said. He added that many riders with disabilities take the bus to get to jobs, medical services and education opportunities.

Other speakers included Jack Fish, executive director of Kentuckians for Better Transportation and a coalition partner, and Rep. Jimmie Lee, D-Elizabethtown.

The \$8.5 million being sought for transit includes \$3.95 million in state capital grants to leverage federal funds and update aging fleets. Over one-third of Kentucky's transit vehicles are older than what the Federal Transit Administration considers their "useful" life.

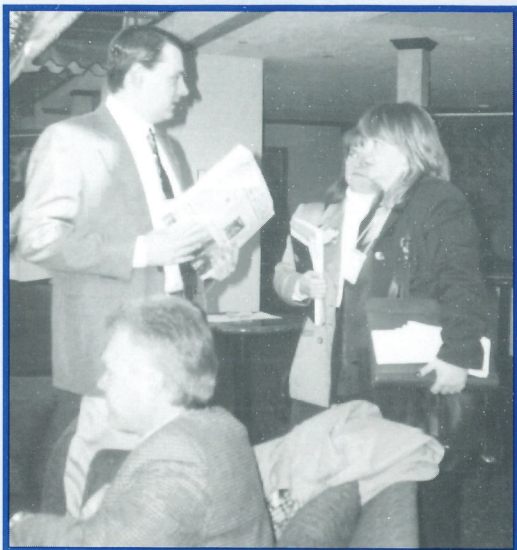
More than 1.6 million elderly passengers and over 1 million citizens with disabilities use public transportation in Kentucky every year according to a recent survey. Over 35 systems serve every Kentucky county with over

900 buses and vans. Research also shows that community transportation has a great return on investment—every \$1 million transit investment creates or maintains 60 permanent full-time jobs.



Transit vehicles lined Capitol Ave. in Frankfort for Community Transportation Day on February 17, 2000.

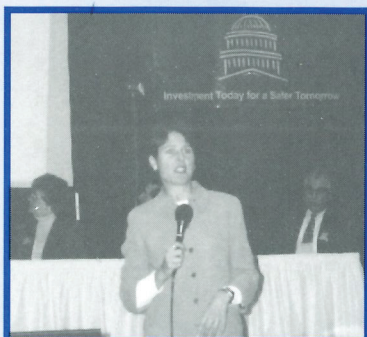
Kentuckians for Better Transportation Conference



Johnnie Davidson (LKLP), Petra Epinosa and Valerie Clem (Kentucky River Foot-hills) and Greg Hamlin seating (Sandy Valley Transit).



Ed Brady (Lexington Wheels), Ray Young (Maysville Transit) and John Carr (KYTC).



Margaret Plattner, Executive Director for Office of Transportation Delivery, spoke during KBT conference.



Jim Seibert (TANK), William Stewart (Fulton County Transit), and Mike Rogers (Ashland Bus).

Kentucky Transit Providers enjoy activities at the KBT Conference in Frankfort in January.



Sue Jeffers (BUS), Karen Goben and Shirley Cummins (RTEC), Lois O'Keefe (CKCA).



Sue Jeffers (BUS) and Steve Rowland (LexTran).

Lextran Unveils 'Lex Miles' Promotion

Lextran has unveiled its newest promotional campaign: "Lex Miles," using visuals and music reminiscent of a certain popular television show to demonstrate that "your ride is out there."

The campaign covers a variety of Lextran services in several television and radio spots and print ads.

One notice supports Lextran's new "Way To Go" employer subsidy program, calling it "the end of the ride to work as we know it." Other spots focus on Lextran's night service, the new Southside Connector route, wheelchair accessibility, bike racks, convenient service for college students, and the reasonable cost of bus fares.

"We all need to know about our community bus system and the services it offers. Our singing bus drivers did just that (in past promotional campaigns) and now it's a new approach with a new message, but hopefully the same impact for which our public service announcements are known," said Jenny Williams, marketing director at Lextran.



LexTran presents Lex Miles. Something incredible is happening in Lexington. People are being transported all around the area without using cars.

RTEC Launches Pilot Bussing Program

There are some happy people in Pulaski County. On May 1, 2000 representatives from Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated (R-TEC) were joined by local government officials in launching a two-month pilot program offering Pulaski Countians public transit.

Since the closing of Cumberland Cab Company last winter, a group of concerned citizens have been actively working with R-TEC as well as city and county officials to expand R-TEC services. Several complaints were being reported of late pickups at doctor's offices and other frequently requested locations.

Marsha Van Hook was one of several citizens pushing for mass transit. A Pulaski Countian for the past six years, she was the first to purchase a monthly pass from R-TEC Director Shirley Cummins at the press conference in the fiscal courtroom.

"People listen," Van Hook said of her campaign by phone.

"We really hope this is going to be a positive thing," said Dana Rector, Employment Training Specialist for Goodwill Industries of Kentucky. "We want to leave the problems in the past."

In March, the group staged a bus tour of the county to work out the program's preliminary routes. Those efforts culminated in the May 1 press conference introducing the bus system.

R-TEC executive director Shirley Cummins said the continuance of the program depends on its

success through June 30. She added that success could see the service expand in the entire 12-county R-TEC system.

"The effectiveness—the feasibility (of the program)...It all comes back to ridership," Cummins said. "Give me the ridership and I'll give you the bus."

Legal aid representative Kim Murphy coordinated the effort to determine routes and introduced the group's findings to the audience.

Routes will be monitored throughout the trial period for ridership, which will determine if any of the bus stops need to be eliminated or moved.

Cummins observed that the expanded system has environmental benefits and could add a great deal to the local economy.

A number of R-TEC vehicles have been pulled from other counties to adequately support the Pulaski routes, Cummins said. There are currently 21 vehicles in the county for the pilot program with the possibility of more 47-Passenger buses being added.

Though meters have been purchased, R-TEC officials are also awaiting grant funding to purchase bus stop signs, according to R-TEC transit planner Karen Goben. Other items on the wish list include shelters, benches and bike racks to go on the buses for college students.

"Without Mayor (JP) Wiles, Judge BeShears and Deputy Judge Hargis, this would not be possible," Hawk said.

Taken from Somerset-Pulaski News Journal, By Janie Slaven, May 5, 2000, P-1.

Rural Bus Service Expands

LexTran transfers buses to Foothills as ridership rises

For more than 10 years, Ruth Taylor has depended on the Foothills Express, a rural bus system, to take her to the Generations Senior Center in Winchester.

"The service is excellent. They're always on time and it helps out a lot since I don't drive," said Taylor, 79.

More people who live in rural areas will be able to take advantage of public transportation thanks to a recent collaboration between Foothills



Photo by Jahi Chikwendiu

Mary Sue Harris, Left, and Pauline Tyler were among the riders on the Foothills Express bus in Winchester.

Express and LexTran. LexTran transferred six 15-passenger vans to Foothills Express to help meet increases in transportation needs in Madison, Powell, Estill and Clark counties.

More people than ever are riding with Foothills Express at a cost of \$1.25 per mile. The non-profit transportation system, which is based in Richmond, helps transport people to social service appointments, schools work, medical appointments, recreational events and other places, said Valerie Clem, transportation director.

Ridership figures are up from last year and trip request continue to rise each month, Clem said. In 1998, the bus service made 53,000 trips. Last year that number increased to 78,300.

"LexTran was very cooperative and eager to provide us with assistance," Clem said.

This transfer of federally funded vehicles from one agency to another provides good use of taxpayer dollars by using the same federal dollars in two transit systems, Clem said.

The operating budget for the year is \$520,000 with \$203,000 coming from federal money. That money covers drivers, radios and vans; none of that can be used for capital projects, Clem said.

"The buses are not just for the elderly or for those who are disabled," said Clem. "Anyone can ride the bus."

For some riders the bus service is essential. "They have really saved my life," said Vicki Jozefowicz, a parent who uses the bus service to take her child from school to after-school care in Richmond.

Her son Matthew, 6, started riding the bus two years ago when he attended the Model Laboratory School. The school does not provide transportation for students, so parents such as Jozefowicz have to find alternatives.

"He loves riding the bus and he thinks the bus drivers are his buddies. There's nothing more exciting than for him to see his bus driver on the street," Jozefowicz said.

The fares can be negotiated on long-distance trips and recurring trips, she said.

"We rarely refuse a trip," Clem said, adding that trips that require a vehicle and driver to make an additional stop or travel a short distance out of the way are allowed.

Two federal grants have been awarded to Foothills Express for new vans, but delivery will take months, Clem said. One of those grants includes \$325,000, which may take at least one year before vehicles are available.

The offer from LexTran, Clem said, will provide immediate assistance to Foothills Express in the interim.

"We were glad to help," said Stephen D. Rowland, executive director of LexTran. "We would have auctioned the vans getting little money for them, so why not let a neighboring system use them?"

Taken from Lexington Herald-Leader, By Marquita Smith, February 7, 2000, P-1.

**Call FTSB
if you have
KPTA Newsletter Items.
606/233-0066.**

Thought for the Day

*Two step formula for
handling stress:*

- 1. Don't sweat the
small stuff.*
- 2. Remember that it's all
small stuff.*

— Anthony Robbins

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