

Lexington's Transit Authority upgrading services

Thanks to community support through approval of a tax referendum last year, Lexington's transit authority is in the process of expansion, route improvement, and upgraded service. Among the improvements is re-instatement of Sunday service and late night routes beginning in May, 2005.



Three new Gillig (KPTA member) buses for the LexTran fleet.

**FY'05
ends June 30
All Invoices
are to be paid
and invoiced to
OTD**

"We are very excited about being able to provide these needed services once again to our riders. And more improvements will be phased in over the next year-and-a-half, including bus service every thirty minutes for most routes during peak usage times, and ultimately 30-minute service on all routes," said Terry Garcia Crews, LexTran's general manager.

Included in expansion plans will be the purchase of additional buses and the hiring of more drivers. These changes stem from a major efficiency and operational study conducted by R.L.S. and Associates, of Dayton, Ohio. Resumption of services is the result of voter approval of property tax increases which will result in more than \$11 million for LexTran.

"System improvements follow many months of intensive review and data collection, along with input from our riders and the community. This information determined where routes should travel, and is part of LexTran's commitment to improve and streamline, garner effectiveness, and provide necessary community coverage," added Crews.

On Sunday, March 6, 2005, Sunday service was restored, and beginning May 8, 2005, late night service will resume, until 11:20 p.m. Some consolidation of routes during the final three trips of the evening will occur. Routes will run on an hourly basis, with two of the higher-use routes upgrading to service each half-hour. Nine new buses will be purchased and LexTran is planning to hire 46 additional drivers. Also in the planning stages are bus facility renovation and expansion, which would be made possible through acquisition of federal funding.

OTD announces new staff

Cecilia Perry Webber has been appointed as the new Administrative Branch Manger for the Human Service Transportation Delivery Program. Webber comes to the Cabinet with a BA in Public Administration and an Associate's Degree in Administrative Support Services.

Webber has an extensive background in customer service and management and has over 10 years experience in legislature and the legislative arena.



Cecilia Webber

Kitchin introduces Mobile Drivers Training Center

Gary Kitchin, Paducah Transit Authority, introduces his Mobile Drivers Training Center at the January 2005 KPTA meeting.

The simulator will create a driving environment from equipment failure to hazardous weather conditions. The driver will be able to learn how they should have reacted to the different situations.

This training will consist of six to eight hours of classroom training and over the road training.

The center is housed in a 53 foot mobile tractor trailer with six classroom stations and three state of the art driving simulators (includes one bus simulator and two simulators for cars, vans and cut-a-ways).

The curriculum will consist of the following:

- Basic Defensive Driving (new drivers and experienced drivers)
- Severe Weather Driving (snow, sleet, rain and fog)
- Equipment Failure (blow-out and steering malfunctions)

- Accident Retraining (accident reconstruction).

The training cost will be \$50.00 per driver if you are a KACO client. If you are not insured by KACO the cost will be \$125.00 per training.



Kim Adair and Gary Kitchin with PATS during the presentation at KPTA.



Thought for the Day

Congestion means lost time, squandered productivity, wasted gasoline, increased safety concerns, and air pollution. It's time to change. My vision is a transportation system that compliments the way Marylanders choose to live - a balance between mass transit and new highway construction.

-Robert L. Ehrlich

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April 2005

NEWSLETTER

Foothills Community Action celebrate grand opening

Foothills Community Action Partnership held their grand opening of their new administrative offices at 309 Spangler Drive in Richmond on December 6, 2004.

This move was made possible by a grant from the Kentucky Transportation



l-r : David Bohannon of Fairway Partners, a supporter of Foothills; Sandra Powell, migrant outreach coordinator; Ruth Ferrell, Foothills Board Chair; Vickie Bourne, KY Transportation Cabinet's Office of Transportation Delivery; Vicki Jozefowicz, Foothills Executive Director; Della Piersall and Mary Neal Davis, Foothills board members.

Cabinet and assistance from the following: Commonwealth Communications, Fairway Partners, Home Environment Balance, LLC, Saunier American Van Lines, Software Information Systems, Stanley Communication, Aaron Cox, Mark Brandenburg Roger Embree, Steve Kalinyak, H.C. Kenney, Ray Khatri and Ken Smith.

KPTA/KYTC Conference

August 15-19, 2005

**Hyatt Regency
Lexington Convention
Center
Lexington, Kentucky**

Payroll Tax Bill Signed - TANK Funding Preserved

Governor Ernie Fletcher signed HB 400, a bill designed to preserve the current levels of revenue generated by the payroll tax in Kenton and Campbell Counties.

Payroll tax revenue in Kenton and Campbell counties was in jeopardy as a result of a Kentucky Supreme Court decision rendered November 18, 2004 related to occupational license fees. The payroll tax provides money to operate TANK bus service in Northern Kentucky. TANK worked

with the local business community (led by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce), along with the Campbell and Kenton County Fiscal Courts to remedy this situation in the General Assembly.



By a strong margin, members of the Kentucky Senate and Kentucky House of Representatives each gave approval to HB 400 (Draud/Fischer) preserving the current levels of revenue generated by the occupational license taxes collected in Kenton and Campbell Counties. The Northern Kentucky Caucus members all voted "yes" for

TANK's campaign during 2005 General Assembly.

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From the Desk of the President

Dear KPTA Members:

Its spring time! Winter is over and we are all happy that the snow is over for another year.

The General Assembly just passed an off year budget that includes Tax Reform. The General Assembly approved \$5.2 million annually in General Fund Revenue for the State's transit programs. Here's the breakdown of the Public Transit budget.



Non-Public School -	\$2,500,000
Senate increased funding for Non-Public Schools by adding additional revenues	- \$ 450,000
Transit Capital	- \$1,480,700
Multi-Modal and Other	- \$ 769,300
Total Budget	- \$5,200,000

The Transportation Cabinet needed an additional \$4 million+ to meet all the required FY 2005 Capital needs. We will continue to educate the general assembly on our needs and hopefully next session we will meet all State Capital needs.

I must announce that the Secretary of Transportation, General Clay Bailey has resigned. *(See page 4 for additional details)* Secretary Bailey was a friend of Public Transit and we wish him the best in his new job.

The Kentucky Public Transit Association would like to congratulate and welcome Mr. Bill Nighbert as the acting Secretary of Transportation. We look forward to working with the acting Secretary in advancing Public Transit in the State of Kentucky. We would also like to congratulate Jim Adams as the new Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Thank you for your on going support of KPTA, as always.

Sincerely,
Beecher Hudson
KPTA President
Director of WHEELS Transportation Louisville Red Cross



TANK General Manager accepts new position at First Transit

David Malone, Chairman of the TANK Board of Directors, and Mark Donaghy, Vice President of First Transit, Incorporated jointly announced that effective May 1st, David Braun has accepted a position in the Business Development Group of First Transit.

As a result of a sustained period of growth, the firm has reorganized and expanded its Business Development Group. Braun has accepted an opportunity to join the group, located in the company's North American headquarters in Cincinnati working in proposal development, pricing and new business outreach activities.

Vice President Mark Donaghy stated, "The combination of David's experience as a transit manager and Master of Business Administration degree will serve him well in his new role. First Transit is not only growing in its management services product line, but is also experiencing success in university and airport shuttle operations, call center management and human service transportation."

Payroll tax signed

Continued from page 1

the bill are commended for their leadership in supporting this critically important legislation. The bill will allow the level of funding to stay the same for the Transit Authority of NKY (TANK) and not jeopardize bus service levels.

The Business community and local elected officials joined forces in an impressive manner to show support for TANK and to stress the importance of transit in our community. Nearly 500 residents, passengers and members of the business community packed a public meeting of the Northern Kentucky Caucus in early February to show support for TANK and highlight the importance of this issue to Northern Kentucky during this legislative session. This effort showed our legislators across the state, once again, how important transit is in communities across our Commonwealth.

Braun has worked for First Transit for more than 16 years. Prior to coming to TANK, Braun was the General Manager of CityLink, the operating name of the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District in Illinois. Braun came to TANK in October of 2003.

During Braun's time as TANK General Manager, many positive changes have occurred including:

- The reorganization of the RAMP and DayTripper Services while continuing to meet the needs of the services' customers.
 - The development of services to businesses, as well as the creation of a process for analyzing service requests from customers, businesses and internal sources.
 - The development of a new budget model, and improved internal reporting and data management.
 - Facility modifications that improve access, improve appearance, and allow people to become more proud of their environment.
 - Worked to successfully pass interim legislation which allows TANK to continue operating its existing level of service.
 - Development of a new Strategic Plan that serves as a business plan to guide management efforts.
 - Movement towards service coordination with other agencies providing transportation, to improve the effectiveness of all transportation in the region.
- "The board wishes to express its gratitude to David for his efforts during his time at TANK and wish him continued success as he takes on his new assignment" said Malone. A national search has been initiated by First Transit and the TANK board to seek out candidates to fill the general manager position.
- Braun will continue to live in Boone County with his family.

Bailey resigns as Secretary of Transportation

Governor Ernie Fletcher announces Transportation Cabinet Secretary is moving to Emergency Management

*Maxwell "Clay" Bailey to direct Emergency Management;
Bill Nighbert named acting Transportation Cabinet Secretary*

Governor Ernie Fletcher announced the resignation of Maxwell Clay Bailey as Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Bailey will become the new Director of the Department of Emergency Management.

"Clay Bailey has an exemplary record of service as Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet," said Governor Fletcher. "Under his leadership, Kentucky has made great strides toward meeting my administration's goals of a safe and reliable transportation system that leads to economic opportunities. I am confident Bailey will meet his new challenges in Emergency Management with the same vigor and determination as he exhibited in the Transportation Cabinet."

Governor Fletcher appointed Maxwell Clay Bailey as Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in December 2003 and tasked him with bringing efficiency and better business practices to the Transportation Cabinet. In the first year alone under Secretary Bailey's leadership, the Transportation Cabinet realized cost savings of \$74.5 million through greater control over change orders and reducing other costs like overtime and the amount spent on asphalt.

"I'm proud of the accomplishments our Cabinet has realized in the last 15 months, and I am confident based on the vision of Governor Fletcher, and the quality of employees we have, the Transportation Cabinet will continue to work toward improving business practices and bringing more savings to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth," Bailey said.

Before being appointed as Transportation Secretary, Maxwell Clay Bailey spent 32 years

with the United States Air Force as a Lieutenant General, retiring in March 2002. General Bailey's last assignment in the Air Force was Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, where he oversaw the deployment of special operations forces in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. After his military service ended, Secretary Bailey developed programs to assist Kentucky law enforcement agencies with Homeland Security through the Department of Criminal Justice Training.

"Secretary Bailey informed me he wanted to resign as Transportation Secretary in order to be considered for the position at Emergency Management," continued Governor Fletcher. "His extensive military experience makes him the ideal person to run the state's Emergency Management operations. I'm confident he will do an outstanding job and the people of Kentucky can take comfort in the fact that we have someone of Clay Bailey's caliber in charge of Emergency Management."

Bill Nighbert becomes acting Transportation Secretary. Nighbert currently serves as the Transportation Cabinet's Commissioner for the Department of Intergovernmental Programs. Nighbert has also served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Governor's Office for Local Development (GOLD). Before moving to state government, Nighbert served three terms as the mayor for the city of Williamsburg. The search to fill the cabinet position of Transportation Secretary begins immediately. Secretary Bailey's resignation from the Transportation Cabinet is effective today.

Etherton resigns as Fulton Co. Transit Executive Director

Kenny Etherton has left Fulton County Transit Authority as of February 28, 2005. He is the new City Manger of Fulton.

Paul Maxwell, former Fulton County Transit Authority operation's manager, is serving as the Interim Executive Director.

Maxwell said, Fulton Transit will continue to move forward with the growth and community service that has come to be expected by the residents of Fulton County.

Kentucky Lifesavers Conference

Kentucky Lifesavers Conference will be held April 25-27, 2005 at the Marriott Louisville Downtown Hotel.

The Kentucky Lifesavers Conference will provide a forum that delivers common-sense solutions to reduce the number of highway fatalities and injuries in Kentucky.

If you would like to attend please call 1-800-432-0719 or check out the web site at <http://lifesavers.ky.gov>.

New trolleys and new image keep downtown rolling

New TARC trolleys and a new image will make it easier and more fun to get around Louisville's booming downtown. TARC, with the support of Metro Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and \$2 million in federal funding secured by U. S. Rep. Anne Northup, Sen. Jim Bunning and Sen. Mitch McConnell, put five new trolleys into service on April 1, along with a campaign to promote ridership.



"TARC's trolleys play an important role in revitalizing Louisville's downtown area. They help promote the city to tourists, contribute to economic development, and are a lot of fun for local residents and school children. I'm glad to help support this Louisville tradition," said Congresswoman Anne Northup.

TARC's downtown trolley routes will be color-coded as of April 1 with better signage and more information at the trolley stops. The Fourth Street Trolley, the original route that travels from Theatre Square to the Galt House Hotels, will have green signage.

The Main and Market Street Trolley, which loops from 10th street to Wenzel on Main and Market Streets with a jog south to the Kentucky International Convention Center and Fourth Street Live, will be distinguished with red signage.

Both trolley routes will continue to charge a 25¢ fare.

The new trolleys will also be used for the First Friday Gallery Hop and the Frankfort Avenue Trolley Hop, also known as FAT Friday.

TARC receives second federal Access to Jobs Grant

With a \$ 1.1 million federal grant awarded by U.S. DOT under the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) in Louisville, Kentucky, will be able to build on the success of its first-year appropriations of job access services and continue to help citizens in greater Louisville access employment sites. This is the second federal grant issued to TARC for welfare-to work issues.

TARC plans to develop several new programs and enhance existing programs designed to provide greater access to employment opportunities and promote economic growth in greater Louisville.

Grant funds will be targeted to several new initiatives that include developing new transit services to employment sites in Jefferson County and emerging job centers in Oldham and Bullitt counties; targeting customers who speak Spanish, Russian, and Bosnian languages; developing a map showing licensed child care facilities in relation to TARC fixed route services; and developing transportation options for public school students.

In addition, TARC will build on existing programs, including continue Night Owl service; continue and expand suburban/urban connectors; expand UPS-related services; and expand Job Hunter Bus operation.

Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Training Program for Certified Instructors

Transit Systems from across the state of Kentucky sent trainers to this course at the American Red Cross in Lexington on December 28-30, 2004. Certified Instructors will take this information back to their transit systems and train their drivers.



Individuals who completed the course included: Matt Getsi and Dale Shelton (RTEC), George Davidson (ARC-Lexington), Daniele Milholland (FTSB), Petra Espinosa (Kentucky River Foot-hills), Bill Preston (BUS), Charles Cornett, Mike Woods, and Brandon Baker (LKLP).

2005 Kentuckians for Better Transportation Conference in Frankfort



Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher addresses members of the KBT Conference in January 2005.



Barry Barker is presented an award of appreciation for his service as KBT Board Chair during 2004.



Jodi Alford (TACK) and Gina Boaz (GRADD) at the KBT Conference.



Barbara Chaney (Senior Services of Northern Kentucky) and Shirley Lewis (CVADD) enjoy dinner at the KBT conference.

Kentucky Transit Providers attend activities at the 2005 KBT Conference in Frankfort



Dan Hunter (Occupational Safety & Hygiene), Rob Brown (Marsh Insurance), Kalem Juett, Paula Cissell, and Vickie Bourne (Office of Transportation Delivery) and Beecher Hudson (KPTA President) at the KPTA meeting during the KBT Conference in January 2005.