



Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

3773 N. Kaspar Drive • Flagstaff, AZ 86004 • 928-679-8900 • FAX 928-779-6868 • www.naipta.az.gov

NEWS RELEASE

Buses Will Keep Rolling in Verde Valley

Faced with budget shortfalls that put the future of public transportation in the Verde Valley in jeopardy, NAIPTA has secured a grant that will keep service going for the foreseeable future. The loss of state funds for transit, coupled with budget constraints at both the city and county levels, presented a challenge to maintaining bus service in the Verde Valley.

Working with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), NAIPTA was able to obtain an \$80,000 grant to continue CATS service in the Cottonwood area, as well the Verde Lynx service between Cottonwood and Sedona.

“We know that many people in the Verde Valley rely on public transportation,” said Matt Ryan, Coconino County Supervisor and Chairman of NAIPTA’s Board of Directors. “So it was important to seek the help of ADOT in securing funding to keep CATS and Verde Lynx operational.”

Mike Normand, Director of Community and Grant Services at ADOT points out, “We are fortunate to have these American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds available to support transit operations in rural communities around the state. Many transit systems are struggling in these difficult economic times, and it is essential that we can continue to support transit services that get people to work.”

While some schedule adjustments may be necessary in the future, both services will be able to provide continuous operations for at least the next year. Cottonwood City Council member, Linda Norman said, “This good news is further evidence that the partnership between the City and NAIPTA is good for Cottonwood’s citizens.”

Gene Carrigan, designee for Chip Davis of Yavapai County added, “These services are uniting the Verde Valley”.

Any changes in bus service in the Verde Valley will be attentive to passenger needs and public input. “We always work to be responsive to community needs,” said Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA general manager “and to live up to NAIPTA’s ‘getting you where you want to go’ mission. It’s great to know that in tough economic times, our communities pull together to make the most of every dollar available.”

NAIPTA is the transit agency in Northern Arizona operating the Mountain Line and Mountain Lift systems in Flagstaff, the Sedona RoadRunner in Sedona, and the Verde Lynx between Cottonwood and Sedona. NAIPTA also coordinates services with Mountain Campus Transit at Northern Arizona University and Cottonwood Area Transit in Cottonwood. Contact 928-779-6624 or www.naipta.az.gov for more information.

