



## Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

Flagstaff: 3773 N. Kaspar Drive • Flagstaff, AZ 86004 • 928.679.8900 • FAX 928.779.6868 • www.naipta.az.gov  
Cottonwood: 340 Happy Jack Way • Cottonwood, AZ 86326 • 928.634.2287 • FAX 928.634.1685

# NEWS RELEASE

### CAT Service Will Change January 2012

After weighing several options, the NAIPTA Board of Directors has determined that the most effective way to deal with budget shortfalls for Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) service will involve adjustments to two CAT bus routes and the elimination of a third. This plan was broadly supported by citizens in recent community workshops and it maintains 90% of the existing coverage.

The service reduction is necessitated by the loss of a state funding source (LTAF II, eliminated from the state budget in 2010) which has been previously used by Cottonwood to fund the service. According to NAIPTA General Manager Jeff Meilbeck, "This was a difficult decision to make because the service has been very popular and ridership has been growing. However, we feel that the revised system will continue to serve most riders with the best system that can be afforded given budget constraints."

Effective January 3, 2012, the Blue Route will be expanded to serve the Verde Village and the Red Route will add service to Yavapai Community College. Both routes will now run hourly. The Green Route will be eliminated and the Blue Route will run every 60 minutes instead of every 30.

Specifics on the new service include:

- Red Line will serve Yavapai College with one stop at the Front bus stop shelter
- Red Line service to Verde Village 7 will be discontinued, including all stops on 6<sup>th</sup> Street south of SR 89A
- Blue Line will provide hourly service, and will include most current Green Line service
- Blue Line will serve Verde Villages along the Hwy 260 corridor, The Manor and Wal-Mart
- Blue Line will serve inbound stops on Cove Parkway and Cottonwood Street

The following service/stops will be DISCONTINUED:

- Service to Mingus High School on Fir Street
- Townhomes on Camino Real
- Townhomes on Elm
- Christian Care on 12<sup>th</sup> St
- Current outbound Green Line stops on Cottonwood Street and Cove Parkway
- Current Green Line stop at Food City

More—more--more





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# **NEWS RELEASE**

Before reaching this decision, NAIPTA sought the opinions of the community, encouraging involvement through surveying of CAT passengers, providing a means via the CAT website for comments, and holding a well-attended public meeting where citizens could voice their opinions of several potential plans.

The Cottonwood media provided excellent coverage, which allowed the community as a whole to be well-informed about the service change options.

“It has been encouraging to see this type of community involvement,” said Meilbeck. “Giving a voice to the citizens affected by the service change led to a decision that makes sense for CAT and for the communities in the Verde Valley that rely on public transit.”

To review the new route information, see Revised CAT service effective January 3, 2012 at [www.cat.az.gov](http://www.cat.az.gov). New schedules will be available on the website later this fall. Rider Guides and schedules with complete new route information will be available by December 1, 2011.



*NAIPTA is the transit agency in Northern Arizona operating the Mountain Line, Mountain Lift and Mountain Link systems in Flagstaff, Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) in Cottonwood, and the Verde Lynx between Cottonwood and Sedona. NAIPTA also coordinates services with Campus Shuttle Service at Northern Arizona University Contact 928-779-6624 or [www.naipta.az.gov](http://www.naipta.az.gov) for more information.*