



# Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Flagstaff Qualifies as Small Transit Intensive City Receives 20% Boost in Federal Transit Funding

**Flagstaff, AZ**--As one of the most productive small transit systems in the country, Flagstaff's Mountain Line is set to receive a 20% boost in federal transit funding. Mountain Line ridership surpasses the national average in key performance measures, including passenger trips per capita, vehicle revenue hours per capita, and vehicle revenue miles per capita. The merit-based program from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will provide Flagstaff public transit with close to \$168,000 in additional funding.

According to the FTA, typical transit systems serving small urban areas focus on providing basic mobility for residents, while mass transit in large cities often also strives to provide relief from traffic congestion and encourage efficient land use patterns. Some small cities, such as Flagstaff, however, provide a level of transit far greater than their size would suggest, carrying more riders than larger cities, and also addressing congestion and land use issues as well.

Flagstaff fits the Small Transit Intensive City description in part because of the presence of Northern Arizona University. Typically, cities with colleges and universities experience high ridership from those populations. Currently, Mountain Line usage among NAU students, faculty, and staff is minimal, as service to and from campus is only available on one route. However, later this year, Mountain Link, a high frequency route linking the University, downtown Flagstaff and the Woodlands Village area is expected to dramatically increase ridership among NAU students, staff and faculty.

Another factor in establishing Flagstaff as a Small Transit Intensive City is the involvement and support of the city of Flagstaff and its citizens, which have allowed Mountain Line's ridership to increase each year.

According to NAIPTA General Manager, Jeff Meilbeck, "The money we'll be receiving from this award will be used to deliver transit projects overwhelmingly approved by Flagstaff voters in May, 2008." Meilbeck also points out that, "Transit tax revenues are 30% below projections made in 2007, and this new source of funding will help reduce the negative effects that the current financial crisis has had on public transportation."

*NAIPTA is the transit agency in Northern Arizona operating the Mountain Line and Mountain Lift systems in Flagstaff, Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) in Cottonwood, 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 Contact 928-779-6624 or [www.naipta.az.gov](http://www.naipta.az.gov) for more information.*

