

Bend Area Transit Service Begins September 27

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The City of Bend is launching its new transit system at the end of September. After years of planning, the City of Bend is making the vision of a public transit service into a reality. The city's new Bend Area Transit (BAT) service will begin passenger routes Wednesday, September 27. Riders will ride free during BAT's inaugural week -- September 27 through October 3. An official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place the day before the service begins. The public is invited to attend and check out the buses, pick up a route guide and meet the City's transit team. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26th at City Hall. A reception will follow the ceremony with music by the duo, Sunshine. The new transit system's routes will run throughout the city six days a week (Monday-Friday) on half-hour intervals and will run every hour on Saturdays. All routes are timed to meet at BAT transit centers where routes connect to allow riders to easily transfer between routes without delays. On weekdays, a ride across town on any two routes will take a maximum of 30 minutes. So whether an individual needs a ride to work, play appointments or shopping -- it's fast and easy to ride BAT. Fares to ride BAT are: \$1.00 per trip with multi-ride passes available for purchase. An unlimited day pass is \$2.00. Senior/Disabled rates are \$.50 per trip with an unlimited day pass for \$1.00. Low income seniors who do not live near a fixed route or people with disabilities who are not able to use the fixed route service are encouraged to use Dial-a-Ride. For Dial-a-ride eligibility information and ride scheduling, residents should call 322-5870. The new transit system is the city's first fixed route service. The Bend Area Transit service provides an important connection to COCC/OSU Cascades Campus, St. Charles Medical Center, Deschutes County Courthouse, downtown, the three area high schools and to many shopping locations. Service hours on six of the routes will run from 6:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. The bus will run every 30 minutes. Saturday service hours will run from 7:15 a.m. through 5:15 p.m. with the bus running every hour. The City of Bend's Public Works Department will continue to promote the transit service routes and monitor the system's progress. Citing the department's work, Heather Ornelas, the City of Bend's Transit Mobility Manager said, "I am very pleased that we have been able to develop this new service for our residents. We are committed to providing an ongoing public transit service in the City. •BAT will provide a viable alternative to personal vehicles with access to employment, education, entertainment, shopping and more. The BAT buses feature easily identifiable blue and green markings with route numbers clearly marked. Route maps and schedules are available at City Hall, located at 710 NW Wall Street or the Public Works Building at 575 NE 15th Street. For more, call 322-5870 or go to www.bendareatransit.com.

| Fare Information | | Adult/Youth | Senior/Disabled | Single Ride (no transfers) |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| \$ 1.00 | \$ 0.50 | Unlimited Day Pass | \$ 2.00 | \$ 1.00 |
| \$ 10.00 | \$ 5.00 | Monthly Pass | Adult (19-59 yrs) | \$ 30.00 |
| 20.00 | Seniors (60 yrs & above) or Disabled | \$ 15.00 | Youth (6-18 yrs) | \$ |

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