



MID-OHIO VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Press Release

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Date: June 26, 2019

Mid-Ohio Valley Transit Authority to Offer Ritchie County Flex Bus Service Starting on July 1, 2019

Service to provide daily rides to Parkersburg, where riders can transfer to the city bus system to access shopping destinations, medical appointments and more

Mid-Ohio Valley Transit Authority (MOVTA), the public transportation service based in Parkersburg, will launch a new pilot bus route for Ritchie County. The bus route will provide Ritchie County residents with the ability to travel to and from Parkersburg three times per day, Monday through Friday.

Ritchie County Flex will pick up riders in Pennsboro, Ellenboro and Harrisville at approximately 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM on weekdays, then travel to the Easy Rider Transit Center in downtown Parkersburg. Riders will be able to catch an Easy Rider bus to travel to their destination. Bus routes are available to locations throughout Parkersburg and Vienna.

To go home, riders will catch Ritchie County Flex at the downtown Parkersburg terminal at 12:00 PM and 4:10 PM. The bus will drop off anywhere along the route that is safe in Pennsboro, Ellenboro and Harrisville.

Rides will be **free** from July 1 to July 19. Starting July 22, riders will pay \$3.00 per one-way trip on Ritchie County Flex. Senior citizens and people with disabilities will pay a discounted fare of \$1.50 per one-way trip. The fare must be paid in cash. Drivers do not give change. Once in Parkersburg, riders will pay an additional fare of \$0.75 per one-way trip to ride the Easy Rider routes. Senior citizens and people with disabilities will pay a discounted fare of \$0.35.

“Ritchie County Flex will provide an important service for people who need to go to the Parkersburg area for a variety of purposes, and do not have a vehicle available,” said Michael Kesterson, General Manager of Easy Rider. He said that Easy Rider staff will be available at the Transit Center when the Ritchie County Flex bus arrives, in order to assist riders with learning how to use the bus system in Parkersburg and Vienna.

Schedule for Ritchie County Flex to Parkersburg

In Pennsboro, Ellenboro and Harrisville, riders will catch the bus by flagging it down anywhere along the route that is safe for passengers to board.

- The Harrisville flag stops will be located along routes 16 and 31 up to the senior center

- The Ellenboro flag stops will be located along routes 16 and old US 50
- The Pennsboro flag stops will be located along old US 50 and 74

Ellenboro Pennsboro Harrisville Transit Center

8:31 AM 8:42 AM 9:06 AM 9:49 AM
 12:31 PM 12:42 PM 1:06 PM 1:49 PM

At flag stops, riders wait for the bus and wave to the driver to let them know to stop.

Riders will also be able to make advanced reservations for pick-ups at “flex stops.” Flex stops will be at the Pennsboro Fire Station, the Harrisville Shop and Save, and the Harrisville Medical Center. To request a pick-up at a flex, stop, call 304-422-4100 Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. You may call any time before the bus is due to arrive at that location (preferably one hour in advance).

Schedule for Returning to Ritchie County

The bus will depart from the Transit Center at 12:00 PM and 4:10 PM, returning to Ritchie County. The bus will drop off anywhere along the route that is safe.

Transit Center Ellenboro Pennsboro Harrisville

12:00 PM 12:31 PM 12:42 PM 1:06 PM
 4:10 PM 4:41 PM 4:52 PM 5:16 PM

Residents who want to learn more about riding the bus are welcome to attend a free “travel training” program at the library’s in Harrisville and Pennsboro. At the program, Easy Rider will provide a presentation about how to ride, including a demonstration of getting on the bus and paying the fare. This will be offered on Thursday June 27 at 6:00 pm at the Harrisville Library and on Tuesday July 9th at 6:00 pm at the Pennsboro Library.

Funding for Ritchie County Flex, which will run as a one-year trial to see whether there is long-term interest in the service, is provided by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Public Transit.

For more information, call 304-422-4100 or visit <http://easyriderbus.com/ritchie-county>.