

HARRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF TRANSIT SERVICES

Background

The Office of Transit Services is one of four operating divisions of the Harris County Community Services Department (“CSD”). The other operating divisions are: The Office of Economic Development; Office of Social Services and the Office of Housing & Community Development.

The Office of Economic Development promotes development through multiple initiatives which include Tax Abatements, Historic Site Exemptions, and participation in Tax Increment Redevelopment Zones. The Office of Housing & Community Development administers all HUD grants for Harris County providing housing and home repair programs along with support for infrastructure improvements throughout the County. The Office Social Services provides assistance to seniors, disabled residents, veterans and county residents who meet special eligibility guidelines. In the event of a natural disaster such as a Hurricane, CSD is the primary disaster recovery arm of Harris County.

The primary mission of the Harris County Community Services Department Office of Transit Services is to provide safe, efficient and equitable transportation to elderly, disabled, low income and general public transit dependent citizens residing outside the Houston Metro service area. Funding for Transit Services is provided by FTA Section 5307 Formula Funds, FTA Section 5310 Funds, FTA Section 5317 New Freedom Funds, Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Funds, Community Development Block Grant Funds, and local match funds from participating jurisdictions.

The Division operates several programs which include a Medical Services Delivery Program, The RIDES Program for Elderly or Disabled Individuals, Fixed Route Bus Service, and two Park and Ride lots with bus services coordinated with and provided by METRO under contract with Harris County. The Medical Service Delivery Program has been in operation for over thirty years and was previously operated by the Harris County Social Services Department which was merged into CSD in 2007. The nationally recognized RIDES program was merged into CSD in 2008 and was previously housed in the County Judges Office.

Current Situation

Fixed route service is presently provided in the Cities of Baytown, La Porte, Pasadena, South Houston, Shore Acres, Seabrook, Nassau Bay and Webster. The communities of McNair, The Highlands, Barrett Station and Crosby are also served with a connection to the City of Baytown. Park and Ride services are provided in the City of Baytown and Pasadena.

Action Requested

For information only