

AS THE WHEEL TURNS



Spring 2016

Questions and Answers About Levies



By Paul E. Davis

Q. WHAT IS THE TRI-STATE TRANSIT AUTHORITY VOTE ALL ABOUT?

A. It is your opportunity to help keep TTA bus service in our community by voting for the TTA levies on the May 10th Primary Election ballot. TTA is on the City and the County ballots on May 10th. There is no change in the levy rates. Voters in the City of Huntington and Cabell County have steadfastly approved the TTA levies since 1982. **There will be no TTA Bus service without the Levies.**

Q. HOW DO I VOTE TO KEEP THE TTA?

A. The form of the ballots will be the same as last election. We will use electronic balloting using a stylus.

Both the City of Huntington and County Ballot are listed in the back of the ballot.

- ☒ Check the box "FOR THE LEVY"

If you live in Huntington, remember to vote twice for TTA.

Q. IF THE CITY AND COUNTY LEVIES ARE NOT RENEWED ON MAY 10TH, CAN THE TTA CONTINUE TO OPERATE?

A. No! If the levies are not renewed by the voters, TTA cannot continue to operate as it does today.

Q. WHY SHOULD I VOTE FOR PUBLIC FUNDING TO KEEP THE TTA BUSES ROLLING IF I SELDOM OR NEVER RIDE THE BUS?

A. You do not have to ride the bus to benefit from public transit.

Large or small, cities that are served by mass transit enjoy an array of benefits.

Inc. Magazine, points to these important clues to look for when making the the

decision to locate or relocate a business:

"Look for places that have made significant civic investment in art museums, streetscapes, public transportation and parks. To thrive long term, place has to have people who care about it – stake holders who have affection for it, who think of it as theirs. The earmark of such concern is charming and lasting nonprofit investment."

The Tri-State Transit Authority provides access to jobs. Transportation should not be a barrier to employment.

TTA stimulates development and improves property values. Proximity to public transportation is linked to increased real estate values.

Investing in TTA creates jobs. The TTA's purchase of goods and service in Huntington and Cabell County creates jobs. The public facilities constructed by TTA create jobs.

TTA strengthens the local economy. People ride the bus for two basic reasons – to earn money

and to spend money. Both benefit the economy.

TTA reduces dependence on foreign oil. Our dependence on foreign oil is reflected in the prices of gasoline and diesel fuel. We can all be mindful of the benefits of keeping TTA as a transportation option in our lives.

TTA reduces traffic and improves air quality. Auto traffic is reduced by the people who ride TTA buses. Fewer cars mean less pollution and improved air quality.

TTA saves riders money. The money TTA customers save on transportation can be spent on additional goods and services.

Q. HOW LONG HAVE TTA BUSES OPERATED IN HUNTINGTON?

A. TTA has been providing affordable transportation to the local public since July 1972. In those 43 years, TTA has carried more the 37 million riders. In the last three years, TTA ridership has increased every year. TTA had 940,000 boardings last year.

Q. DOES TTA PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DISABLED?

A. Yes. TTA provides Dial-A-Ride and regular route bus service for the

disabled. Not only is the TTA bus fleet accessible to the disabled, TTA operates Dial-A-Ride van service for our customers who are unable to board the TTA buses and cannot reach their destination when they alight.

Q. ARE OTHER TRANSIT OPERATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA FUNDED BY LEVIES LIKE TTA IS IN OUR AREA?

A. Yes. Voters in every major city in West Virginia have approved levies for bus service in the their communities. Transit levies also support bus service in Charleston, Clarksburg, Parkersburg and Wheeling. Fairmont-Marion County rural transit is also supported by a dedicated levy.

Q. HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME TO BE SURE WE KEEP THE TTA?

A. The levy that you will be voting on simply continues an existing levy that was first approved by the voters in 1982 and subsequently renewed by the voters in 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2002, 2006 and 2010. **There is no increase in the levy rate.**

If you own the home you live in, the cost to you for

the TTA levies can be determined in the following manner:

First take the appraised value of your residential property. If you don't know, the assessor's office can help you. Call 304-526-8601.

Next, determine the assessed value of the property which is only 60% of the appraised value. For example, if the appraised value of the property is \$50,000, the assessed value is only \$30,000.

If you are eligible for a homestead exemption, deduct \$20,000 off the top of the assessed value. In this example, the assessed value is now down to \$10,000.

Now, divide the assessed value by 100. Then multiply the result of that by 9.4 cents if you live in the City of Huntington and by 2.4 cents if you live outside the City of Huntington.

In this example, the cost for the home owner in the city is \$9.40 a year or 78 cents a month. The cost for the home owner in the county is \$2.40 a year or 20 cents a month. To give the cost some perspective, the one-way fare on a TTA bus is \$1.00.

Q. WOULD THE TTA BE MISSED IF THE ELECTION ON MAY 10th IS LOST?

A. The answer seems clear. Don't Miss The Bus!



Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Deborah Bryan-Bator | 33 |
| Jim Forto | 30 |
| Curtis Hodges | 29 |
| Mark Hunt | 29 |
| Jeff Heintz | 28 |
| Paul Davis | 27 |
| Chuck Boggs | 25 |
| Robert Patrick | 25 |
| Danny Stanley | 22 |
| Julian "Lee" Spires | 18 |
| Greg Kipp | 16 |
| Scott Stultz | 16 |
| Dianna McCallister | 16 |
| John Smiley | 16 |
| Robert King | 15 |
| Randy Rodriguez | 13 |
| Janie Fraback | 12 |
| Brian Frazier | 12 |
| Donnie Tiller | 12 |
| Carole Holbrook | 11 |
| David Mannon | 11 |
| Ben Martin | 10 |
| Norman Andrews | 10 |
| James Edmonds | 10 |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jeffery Connor | 9 |
| Denny Wheeler | 8 |
| Keith Murdock | 8 |
| Ronald Thomas | 8 |
| Cathy J. Reed | 8 |
| DuVaughn Hale | 8 |
| Mary Marcum | 8 |
| David Budd | 8 |
| Donnie Adkins | 7 |
| Randall Waller | 7 |
| Steven Kunges | 6 |
| Lonnie Black | 6 |
| Mark Taylor | 6 |
| Tom Day | 6 |
| Jennifer Woodall | 5 |
| Brenda Wells | 5 |
| Scott Williams | 5 |
| Casey Steele | 5 |
| Howard Curtis | 4 |
| Timothy Ferguson | 4 |
| John Scott | 4 |
| Randy Mullins | 4 |
| Donald McKenzie | 4 |
| Gene Bragg | 4 |
| Brooks Johnson | 4 |
| David Ball | 3 |
| Nick Preston | 2 |
| Tony McCoy | 1 |
| Tyrus Masters | 1 |
| Nick Smith | 1 |
| Lonnie Bledsoe | 1 |
| David Browning | 1 |
| Darrell Chatfield | 1 |
| Tina Long | 1 |
| Mark Collins | 1 |
| Keith Dickman | 1 |
| Tammy Hicks | - |
| Rebecca Wright | - |
| Brian Keyser | - |
| Erin Weston | - |
| Nathaniel Stewart | - |
| Donald Frye | - |
| James Scyoc | - |
| Mark Collins | - |
| David Issacs | - |
| Crystal Phillips | - |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Ralph Colbertson | - |
| Brock Tackett | - |
| Angela Smeal | - |



April 2016 Birthdays
Aren't They Great?



| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Brenda Wells | 04/03 |
| Mark Hunt | 04/13 |
| David Budd | 04/17 |
| Brock Tackett | 04/19 |
| Curtis Hodges | 04/24 |



May 2016 Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Ralph Colbertson | 05/02 |
| David Ball | 05/09 |
| John Smiley | 05/14 |
| Scott Williamson | 05/15 |
| Robert Patrick | 05/19 |
| Gregory Kipp | 05/25 |

If you should see these folks on their special day, please wish them a Happy Birthday.

JOKES



Q: What does a nosey pepper do?

A: Gets jalapeno business!

Q: What do you call a fake noodle?

A: An Impasta

Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest?

A: An Investigator

Q: What happens if you eat yeast and shoe polish?

A: Every morning you'll rise and shine!

Q: "What's the difference between a guitar and a fish?"

A: "You can't tuna fish."

High Fever

My four year old daughter had a terrible case of the flu, she was achy, had a high fever, and was terribly hoarse. After waiting in the waiting room at the doctor's office for over an hour we were finally admitted to see the Doctor. After the usual routine of listening to her breathing and checking her ears, the Doctor looked my daughter in the eye and said,

"Safety Is No Accident"

"so what would you say is bothering you the most?"
"Without skipping a beat my daughter promptly answered, "Billy, he always breaks my toys!"

Jeff's World

By Jeff Heinl



Spring Is Here

We did it, we made it through another long dark winter. Our newest drivers experienced their first snow days with us. It came as no surprise that everyone came through their "baptism" with flying colors. In a way, this past winter was just a microcosm of the resiliency that epitomizes the entire work force at TTA.

Nothing remains static in the workplace. Adjustments must be made as new technologies are adopted. We look back with amusement to the BIG change that took place with the advent of the electronic fare boxes. Dread of this change was very palpable among many. As the new fare boxes were being installed, we trained over

and over until everyone knew what was expected of them. Looking back, we can laugh and ask what the fuss was all about. Those of us who remember, don't miss the bad old days. Back then drivers had to determine whether loose springs had allowed some of the fare to drop past the viewing glass. There were a multitude of problems associated with the punch passes. Older drivers remember the APB's that went out to try and catch the "dollar bill bandits." Anyone who ever worked in the money room with the old drop boxes is still tempted to hug the current Genfare fareboxes.

Fast forward to 2016 and the implementation of Routematch. Once again the dread of change was very real. I remember the frozen look on some of the driver's faces as installation of the tablets began. I saw those same looks on driver's faces back in 2003 as the new fare boxes were installed. In some ways changes are easier for those of who have been here longer. We've survived technological changes in the past and we will certainly adapt to those changes in the future. Newness gives way to familiarity and before you know it, you are embracing

the "boogie man" that formerly intimidated you. To be sure the learning curve with this change was a little steeper, but the benefits of implementation far outweigh the initial anxiety. The public is biggest winner in all of this. They now have access to current schedule information on their smart phones. They also benefit from automatic stop announcements that are loud and clear. Supervisors and dispatchers can now find the location of any bus without having to call the driver on the radio.

As with any new technology there have been glitches but nothing we could not overcome. Compared from where we started to where we are now, we have made amazing progress. Drivers, management and support staff have really thrown their hearts into making this a success. A "can do" spirit will triumph over any obstacle. As we went "live" I began an informal poll of the drivers. I have received nothing but good reviews from the drivers and they in turn have been reporting popular support from the public.

What's new on the horizon with technology? Who knows, the sky is the

limit! Today it seems if you can dream it, there is an engineer somewhere who can build it.

From the Chief

By Scott
Stultz



Open Enrollment and Healthy Tomorrows Reminder

There has been a lot of discussion in the newspapers and on television recently about the changes to PEIA for the upcoming plan year. The 2017 plan year will begin on 7/1/16 and will end on 6/30/17, and the Open Enrollment for the upcoming plan year is from 4/2/16 to 5/15/16. If you want to make any changes to your health insurance coverage for the upcoming plan year, then you must make them during the Open Enrollment period.

I am going to discuss some of the changes for the upcoming plan year in my article this month. I sent a letter out earlier discussing most of this information. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about

Open Enrollment again. I am going to provide an overview of the changes for retirees and active employees. It would be impossible to cover all of the changes, so I highly recommend you consult the Shopper's Guides that were mailed to your home addresses earlier this month. You can also go to the PEIA website to review the Shopper's Guides online. The PEIA website is www.wvpeia.com.

Retirees

Retirees will experience an average increase of 12% in their monthly health insurance premiums during the upcoming year. I do not yet have the final rates for TTA's retirees. I will send letters to each retiree with his or her new insurance rates as soon as I have them from PEIA. It will be closer to the beginning of the plan year (7/1/16) when I receive the revised rates. In addition, the co-pays and deductibles for some services will also increase. Those changes will be detailed in the Shopper's Guides and on the PEIA website. Finally, the retiree basic and optional life insurance rates are not expected to change during the upcoming plan year.

Active Employees

Active employees at TTA can expect an average increase of 4%. This amount is much smaller than the retiree increase because non-state agencies, like TTA, experienced significant increases in active employee premiums in prior years. The state employees and retirees were spared most of the increases during those years. There will also be some changes to the co-pay amounts for active employees during the upcoming year. Those changes will be detailed in the Shopper's Guide. Finally, the optional life insurance rates for many active employees are expected to slightly decrease during the upcoming year. We do not yet have the rates, but we will adjust your payroll withholdings after 7/1/16 if your life insurance rates decrease.

Any retiree or active employee who wants to make changes to his or her insurance coverage will need to contact PEIA at 888-680-7342 to obtain an Open Enrollment form. You can also visit the PEIA website and click on the Manage My Benefits link to make any changes online.

The online method is the preferred method of making changes because it is faster and reduces the likelihood of forms being lost or delayed in the mail. Remember, any changes to coverage must be completed by the last day of Open Enrollment (5/15/16).

Healthy Tomorrows

Finally, all active employees and non-Medicare retirees will need to have their Healthy Tomorrows Reporting Forms completed and submitted to PEIA by 5/15/16. The forms must be completed by a healthcare provider, and they are NOT to be returned to TTA. Instead, they must be sent to PEIA at the address listed on the bottom of the form.

Shop Talk



By Danny Stanley

Disability Placard Abuse

Accessible parking placards allow people to park in designated spots. Most states require a doctor to certify that a person has a disability before issuing a

placard, and recipients typically are not allowed to loan them to others.

These permits can be misused in a number of ways. It is illegal to use a placard when a person registered to the placard is not in the vehicle. For example: Someone may drop off a relative with a disability at the doctor's office, then run an errand and illegally park in an accessible spot. It is also illegal for a family member to use a placard issued to someone who has died. Fines for illegal parking in a handicap spot can range from a minimum of \$250 up to \$500 and have the placard removed from the vehicle.

West Virginia Legislature states that any person who falsely or fraudulently obtains or seeks to obtain a special plate or the removable windshield placard or any person who falsely certifies that a person is mobility impaired in order that an applicant may be issued the special registration plate or windshield placard is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$500. Any person who fabricates, uses or sells unofficially issued

windshield placards to any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$500 per placard fabricated, used or sold. Any person who fabricates, uses or sells unofficially issued identification cards to any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$700 per identification card fabricated, used or sold. Any person who fabricates, uses or sells unofficially issued labels imprinted with a future expiration date to any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$700. Any person who sells or gives away their officially issued windshield placard to any person or organization not qualified to apply or receive the placard and then reapplies for a new placard on the basis it was stolen is

committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he, she or they may otherwise incur, shall lose their right to receive or use a special placard or special license plate for a period of not less than 5 years.

TTA Center



By Janie Fraback

Have you seen what's new at TTA? Route shout! What is Route Shout you say? It's a FREE app that can be downloaded on your phone to let you know where your bus is and when it is due at your stop. It's not just for Huntington and our area, you can change the location to any city that utilizes the Route Shout app. Ours is a red megaphone, like a cheerleader.

We have customers that love watching where their bus is and knowing when it will be at their stop. Just go to the TTA website and it is right on the front page. You can use your Play store or the website its Free, www.tta-wv.com.

It's fun, it's free so what's not to like. Give it a try and have fun.

Editor's Corner



By Jennifer Woodall



ROUTESHOUT

TTA customers now have a faster way to receive up-to-date bus information no matter where they are located in the Tri-State area. RouteShout, a mobile phone application that delivers next bus arrival times, is now available for customers to receive TTA schedule information.

TTA believes RouteShout offers not only more convenience to existing riders but also provides an opportunity to attract new riders. Customers using RouteShout are able to quickly and easily find bus stops, routes and arrival and departure times on their electronic devices. They can browse by location or search for stops by street name to see when the next bus will arrive.

TTA riders will now be able to more conveniently plan trips, reduce "wait time" at the bus stops, and be notified of any schedule or route changes in real-time through their smartphone.

The RouteShout app can be downloaded at no cost from iTunes for Apple devices or Google Play for Android devices. Any other mobile phone user can access RouteShout through the free mobile Web site, m.routeshout.com.

Scan the QR Code below to be directed to TTA's web-site to download the RouteShout App.

