



**From: Kelli Williams, Chief Communications Officer
City of Bartlesville**

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WorkRide: Public transit project helps low-income riders

WorkRide is a new project initiated by Cimarron Public Transit System to benefit low-income individuals going to and from work destinations. The initiative will reduce fare for eligible riders with a goal of providing access to jobs for individuals who have few options.

The idea is not a new one. In years past, Cimarron Transit received federal funds for former Road to Work Oklahoma program. Riders must certify that they meet the current 2016 HHS poverty guidelines plus 150 percent. A short form can be obtained from any Cimarron Transit driver for immediate certification. The form is also available in Spanish.

Certified riders will pay \$2 each one-way trip or \$20 for a 10-ride pass for rides going to or from work, within the city limits of Bartlesville. In Dewey, individuals will pay \$1 for each one-way trip within the city limits of Dewey.

Contact the dispatcher between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to schedule a trip. Rides are scheduled on a first call basis, subject to availability. Riders with regular schedules are welcome to set up a “standing” appointment. Group rates will be considered.

“Public transportation is not a nameless, faceless group of ‘those people’ who cannot afford a car — it is a quality of life issue. It is about the need to access something many take for granted, the ability to get to and from work to support a family,” said Laura Corff, transit director for United Community Action Program, Inc.

“Lack of transportation can be a barrier to obtaining and maintaining employment for many individuals who do not have a valid driver license, are unable or unwilling to drive or cannot afford to purchase and maintain a vehicle. Beginning in April, certified riders can qualify for reduced fare. Staff anticipates the program will be available to eligible

riders through June. At that time, staff will review the project, take input from the users and consider extending the project through the end of the year,” Corff said.

According to a report presented by the University of Illinois at Chicago entitled Economic Benefits of Employment Transportation Service, many users will not stay in the transit system over the long haul. However, the boost that transportation services provide is likely to make a difference in the lives of individuals and their work, Corff said.

“Down the line, major societal costs can be avoided as a result of an enhancement to an individual’s worklife,” she said.

Cimarron Transit operates 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

For more information about WorkRide, call the ride line at [\(918\)336-2233](tel:9183362233) or email bvtrans@ucapinc.org.

Cimarron Transit is a division of United Community Action Program, Inc. The agency administers federal and state programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals. For more information about the agency, visit www.ucapinc.org.