



BCTA Reaches Fifth Consecutive Record Ridership Year

BCTA's Fixed Route ridership continues to set new records. The Authority announced that 671,805 annual passenger trips were taken on the Fixed Route service from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007. This is the fifth year in a row for record ridership on the Fixed Route service, and this reflects an increase of 5.8% compared to just the previous Fiscal Year 2005-06. Over the last 5 years, dating back to FY 2002-03, BCTA's Fixed Route service has increased by 42%, or nearly 200,000 passengers.

Four of BCTA's 6 Fixed Routes each provided record levels of passenger trips by the end of the current Fiscal Year. Local routes, primarily serving senior citizens, local shoppers, and workers within Beaver County, saw the largest increase. Express routes to Pittsburgh continued to attract new commuters who are looking to avoid high gas prices, parking rates, and elongated travel times into downtown.

Richard Ober, BCTA's Chairman, noted, "BCTA's route performance is remarkable, especially when we consider the fact that the County population is not growing, we raised fares 50 cents in January 2005, and no service expansion has taken place. We have great drivers and a great operations and maintenance team, and our service is very convenient and easy to use. I think people appreciate that."

Over the next few months, BCTA will replace its aging fleet of vehicles, including local and commuter buses. Kristen Sheleheda, Manager of Planning and Service Quality, pointed out that the new commuter coaches and local transit buses are expected to have a positive impact on ridership and to continue the trend of increasing transportation service provided in Beaver County.