

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

### **MMVTA releases new schedules, fares and programs**

Over the past year, the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA) conducted a comprehensive system-wide review of all routes, schedules and fares. After considerable public input, the Board of Directors voted to implement changes at the June public meeting.

“MMVTA has reviewed all routes for productivity, efficiency and cost effectiveness to update and make improvements to the system. It was a tremendous task and difficult to make changes that have been in operation for many years but are no longer sound business practices, efficient or productive for the MMVTA to operate,” said MMVTA Director Valerie Kissell.

“Therefore the MMVTA is now pleased to release the new schedules to the public. All schedule and fare changes will go into effect on August 2.”

Also through the process, MMVTA addressed operational changes created by the recent move of the bus maintenance garage to Donora.

“Bus routes that stay within the Middle Monongahela River Valley will begin with the word VALLEY and will be numbered. Buses traveling to and from Pittsburgh will have the word COMMUTER associated with their name,” said Kissell.

“It is also important to note that all regular commuter service from the Valley will originate out of Donora and then travel to Monessen, Charleroi, North Charleroi and 88 to Monongahela. Two limited stop Express runs are also included and will service the Valley in distinct routing.”

Commuter A service has been modified to address the Donora starting point and increase service to the Mon Valley Hospital area. Additionally, a midday trip into downtown Pittsburgh has been added on Sundays.

“The total number of trips on the Weekday commuter service has not changed. They have been reorganized based on load counts and to include a dedicated Express,” said Dr. Harry Miale Chairman of the MMVTA Board.

“These changes better align the MMVTA with today’s economical climate, tight operating budgets and better represent the MMVTA to peer benchmarking procedures.”

For the first time MMVTA is offering limited stop Commuter Express service into Pittsburgh via Toll 43 to Route 51 with hopes that the Express services can one day be expanded to more scheduled times said Miale.

Other service changes and additions include a Cal Commuter route providing direct service to and from California University to the Park & Ride located at the end of Toll 43 and Route 51 in Large, PA with continuing service to Downtown Pittsburgh.

Local route service has been modified to improve travel options within the Valley.

Valley 1 will encompass services once provided by the Green Line to the shopping centers but will now offer services from New Eagle, Monongahela, the Black Diamond area of Route 837 and the existing Green Line service area. Valley 1 will also include Sunday service.

Valley 2 will include the California, Elco, Stockdale, Roscoe, Allenport and Dunlevy portions of the Gold Line with Monday thru Sunday service to the shopping centers with transfer options in Charleroi to commuter buses and direct service from Cal U. Valley 2 will operate more services seasonally based on Cal U semesters and breaks.

Valley 3 will be the renamed circulator for California University and the borough of California offering more options to residents of Liberty Towers, Center in the Woods and members of the Cal U community to access the University as well as the California business district.

The new Valley 4 will combine the Red and Blue Lines and offer expanded hourly Weekday service and connectivity between Charleroi, North Charleroi, Mon Valley Hospital, Fisher Heights Giant Eagle and Donora.

Due to low ridership and low productivity, MMVTA will suspend the Valley Link East that provides service to the Route 51 area of Rostraver Township and Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood starting on August 2.

“In addition to all the route and fare changes, the MMVTA has launched a pilot project with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission’s regional CommuteInfo program. MMVTA and CommuteInfo are now offering the Emergency Ride Home (ERH) Transit Pilot,” said Kissell.

The ERH Transit Pilot will run until at least June 2011 and allow qualified monthly pass holding riders of MMVTA to utilize CommuteInfo’s ERH service upon registering with CommuteInfo.

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ERH is designed to provide a contingency option for registered commuters in the event of an unexpected personal or family emergency, personal illness, unscheduled overtime, or other eligible event.

All schedules, fare information, qualifications for the ERH Transit Pilot and applications for the free 65 plus program can be viewed at [MMVTA.com](http://MMVTA.com) or by calling 724-489-0880.

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