



FLINT HILLS REGIONAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration Board Selects Transportation Provider for Manhattan Area

The Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration (FHRTA) was created in 2014 and is responsible, in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the United States Department of Transportation (DOT), for carrying out the coordination of transportation/transit services within the Manhattan Urbanized Area. They annually receive a little over \$900,000 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 federal funds.

The Regional Transit Administration (RTA) Board approved awarding the contract for transportation services to the Flint Hills Area Transportation Agency, Incorporated (FHATA) at their September 16, 2015 meeting. “The FHATA brings many years of experience providing transportation to the Flint Hills Region. As the community has grown the FHATA has helped with growth and are versatile in serving many of the area citizens with transportation needs,” RTA Board Chair Derek Jackson said.

“2016 will mark 40 years that FHATA has been providing public transportation to the citizens of Manhattan. Our experience and track record makes us the obvious choice to partner with FHRTA. Our mission is to provide the highest quality of public transportation to the Flint Hills region and Manhattan is at the heart of the Flint Hills region,” Anne E. Smith, FHATA Executive Director explained. “FHATA is pleased that it will be able to continue its long tradition of service to Manhattan.”

The FHATA will provide transportation management, planning, and operations of citywide fixed route, general demand response, and complementary paratransit services, the three Jardine Routes, SafeRide, Park N Ride, AP Design/Airport Shuttle, and a Saturday Shuttle Services. The FHATA is currently providing these services for the Manhattan Urbanized Area, so current level of services will be maintained.

The contract was signed on December 16, 2015 and is for a five-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2016 and ending Dec. 31, 2020. The estimated cost to operate the transit services for five years is \$8.4 million and the RTA Board will participate in those costs up to \$3.6 million. “I feel the partnership between FHRTA and FHATA is strong, as both are like-minded in serving the Flint Hills Region,” Derek Jackson said.

“I believe this new partnership with FHRTA will lay the groundwork for new and improved public transportation options for the citizens of Manhattan,” Smith shared. “For the first time we will be able to plan and implement public transportation projects working directly with the Federal Transit Administration and that will open up opportunities that the community has not previously had.”

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