Paul Bunyan Transit

Agency Background

Paul Bunyan is headquartered in Bemidji, Minnesota. Paul Bunyan Transit operates demand response services, as well as commuter routes and specialty programs. It receives federal and state funding through a public transportation grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for in-town and rural transportation. The grant provides 80 percent funding for operating costs with a 20 percent local match required and is used to assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in nonurbanized areas. Local match funding comes from fares and contracted services. Local cities and counties provide matching funds for capital expenses like new buses.

Contact Information

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Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 7:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday: No Service

Volunteer Drivers

Annual Volunteer Hours Donated - estimated 11,000
Trips Completed – 1,600
Miles Driven - 373,609
Paul Bunyan Transit has 16 active volunteer drivers that completed almost 2,000 unlinked passenger trips over 373,000 miles.

Future Needs – Buses

Paul Bunyan is planning to resume service between Baudette and the town of Williams to support social services’ needs.

Paul Bunyan Transit currently has 21 vehicles. 14 are currently in-service and six are spares. Eight of the vehicles are in excellent condition (score of five), six are in good condition (score of four), and seven are in average condition (score of three). All of the vehicles are gas powered, with the total purchase prices ranging from approximately $15,000 to approximately $126,300. Paul Bunyan Transit currently plans to replace one vehicle in 2018, 2021, 2022, and 2023 and two vehicles in 2019, 2020, 2024, and 2025.

Future Needs – Operations

Paul Bunyan Transit has a total full-time staff of 17 employees, including three management staff, nine full-time drivers, three schedulers/dispatchers, and two maintenance staff. In addition, Paul Bunyan has 18 part-time employees, consisting of 15 part-time drivers, one part-time scheduler/dispatcher, and two part-time administrative support staff. Paul Bunyan has an administrative and auditing structure in place which helps to improve its capabilities for management, marketing, auditing, and other regulatory compliance requirements for operating transportation services.

Future Needs – Facilities

Additional facilities include an owned facility in Roseau and leased facilities in Baudette and Warroad.

Future Needs – Technology

In 2016, Paul Bunyan Transit upgraded their communications system to Garmin tablets and AVLs through cellular towers which greatly improved communication between drivers and dispatch.

Budget Information

2019 Funding: $1,903,000

Legislative Districts

Legislative Districts: 1A, 2A, 5A  Congressional Districts: 7, 8