Prairie Lakes Transit

Agency Background

Prairie Lakes Transit (PLT) emerged out of a consolidation of the Martin County Transit and Faribault County Prairie Express transit agencies in January 2016. PLT seeks to create a community in which the residents and employees of each county can travel with ease to reach their jobs, shopping, and medical destinations.

Contact Information

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**Hours of Operation**

**Fairmont**
Monday – Friday: 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Demand Response Service Friday Evening – 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Demand Response Service Saturday – 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM

**Blue Earth**
Monday – Friday: 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Demand Response Service Saturday – 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

**Volunteer Drivers**

There have been limited discussions to coordinate with local volunteer organizations to begin recruiting drivers as well as to attempt to launch a Volunteer Driver System through an in-house program.

**Future Needs – Buses**

PLT has a total of 13 vehicles. Nine are class 400 and 5 are class 300. The vehicles have a contract year between 2008-2017. Eleven of the vehicles are gas, while three are diesel. Nine of the buses are in adequate to excellent condition, four are in marginal condition, and one is in the process of being disposed. Two vehicles are to be replaced during 2019, and one vehicle every year thereafter until 2025.

**Future Needs – Facilities**

PLT operates out of two garages, one in Fairmont and one in Faribault County. PLT pays $2,400 annually to rent space within the Faribault County Highway Department facility in Blue Earth to house four transit vehicles. The remaining ten vehicles are housed in the Fairmont Transit Facility. The Fairmont Transit Facility includes space for administrative staff.

The Transit Board is securing the acquisition of the Fairmont Transit Facility from Martin County in early 2019.

**Future Needs – Operations**

There are about 30 staff members at a time, depending on the number of drivers.

**Future Needs – Technology**

PLT uses RouteMatch software to manage scheduling and dispatching. Accounting is done through QuickBooks.

**Budget Information**

In 2018 PLT had an annual Operations Budget of $1.2 million with expenditures likely to be just under $1.1 million. For 2019 the annual Operations Budget is for $1.18 million.

**Legislative Districts**

House Districts – 23A, 27A  
Congressional Districts – 1, 2