

COA Bus Coupons for Seniors

Beginning the first of January 2009

The St. Joseph County Transit Authority (TA) senior bus fares will increase and services provided will see some changes. The Transit Authority Board of Directors analyzed their 2009 budget and determined increases in fares were imperative to help off-set rising operational expenses. Explanations of services and fare structures are provided below.

What does this mean to the Senior Rider?

The St. Joseph County Commission on Aging (COA) must ask seniors using the bus to share this increased expense, in order to provide bus coupons to as many seniors as possible. New services will be provided by the Transit Authority and the COA will continue to provide discounted bus coupons to seniors through MDOT, Area Agency on Aging, and Millage funding. 50% or more of the cost of your bus fare will continue to be covered by the COA. In essence, the only increase to the client will be an additional .50¢ per each one way ride. Examples of the COA Discount Bus Coupons are provided below.

CURRENT: COA Discounted Ride Coupon — One Way Ride

- One — .75¢ laminated coupon is worth a \$2.00 fare.
- Two — .75¢ laminated coupons are worth a \$4.00 fare.

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2009: COA New 50% - 75% Discounted Ride Coupons — Per One Way Ride

- One — \$1.00 white coupon will cover a \$2.00 fare, in Three Rivers only; Curb to Curb.
- One — \$2.00 teal coupon will cover a \$4.00 fare, any where other than Three Rivers; Curb to Curb.
- One — \$2.00 gold coupon will cover a \$6.00 fare, any where in the County; Door to Door. Disabled only.
- COA coupons will not be provided for the “Circle Line” service at this time.
- Coupons will not be laminated and will be for one time use.

Transit Authority Services & Fare Structure “Without Coupons”: — Effective 1/1/09 Per One Way Ride

“Curb to Curb” bus fares inside the city of Three Rivers will remain at \$2.00 per ride. Service in outlying areas such as; Colon; Burr Oak; Mendon; Sturgis; White Pigeon; Constantine; Centerville; Cross County or anywhere else in the county; will be \$4.00 per ride. This service requires the senior to ride independently and meet the vehicle at the street or curb.

“Door to Door” bus fares will provide service anywhere in the county for \$6.00 per ride (*Including Three Rivers*). This service is provided to riders who may require assistance from their home to the bus. Remember, a companion can ride for “no charge” and will be able to assist the rider to utilize the other TA bus services. This service is reserved for disabled seniors only.

“Circle Route” bus fares will be \$1.00 per ride. This service was recently implemented by the Transit Authority in Sturgis and is in the development stages for Three Rivers. This route will provide riders with specific destinations and set schedules for transit service in Sturgis and Three Rivers.

A Few Important Notes to Remember:

- Coupons are on a suggested donation basis and intended for seniors 60+ or disabled living with 60+ senior.
- Seniors can exchange .75¢ coupons for new coupons at “face value”.
- Coupons can be purchased at the COA office 8:00 AM—3:30 PM. Senior Centers 10:15 AM—1:00 PM.
- Rides must be booked directly with the Transit Authority 24 hours in advance.
- Due to the increased bus fares paid by COA to the Transit Authority, discount coupons may be limited if coupon sales exceed our budgeted allowance.
- For questions regarding senior discount coupons, contact the COA at 279-8083 or (800) 641-9899.
- For bus service questions, please call the Transit Authority at 273-7808 or (800)964-5700.

