

FALL 2018

WESTMORELAND COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The official newsletter of Westmoreland County Transit Authority



We've been bus-y!

One, two, three, four, five ... new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses for the WCTA fleet! These buses will replace 5 of the 16 buses that are currently providing local service for our riders. When a new shiny, quiet-running WCTA bus pulls up to your stop, hop on board-which, by the way, will be much easier for everyone since they are low-floor.

What exactly is low-floor? Low-floor buses are designed to ride lower to the road, so the step on the bus isn't as high. The 'lift' is a ramp that flips out from the boarding area at the front of the bus. The ramp weighs less than a lift, and the less the bus weighs the better the gas mileage.

The new buses were manufactured in California by Gillig Corporation, and we're eager to get them out on the roads in Westmoreland County. As shown in the pictures below, these buses have a whole new look, including cameras for your safety.



If you take a closer look, you'll see bike racks on the buses too. Yep, bike racks. Put on your thinking cap and just imagine all the places you can go with the bus and your bike!

CONTACT US

41 Bell Way
Greensburg, PA 15601

Westmoreland Transit
724-834-9282
M-F 5:30AM-8:30PM
Sat. 8:30AM-4:30PM

GO Westmoreland
724-832-2706
M-F 8:00AM-4:00PM

TRANSIT 101

In June, Westmoreland County Transit Authority (WCTA) partnered with the Southwestern Planning Commission (SPC) to present Transit 101 to representatives from over 30 agencies in Westmoreland County. There were two, 4-hour sessions that were jam-packed with information about using WCTA fixed-route buses, GO Westmoreland, and ride sharing with CommuteInfo.

A representative from CommuteInfo kicked off each session with information about vanpooling opportunities in southwestern Pennsylvania. Attendees were provided with handouts showing the current vanpool listing, and ways to sign up for the program.

Next up on the agenda was an overview of WCTA fixed-route bus service. Topics included – *What is fixed route bus service? What areas does WCTA service? What is the difference in commuter and local bus service? Where are the locations of transfer points, and park 'n rides?* Information was also given about WCTA's bus fleet, including the newest Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses. All the basics of riding were covered, with an explanation of how a flag-stop system works, reading a WCTA bus schedule, and paying your fare. Attendees were also introduced to ConnectCard, which is WCTA's electronic fare payment system.

Whew! If that wasn't enough . . . attendees and staff then boarded a new WCTA bus and traveled to our maintenance facility. There everyone saw where the buses are housed, and the CNG fueling station. Upon returning to the Transit Center, the Operator gave a demonstration on how the wheelchair lift works on the bus.

The sessions wrapped up with a presentation about GO Westmoreland shared-ride programs. There was general information such as hours of operation, and the registration process. Specific information was given about each program: Senior Shared Ride, Americans with Disabilities (ADA), Persons with Disabilities (PwD), and Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP).

Overall, both sessions were great, with plenty of networking opportunities!

If you're interested in attending future Transit 101 sessions, please email us at customerservice@westmorelandtransit.com.



GO WESTMORELAND

Online Scheduling
Now Available



"Did I schedule my trip for Thursday?"

"What did she say my fare was?"

Getting answers to questions like these just got a lot easier with GO Westmoreland's online scheduling feature.

With this new feature, riders can schedule trips to preauthorized locations, view trips they've scheduled online and through the Call Center, cancel a trip, and check their trip fares.

Call our Reservationists at 724-832-2706 to sign up for this service. To register, riders must have an email address. They will also need to create a username.

Giving riders the ability to manage their trips through online scheduling should greatly improve their experience with GO Westmoreland.

In the future, GO Westmoreland is looking to integrate more technologies such as scheduling with a smartphone app, and using electronic fare payment.

Visit us at <https://www.westmorelandtransit.com/go-westmoreland> to learn more about online scheduling and the many other services offered by GO Westmoreland!

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