

Even though gas prices are returning to a more acceptable level, Garrett Transit faces another major crisis. It was announced in October that our operating budget for FY09 was reduced by \$117,000. This occurred when we were already four months into the year, so the impact was much more than the original amount. We have had to make many changes and adjustments to our program to deal with the funding reduction. We were forced to eliminate the Oakland Shuttle that ran through Oakland, Mt. Lake Park and all apartment complexes in the Oakland area. We are also making our work day shorter and reducing overtime by approximately 80%. Clients that are currently using GTS will not be denied service, however, any new clients must be transported within our new time frame.

We regret to make the changes that we must make. However, if we don't, we will not be able to serve the residents of Garrett County. GTS will grow and expand as funding allows in the future. Hopefully the economy will improve and more operating capital will become available.

GTS operates 34 vehicles including 11 Head Start Buses, 4 mini-vans, and 19 cutaway buses with wheelchair lifts. In FY 2008 GTS buses traveled 794,745 miles and transported a total ridership of 134,737. GTS has a staff of 27 drivers, and a support team of seven.

Fares are kept to a minimum so that everyone can use the service. GTS is for everyone. For more information, or to schedule a ride, call GTS at 301-334-9431.