FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KENDALL AREA TRANSIT RECEIVES NEW MINIVAN

In 2012 Kendall County was awarded expansion vehicles for use in the Kendall Area Transit (KAT) program by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The County was awarded two 12-passenger buses and one 5-passenger minivan. On Friday October 18th, the minivan had arrived!

County Administrator Jeff Wilkins said IDOT advised that the process has been unusually long due to changes in state protocol, so the two 12-passenger buses are still in the process of being ordered, but he is excited that the minivan has arrived. “KAT has been a very popular program evident in its rapid growth.”

According to Paul LaLonde, Director of KAT with the Voluntary Action Center, the nonprofit transit operator of KAT services, the minivan will be used for medical trips, especially longer distance trips and some local medical runs. “There are times when we’re asked if KAT goes to Edwards Hospital in Naperville, Morris Hospital, or St. Joseph Provina in Joliet. Currently, these areas are outside our service zone, but the minivan will help us provide longer distance trips if the demand is there.”

As with the current KAT fleet, the minivan is handicapped accessible and has a capacity for up to five passengers and the use of the minivan will be predicated on space and availability. General trips can be reserved two (2) to six (6) business days in advance. Medical trips may be scheduled up to two (2) weeks in advance. Reservations made with 24 hour notice or less may be possible if there is availability but should not be expected. It is always best to call in advance to schedule a ride. When scheduling trips, priority will be given to senior citizens and those with disabilities. In order to maximize transportation resources, two or more people may be transported together if origin and/or destination locations are within reasonable times and distances, and a scheduled reservation may be adjusted by the office in order to maintain efficiency or accommodate priority passengers.

The KAT program is a community and public transportation service to all Kendall County residents but is particularly vital to seniors and individuals with disabilities. KAT is administered through the County with daily operations provided by VAC. Dial-a-ride services offer a flexible affordable alternative for many individuals seeking medical trips, employment or educational opportunities, necessary shopping trips, and much more. In January 2013, KAT services expanded to offer Park and Ride service by way of a private-public partnership with VAC, the County, and the Village of Oswego.

As the KAT program continues fulfilling the transit needs of residents, Kendall County and VAC look forward to meeting the challenges posed by rapidly expanding ridership. As KAT continues to grow and expand, the residents of Kendall County remain the chief benefactor of these services.

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