

Good morning. I am Kim Renze the Operations Manager at FACT. I am representing the Director of FACT and the Fayette County Commissioners and we are honored to be part of today's event.

Fayette Area Coordinated Transportation, known as FACT is the public transportation provider for Fayette County. We provide fixed route public bus service as well as shared ride service for seniors, medical assistance, and persons with disabilities. FACT is considered a small urbanized area and receives federal, state and local funding. FACT and other transit authorities are fortunate to receive Act 89 funding. This funding offers us stability and fills the gaps when Act 44 fell apart. Act 89 allows us to maintain our service and equipment but does not offer any incentive for us to do more. Act 89 does not provide for any service expansion, the hiring of additional people, or additional capital resources. FACT's goal would be to expand service to other areas of the county that are not currently serviced by a public bus. FACT would like to expand service hours to accommodate nontraditional work schedules. We all need to work together and get creative in finding ways to do more with the current funding.

FACT is a county department under the Board of Commissioners and must compete with other county departments for local funding. Our management team works with the Commissioners to see how FACT can fit into the whole vision of the county. Decision making at FACT needs to be in line with the whole Economic Development planning of the county; such as providing service to new businesses in the area, providing service in areas to attract future businesses, and providing service targeted towards getting people to work. If FACT can get people to work, they can be a lesser burden on the human services of the county, they can become a tax payer, they can spend their money at local businesses, they can become independent and a contributor to the county.

FACT coordinates its services within county and with regional counties to reduce cost and improve service delivery. FACT has connecting public bus service with Westmoreland County Transit Authority, Mid Mon Valley Transit, and Port Authority of Allegheny County. We are a regional partner in the ConnectCard project. Now riders can use one card with multiple fare media and easily travel between bus systems. FACT has a commuter route to Pittsburgh 3 times per day; 2 of which are usually full. These riders have good jobs in Allegheny County and some might not otherwise be able to get there without public bus service.

FACT is also part of Ecolane which is the state wide effort of using the same shared ride software. This software saves money to transit agencies for maintenance agreements, provides better efficiency for clients, and provides uniform reporting to PennDOT.

Since its inception in 1995, FACT is always looking for new markets and opportunities to help people and businesses in Fayette County. Recently, we participated in the National Road Heritage Corridor study of how public transportation can fit into the tourism, historical aspects, white water, and biking in the area. We support the multi-modal transportation initiative & have buses equipped with bike racks. Tourism is vital in the Laurel Highland area and we participate and promote in any way we can. We provide service to Lady Luck Casino and are pleased to report that we transport both employees and players. Getting customers and employees to a business is the backbone of economic development. We appreciate your backing in fighting for transportation funding. We thank you and look forward to your future support.