News Release



bjcta.org

BJCTA Executives Issue Updated Information on Services

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (March 23, 2020) — On Tuesday, March 24,2020, all MAX transit operators are expected to return to their scheduled routes. At this time, we are not cancelling service on any routes. Currently, we have approximately 20 buses in service. Seats have been blocked on the buses only allowing 15 to 19 passengers to board, depending on bus size. Extra buses will be available to facilitate the needs of all passengers. These initiatives allow us to abide by social distancing standards for our operators and customers.

Should an operator reach a designated stop and their bus is at capacity, they will inform all waiting passengers another bus is in route to service them. It is our goal to provide a safe environment for those who depend on us for their daily needs and our employees.

MAX Transit passengers are now being asked to use the rear door when boarding and exiting the bus. Customers who require the use of wheelchairs, may continue to use the front door for access. The Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority has also suspended bus fares temporarily for riders amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision comes at a time when our top priority is the safety and wellbeing of our operators and riders. Suspending fares reduces overcrowding at the farebox and limits exposure to passengers and bus operators.

Note: Since the capacity of the buses has been restricted to maintain social distancing guidelines, some customers may have to wait on the next bus to arrive while waiting at Central Station and on route stops.

About the Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority is the public transportation leader in Central Alabama. The Authority averages three million riders per year and has close to 300 employees. For more information, visit <u>www.maxtransit.org</u>.

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