

NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One agreement signed and another pending to provide intercity bus service in Kansas

Prestige Bus Charters of Wichita and the Kansas Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation have signed an agreement to provide intercity bus service between Wichita and Pueblo, Colo.

In addition, a contract is expected to be signed soon between KDOT and Prestige to provide intercity bus service between Salina and Wichita.

“We are looking forward to partnering with KDOT and CDOT to provide affordable transportation options between Wichita, Pueblo and Salina,” said Dave Rockey, Chief Executive Officer of Prestige Charters.

Lisa Koch, KDOT Public Transit Manager, said service on both routes is expected to be operational by late summer.

“These two additional routes will connect with the national intercity bus route network and will provide meaningful connections to various areas across the state, especially to under-served areas in southwest Kansas,” said Koch. “It’s also a great way to partner with the state of Colorado to serve the public.”

Federal funding will be used to purchase two new busses for each route and to assist with operating expenses such as fuel, personnel and maintenance.

A portion of the funds will come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Under ARRA, 15 percent of the rural transit allocation in each state must be used for intercity transit. That figure in Kansas is about \$2 million.

The following cities that would gain intercity bus service with these two new routes include:

Wichita-Pueblo, Colo.

- Kansas - Wichita, Hutchinson, Dodge City, Garden City; Colorado - Holly, Lamar, Las Animas, LaJunta, Fowler, Pueblo

Salina-Wichita

- Salina, Lindsborg, McPherson, Newton, Wichita

One round trip daily will be provided between Wichita and Pueblo and two round trips daily will be provided between Salina and Wichita. Location stops at each city have not yet been determined.

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700 SW Harrison St., 2nd Fl West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.