

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

TriCounty Link bus line extends to Johns Is.

BY KRISTEN HANKLA
The Post and Courier

Starting Monday, Johns Island residents will have a new mode of transportation.

TriCounty Link, a rural transportation bus service funded by the half-cent sales tax along with state and federal grants, will add the island to its service area that already includes McClellanville, Awendaw and Mount Pleasant.

The two new routes on Johns Island push Charleston County to the top of the state in transit options and service according to Will Hutto, executive director of TriCounty Link.

The "blueline" serves the bottom portion of River Road out to Bohicket Road and Habitat Place. It will travel Main Road and a portion of Chisolm Road to get to Savannah Highway. At Citadel Mall, passengers can transfer to CARTA buses serving the tri-county area.

The "greenline" travels north on River Road to Maybank Highway, then follows Brownswood, Old Pond and Main Roads to reach Savannah Highway and the CARTA transfer point at Citadel Mall.

TriCounty Link and CARTA have a transfer agreement, which allows passengers to transfer to CARTA buses without paying

additional fares. When returning, passengers will pay the CARTA fare and 25 cents for a transfer to a TriCounty Link bus, and pay no additional fare there.

TriCounty Link, which was until this year called Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Rural Transportation Management Association, held public meetings with Johns Island residents over the last year to find out where they needed to go, Hutto said. The public nonprofit corporation also sent letters to various faith-based ministries for feedback.

Stops on the blue and green lines include Sea Island Medical Center, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion, Mount

Zion Elementary School, Sea Island Baptist Church and Habitat Place.

To celebrate the new routes, rides on all TriCounty Link buses will be free from Monday to Feb. 1. Riders may also register for prizes during the nearly two-week period.

Buses will run Monday through Friday from 5:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. After the introductory period, the fare will be \$2.25.

For more information, call TriCounty Link at 800-966-6631 or 843-899-4096.

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