

# Community Bus Service

# Facts

Broward County Transit's (BCT) Community Bus Service operates in partnership with 18 Broward municipalities. Community buses service residential areas freeing larger fixed-route buses to travel along major thoroughfares as part of a regional bus network. The service also places the planning, based on local ridership demand, closer to the people who use or may wish to use this service. The following municipalities currently have an interlocal agreement with Broward County for the operation of community bus service:

Coconut Creek	4 buses	Lauderhill	5 buses
Coral Springs	2 buses	Lighthouse Point	1 bus
Dania Beach	2 buses	Margate	3 buses
Davie	5 buses	Miramar	4 buses
Deerfield Beach	2 buses	Pembroke Pines	7 buses
Fort Lauderdale	10 buses	Plantation	4 buses
Hallandale	1 bus	Pompano Beach	3 buses
Hillsboro Beach	1 bus	Tamarac	2 buses
Lauderdale-by-The-Sea	1 bus		
Lauderdale Lakes	2 buses		

Through an interlocal agreement, BCT provides capital and/or operating assistance. Wheelchair-accessible community buses are purchased by BCT and leased annually to the municipality for \$10.00 per vehicle. BCT also provides an operating stipend of \$15.00 per revenue service hour, per vehicle, to assist with maintenance and operations. For those cities that contract for service operations or provide their own wheelchair-accessible vehicle, a \$13,295.20 capital cost allowance per year per vehicle in revenue service is provided. BCT maintains spare replacement vehicles for use by any of the municipalities on a first-come, first-served basis.

The municipality, assisted by BCT staff, determines the major origins and destinations to be served by the route. Roundtrip route time and distance between stops are calculated by BCT staff. Changes to routes are allowed with the approval of the Director of the Broward County Transit Division. Bus stop signs, timetables and driver training are also provided by BCT. Buses leased to the municipalities are equipped with bike racks.

Municipalities report ridership data to BCT monthly. Certification of a drug-free workplace is required, and each municipality has the option of either implementing a drug and alcohol testing program for "safety-sensitive" employees or joining the consortium for testing under the auspices of Broward County.

Municipalities have the opportunity to supplement revenue for operating the service. For example, some municipalities utilize revenue received from the local option gas tax provided to each city based on population, or revenue can be derived from the sale of advertising at bus shelters, on bus benches and on the buses. Currently, five municipalities charge a fare. A municipality may either choose to employ bus operators as part of its workforce or contract such services. The average per vehicle cost annually, including labor, fuel, insurance, etc., is approximately \$93,600 (\$45.00 per revenue hour) per 40 hour week.