

## **Forest County Announces Transition of their MATP Program to CATA**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**TIONESTA, PA** – The Forest County Commissioners and Forest County Transportation (FCT) announce a new partnership with the Crawford Area Transportation Authority (CATA) that will begin July 1, 2026. CATA will become a subcontracted entity that will oversee administrative functions and operate Public Shared Ride transportation services and the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) under Forest County. This new partnership will leverage the regional assets and resources of CATA to ensure that the mobility needs of Forest County residents will continue to be met.

While Forest County will maintain operating grants with both the PennDOT Bureau of Public Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, CATA will become the operator of services for these programs. Additionally, within the MATP, CATA will oversee eligibility processing, trip scheduling and the mileage reimbursement program. MATP provides free transportation to medical appointments for individuals enrolled in Medical Assistance, using the most appropriate and cost-effective mode of transportation available. Transportation services available through MATP include mileage reimbursement and shared ride (paratransit) services. Non-MATP Shared Ride fare discounts are available to eligible seniors and persons with disabilities.

All residents that are enrolled in either the Senior Shared Ride Program, the Persons with Disabilities Program (PwD) or MATP will be mailed a welcome letter and informational packet. All currently enrolled residents within these programs that do not receive a mailing by June 20<sup>th</sup> should contact Forest County Transportation.

“By building this regional partnership with CATA, Forest County is strengthening coordination across transportation services while continuing to prioritize access to essential healthcare for our residents,” noted Bob Snyder, Forest County Commissioner.

“Our goal is a seamless transition for the residents of Forest County. The same drivers, with the same vehicles providing the same great customer service, will continue after July 1<sup>st</sup>” said Tim Geibel, CATA Executive Director. All transportation services will continue to be known locally as “Forest County Transportation”. Residents will call the same phone number for trip scheduling, eligibility questions and all public transportation and MATP information as they do currently.

CATA currently operates public transportation services in Clarion, Crawford and Venango counties while maintaining operational facilities in Meadville, Titusville, Oil City and Shippensburg. “We’re excited to add the great employees and services within Forest County to the growing CATA family” added Geibel.

Residents can apply or learn more by visiting the FCT website at: [www.co.forest.pa.us/departments/transportation](http://www.co.forest.pa.us/departments/transportation) or by calling: (814) 927-8266, or toll free at (800) 222-1706.

A virtual public meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am. The meeting link can be found at [www.co.forest.pa.us](http://www.co.forest.pa.us) or [www.catabus.org](http://www.catabus.org). For those without access to the internet, this meeting will be broadcast publicly at the Forest County Courthouse Annex Building, 530 Elm Street, Tionesta and the Jenks Township Building, 135 Pine Street, Marienville.