



# PRESS RELEASE

## Public Hearing Process Begins to Look at Fare Increases for GoBus Fourteen Public Hearings Scheduled for Opportunity to Comment

**Kilgore, TX, July 14, 2014:** On July 2, 2014, the ETCOG Executive Committee approved to begin the public hearing process required to raise fare rates for GoBus rural public transportation system. The current rate of \$2.00 per trip within a county and \$5.00 per trip across counties has not been increased since 1997. One-Way Fares proposed to become effective October 1, 2014 are:

- \$4.00 in County
- \$8.00 One County Over
- \$10.00 Two Counties Over
- \$3.00 for each additional county
- \$1.00 for each additional stop – up to three total stops permitted

At the time rates were set in 1997, the average price of a gallon of gas was \$1.25. Now, gas has raised to an average of \$3.54 per gallon. The fare increase is to help build program sustainability as the total funding for GoBus comes from state and federal sources, with the exception of local contracts with the Area Agency on Aging of East Texas and Kilgore College for direct services and the City of Marshall to assist with funding its flex route system.

*"We have looked to other rural transit providers in Texas to see what they are charging and find that we are proposing a fair rate for our customers. An example is Alamo Regional Transit, which asks \$6 when traveling in the same county, \$8 one county away and \$12 two counties away. Another example is the Panhandle Transit, which charges between \$1 and \$17.50 based on distance and The Central Texas Rural Transit charges \$1 for every 5 miles," said ETCOG Director of Transportation, John O. Hedrick.*

ETCOG invites the public to attend one of the fourteen public hearings being held throughout the region for an opportunity to comment on the proposed fare increase. The hearings will be held at the Workforce Solutions East Texas center in each of the 14 counties served by ETCOG at the following dates and times:

**Jefferson – Tuesday, July 22, 2014, 9:00 AM**  
208 N. Walnut Street, Jefferson, TX 75657

**Marshall – Tuesday, July 22, 2014, 11:00 AM**  
4300 E. End Blvd., Marshall, TX 75633

**Pittsburg – Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 9:00 AM**  
211 Mill Street, Pittsburg, TX 75686

**Gilmer – Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 11:00 AM**  
405 E. Marshall Street, Gilmer, TX 75644

**Longview – Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 2:00 PM**  
2430 S. High Street, Longview, TX 75602

**Henderson – Friday, July 25, 2014, 11:00 AM**  
1424 S. Main Street, Henderson, TX 75654

**Carthage – Friday, July 25, 2014, 2:00 PM**  
410 W. Sabine Street, Carthage, TX 75633

**Athens – Wednesday, July 30, 2014, 9:00 AM**  
205 N. Murchison St. #101, Athens, TX 75751

**Tyler – Wednesday, July 30, 2014, 11:00 AM**  
4100 Troup HWY, Tyler, TX 75703

**Palestine – Thursday, July 31, 2014, 9:00 AM**  
Palestine Mall 2000 S. Loop 256, Ste 18, Palestine, TX 75801

**Jacksonville – Thursday, July 31, 2014, 11:00 AM**  
2027 N. Jackson Street, Jacksonville, TX 75766

**Canton – Friday, August 1, 2014, 9:00 AM**  
1760 N. Trade Days Blvd., Canton, TX 75103

**Emory – Friday, August 1, 2014, 11:30 AM**  
209 E. Quitman Street, Emory, TX 75440

**Quitman – Friday, August 1, 2014, 2:00 PM**  
405 S. Hart St, Quitman TX 75783

To issue a public comment, please call (903) 218-6399 or you may submit a written comment online at <http://www.etcog.org/644/Proposed-Fare-Increase.htm>. ETCOG will be taking public comments through August 22, 2014. For more information, contact ETCOG's Director of Transportation, John O. Hedrick at (903) 218-6490 or [John.Hedrick@etcog.org](mailto:John.Hedrick@etcog.org).

#### **About GoBus**

ETCOG's rural transportation system, GoBus, makes approximately 600 trips a day, 5 days a week, throughout the 14 counties of East Texas. There are approximately 40 vehicles in the GoBus fleet which provide demand/response service within the region and a fixed route service in Marshall. To schedule a trip, call 1.800.590.3371 before 2:00 pm the day prior to the requested service. You may call up to one week in advance to schedule a ride.



#### **About ETCOG**

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

**PROUDLY SERVING 14 COUNTIES**

**ANDERSON CAMP CHEROKEE GREGG HARRISON HENDERSON MARION PANOLA RAINS RUSK SMITH UPSHUR VAN ZANDT WOOD**

