

Lawrence Transit Adds Service to Routes, Sees Increases in Ridership

Riding the bus in Lawrence has become more convenient since changes were made to bus routes last year. Starting in August 2016, several bus routes operated by the Lawrence Transit System increased in service from every hour to every 30 minutes.

The increases in frequency and changes to certain routes have resulted in positive results as follows:

- Route 1 ridership up 22%
- Route 3 ridership up 184%



- Route 7 ridership up 38%
- Route 10 ridership up 80%

The results shown are from August through December 2016 as compared to the same time frame in 2015. Route 3 increased in service from one hour to 30 minutes and also became a fixed route service, as opposed to a flex service where rides were pre-scheduled.

"I am very pleased and encouraged to see the increases in ridership based on the changes we made last year," said Robert Nugent, Transit Administrator. "We support our bus riders, and we strive to make changes to our bus service based on the needs and feedback of our community."

Each year, Lawrence Transit holds public meetings and receives feedback from the public regarding transit issues.

To learn more about bus routes and schedules, visit www.lawrencetransit.org.



Flame."

Share your experience and vision for transportation!

Take the 5 minute survey at www.lawrenceks.org/ mpo/tellus now through **April 30th to share your** experience and vision for the future of transportation. Help us update our long range transportation plan -Transportation 2040. The plan will identify future needs and make investment recommendations for all modes of transportation including automobile, public transit, bicycle, pedestrian, etc.

Visit www.lawrenceks.org/ mpo/t2040-update for more information.





Double Up Food Bucks helps families and farmers in Douglas County

Double Up Food Bucks is a SNAP (food stamps) matching program providing dollar-for-dollar matching at area farmers markets. Double Up Food Bucks helps ensure that all members of our community can afford to eat healthy, locally grown foods.

For every dollar in SNAP benefits a customer spends at the farmers market, they receive a dollar-for-dollar match (up to \$25 a day) that must be spent on locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables.

In addition to improving access to healthy food and increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, Double Up Food Bucks also generates new income streams for area producers and invests more dollars in our local economy. In 2016, SNAP matching brought an additional \$17,000 to two Lawrence Farmer's markets and encouraged almost 100 new customers to check out the markets! This program helps the City achieve its goal of promoting access to healthy, local food for all citizens, regardless of income.

Two Lawrence farmer's markets participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program, the Lawrence Farmers' Market and the Cottin's Hardware Farmers Market:

- Saturday Lawrence Farmers' Market @ 824 New Hampshire St.
 April 8th August 26th, 7:00 am 11:00 am
 September 2nd- November 18th, 8:00 am 12:00 pm
- Tuesday Lawrence Farmers' Market @ 707 Vermont St. Lawrence Public Library Outdoor Plaza
 May 2nd – October 24th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Thursday Cottin's Hardware Farners Market @1832 Massachusetts St.
 October April, 4:00 pm 6:00 pm
 May September, 4:00 pm 6:30 pm

Many farmer's markets and grocery stores across Kansas and Missouri participate in the Double Up Food Bucks Program!

Visit <u>www.doubleupheartland.org</u> for all locations and more information, or email the program coordinator at <u>dufbks@gmail.com</u>.







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Holiday Route Changes





Join the Common Ground Program!

The Common Ground Program is a community gardening and urban agriculture program created by the City of Lawrence in 2012. This past year, our gardens, farms and orchards were tended by 200 growers, supported by 900+volunteers, and generated 6,500 lbs in produce donated to those in need in our community.

Applications are now open for the 2017 growing season. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, but will be first come, first served. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to apply soon!

The application materials can be found here: www.lawrenceks.org/commonground.

For more information, contact: Eileen Horn, Sustainability Director, ehorn@lawrenceks.org, (785) 330-3121