

SCIO'S BUS SERVICE TAKES OFF

The last edition of Scio Info announced a new bus service along Jackson Boulevard. The service is provided by People's Express under the name Scio FlexBus. It has been sponsored by Scio's DDA (Downtown Development Authority) on a trial basis for one year. The DDA hopes that the service will be sufficiently popular by the end of 12 months to stimulate alternative funding for the service in future years.

Between July 28 and the end of November, ridership on the bus has increased significantly. The monthly rider count has gone from 645 in August to 1522 in November. Transportation experts say that it can take up to a year for a new bus service to reach capacity, as people only gradually become aware of the service and change habits to take advantage of it. Scio's FlexBus service had a jump start last summer from the high prices of gasoline. Yet even with a notable drop in gas prices this fall, ridership on the bus has continued to increase.

FlexBus service is available Monday through Friday on an hourly cycle from Scio Farms Estates on the west side to the AATA bus stop at Wagner Road on the east side. East-bound service begins at 7:00 am at Scio Farms Estates and runs up to 7:00 pm. It is scheduled to meet the AATA bus on the half hour at the Wagner Road bus stop. West-bound service starts at 7:30 am from the AATA bus stop, with the last run at 6:30 pm. The charge for one ride is \$0.50.

Bus service is also provided during the week by the WAVE bus (Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express). The WAVE bus runs every two hours and is scheduled to reach the AATA bus stop on the hour (7:01 am, 9:01 am, 11:01 am, 1:01 pm, 4:01 pm and 6:01 pm.) Within Scio the WAVE ride is subsidized by the DDA and costs only \$0.50, just like the FlexBus charge.

Scio's FlexBus picks up riders anywhere along its Jackson Boulevard route. Its route also includes stops at Meijer's parking lot, and at Lakestone Apartments and the Co-housing units near Parkland Plaza on its east-bound trip. On the west-bound trip the FlexBus route crosses I-94 to circle around the Town Hall on North Zeeb. The WAVE bus picks up riders at Scio Farms Estates and Meijers on its east-bound trip and at the AATA bus stop and the Taco Bell on its west-bound trip.

Both bus services also offer "Flex It" services, where riders can call for special pick-ups within three-quarters of a mile of the regular route. The charge for special pick-ups within Scio are \$1.00. To reach the Flex-bus for special pick-up call 734/678-3935; to reach the WAVE bus for special pick-up call 934/475-9494.