

[Senders Address]

[Federal / State / Local Leader]

Support for Rural Transit

Osiyo (hello):

As a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, I write to encourage your support for rural tribal transit in northeast Oklahoma.

Cherokee Nation operates a tribal transit program, partnering with non-profit providers across our reservation: Pelivan, KATS, Muskogee County Transit Authority and Cimarron Public Transit. Together, our partnerships provide over 115,000 Native American rides annually. Those transit agencies also partner with municipal governments to provide even more rides in their respective communities.

Rural transit is available to all people in need- tribal citizens and non-citizens- within the areas of service, which covers most of Cherokee Nation. These services remove barriers to people to access goods and services, such as groceries and medical care as well as employment. The National Rural Transit Assistance Program estimates that a dollar invested in rural transit generates four dollars in economic activity.

Rural transit is supported by a variety of funding sources, primarily federal funds administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation, but often local municipal funds are used to support services within a community. Cherokee Nation's unique status as a federally recognized tribe leverages even more resources to support rural transit for everyone in northeast Oklahoma.

I encourage you, as a leader, to learn more about the impact of rural transit and to support full funding across all levels of government.

Wado.