

# CHEROKEE NATION DEMAND RESPONSE TRANSIT POLICY

May 2016 – Revision 5

**PURPOSE:** To provide low cost transportation for Native Americans and/or tribal employees<sup>1</sup> to and from eligible destinations within Cherokee Nation's (CN) Jurisdictional Boundary based on request.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Native Americans and/or tribal employees within the Nation's Jurisdiction, who are unable to access existing fixed routes, and who do not qualify for Sooner Ride or TANF assistance.

**AVAILABILITY:** Upon written notice of start/end dates via the CN Transit Website (<http://transit.cherokee.org>), individuals needing "demand-response-type" transportation should call one of the Nation's transit service providers below to schedule round-trip transportation. Transportation is based on availability within normal operating hours and all potential riders must provide a minimum of 72 hours advance notice (3 days) for scheduling purposes.

## DEFINITIONS:

1. Cherokee Nation's Jurisdiction: means all lands within the 1893 Boundary established by Treaties, Congressional Acts, and Proclamations. This area includes all or parts of the following 14 counties in northeastern Oklahoma: Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington (see attached map).
2. Cherokee Nation Transit Service Provider: means the following agencies contracted to provide demand response transit services for the Cherokee Nation:
  - a. Ki Bois Area Transit System (KATS) 1-800-289-7228
  - b. Pelivan Transit – 1-800-282-2014
  - c. Muskogee County Transit – 1-918-682-1721
  - d. Cimarron Public Transit – 1-918-336-2233

Due to funding limitations, Native American transportation request that originate *within* the City Limits of Tulsa are subject to the full fare of the transit service provider (Metropolitan Tulsa Transit Authority). However, Native Americans needing transportation from outside areas to and within the City Limits of Tulsa are eligible for the low cost transportation rate as long as the trip begins and ends within the Nation's Jurisdictional Boundary.

3. Low Cost Transportation Rate: means \$1.00 round-trip until further notice (50¢ each way).

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<sup>1</sup> Non-Native American Tribal Employees are eligible for rides to work only.

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4. Demand Response: means a single and previously unscheduled transport generated by calls from individuals needing a ride to and from eligible destinations.
5. Eligible Destination within the Nation's 14-county Jurisdiction Area: means employment, healthcare, and governmental facilities or the nearest financial institutions and grocery stores from the riders' point of pickup. Areas outside CN Jurisdictional boundary will include additional charges. Individuals needing transportation to casinos, nightclubs, and drinking establishments will be subject to the full fare of the transit service provider.
6. Fixed Route: means a transit route that stops at reoccurring locations on a scheduled basis.
7. Native American: means any Indian or member of an Indian Tribe (requires proof of tribal membership or Certified Degree of Indian Blood).
8. Tribal Employee: means any individual working for the Cherokee Nation or any of its affiliations or a federal institution that provides services directly to Indians such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Indian Health Service (requires proof of employment identification badge).
9. New Freedom: means a program designed to subsidize transportation costs for individuals with disabilities.
10. Sooner Ride Program: means transportation costs subsidized by Medicare and Medicaid.
11. TANF: means Technical Assistance for Needy Families; a program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services that subsidizes transportation costs.