



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Timothy Land
timothyland@kingsporttn.gov

Transit Riders Get Ready: Real-time KATS Bus Info Now Available

Kingsport Area Transit System riders and the general public can now track the buses on all six routes. The application, called Ride Systems, has a number of great features from using global positioning system (GPS) technology, providing real-time information on bus locations and even approximate arrival times. This service provides customers with a route map featuring icons indicating the location, direction, and approximate bus capacity of each bus currently in operation. There is also an alarm feature that will alert riders when a bus is approaching their selected stop in addition to arrival times at bus stops.

Available through Ride Systems, the KATS Ride Systems website is accessible from a computer or wireless device at the following web address: <https://mobile.ridesystems.net/>.

The Ride Systems App is available for download to a smartphone through Google Play or the App Store. If the service does not automatically detect your location, simply find *Kingsport Area Transit* on the transit agency list.

In addition to rider benefits, the data gathered through GPS technologies in the app provides service monitoring and management tools for KATS. The information gathered is used to better understand and evaluate performance, identify service problems, and assist in future route planning.

For more information about KATS, please visit www.kingsporttransit.org.

About Kingsport Area Transit System

The Kingsport Area Transit System (KATS) provides outstanding mobility service to the City of Kingsport community. KATS operates 6 fixed-routes and The Dial A Ride ADA on demand response van service, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. These services are vital in helping individuals maintain and/or gain self-sufficiency by taking passengers to various places such as grocery stores, doctor's appointments, work, and various other desired locations. The Transit Center is located downtown at 900 East Main St. and functions as the main hub of the system. For more information, please visit <http://www.kingsporttransit.org/>.

About the City of Kingsport

Founded in 1917, the [City of Kingsport](http://www.cityofkingsport.com) (pop. 53,000) is located on the Tennessee-Virginia border at the crossroads of I-81 and I-26 near the geographic center of the eastern U.S. The city is widely known as a planned community, designed by renowned city planner John Nolen and wrapping around the foot of Bays Mountain – a 3,500-acre park, nature preserve, planetarium and observatory. Kingsport is recognized as an International Safe Community by the National Safety Council, a Healthier Tennessee community, and won the 2009 Harvard Innovations in American Government Award for its higher education initiatives. While many city names are duplicated throughout the U.S., there's only one Kingsport – a fact that invokes community pride, known locally as the "Kingsport Spirit."

###