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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kankakee County Approved for Million and a Half Statewide Transit Rebuild Illinois (RBI) Grant to Enhance Rural Transit

Kankakee, Illinois (February 8, 2022) — Kankakee County has been approved for \$1,060,000 as a part of Statewide Transit Rebuild Illinois (RBI) round two funding. The County will receive \$360,000 to replace paratransit vehicles to accommodate a higher number of passengers while allowing for social distancing. In addition to the vehicles, the County will also receive \$700,000 for an upgraded vehicle storage facility.

“Getting to and from places in order to work, grocery shop, and go to a doctor’s appointment are among a few reasons why rural transit is a critical service that many rely on daily,” said Kankakee County Board Chairman Andy Wheeler. “Having a centralized location for our fleet is key to meeting the needs of our residents.”

“This is great news for Kankakee County,” said President and CEO of the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County Tim Nugent. “SHOWBUS is a vital tool, especially in the eastern portion of the county. At the Economic Alliance, we often hear people say they have no transportation for work. This financial boost will help eliminate those barriers. I hope people take advantage of the services being provided.”

After reviewing Kankakee County’s application, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) stated the replacement vehicles and facility will help to create or sustain jobs in economically distressed areas.

“SHOWBUS is an excellent resource for the residents of Pembroke Township and Hopkins Park,” said Mayor Mark Hodge. “Residents are familiar with the bus routes. It is also affordable, convenient, and the only form of reliable transportation.”

“It is opportunities like these that will allow us to continue to improve the quality and efficiency of our transit system,” said Transportation and Development Division

Manager Ben Wilson. "Kankakee County, with our partner SHOWBUS, will continue to provide much needed, affordable rides for residents living outside the urban area."

Kankakee County applied for the RBI funding in summer of 2021.

For more information on SHOWBUS and Kankakee County routes, visit <https://www.showbusonline.org/Kankakee.html>. To schedule a ride, call 815-945-8500 or 1-800-525-2454.

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Kankakee County operates under the township form of government, and is the governing body for Kankakee County outside of municipal jurisdictions. For more information on Kankakee County, visit <https://www.k3county.net/>. Please note that the following information is strictly a news release. We do not wish to pay for publication.