

Livable and Sustainable Communities

Rural and Small-Town Case Studies

Fall 2010

Pelivan Transit, Northeastern Oklahoma



Location: Serving 7 counties and 10 tribal areas in northeastern Oklahoma, (*Rural and Tribal Transit*)

Project Type: Rural and tribal transit operated by Pelivan Transit, owned and operated by Grand Gateway EDA, since 1985

Transit Funding:

- FTA funds for rural, tribal, capital, jobs access, and assistance to people with disabilities.
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for tribal and transit center
- Oklahoma Public Transit Revolving Fund



(Source: Pelivan Transit)

Federal Partners:

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Livability Goals:

- ✓ Provide more transportation choices
- ✓ Enhance economic competitiveness
- ✓ Support existing communities
- ✓ Coordinate policies and leverage investment

Project Description:

Pelivan Transit (Pelivan) serves seven counties and 10 tribal areas in northeastern Oklahoma with over 25 routes that connect tribal administrations, medical, shopping, jobs, and social destinations. It offers many services, including: trolleys, airport shuttles, deviated routes, vanpools, curb-to-curb demand response, paratransit, and variable fares for destinations up to 100 miles away. Some routes offer extended hours for early-morning and late-night rides. The system has grown to serve over 250,000 riders and 1,250,000 miles annually. Pelivan was named the 2009 Oklahoma Transit System of the Year.

Pelivan's efforts to improve regional connections includes participation in a partnership to develop a regional plan exploring housing, road, transit, industrial, and commuter needs and opportunities. Pelivan has also received a grant to build a multimodal transit center to improve regional connections.

A local leader in technology, Pelivan promotes alternative energy and intelligent transportation systems (ITS). It is moving to a compressed natural gas (CNG) fleet and coordinating development of regional CNG fueling infrastructure. Pelivan is also testing ITS software for statewide use, and integrating fare collection with neighboring and inter-city operators to allow ticket purchase prior to transferring, and for Pelivan to capture a portion of the revenue.



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Community Outreach:

Pelivan Transit works closely with area tribes, facilitating formation of two consortiums to pool resources to improve service. Pelivan assisted in applying for funding to serve tribal communities.

The partnership requires the provider to learn about specific cultural needs, as well as sensitive territorial and land issues. One result is that all Native Americans residing within the Pelivan service area are eligible for free or reduced rides.

Pelivan changed its logo to recognize the tribal consortium; adding the American eagle to the pelican in flight over Grand Lake in their region.



Tribal Jurisdictional Areas in Pelivan's service territory.
(Source: Pelivan Transit)

Key Community Partners:

- Nine Tribes of Northeast Oklahoma: Eastern Shawnee, Miami, Modoc, Ottawa, Peoria, Quapaw, Seneca-Cayuga, Shawnee, and Wyandotte form one Consortium
- Cherokee Nation and KATS (another rural transit) form another Consortium
- Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG)
- Tulsa Transit
- Numerous Area City and County Governments, Agencies and Private Business Stakeholders

Livability Highlights:

Provide more transportation choices: Pelivan offers multiple services, including: trolley, airport/bus line shuttles, deviated fixed routes, vanpools, paratransit, demand response, and variable distance fares for trips up to 100 miles. Some routes offer expanded service hours for early- and late-work shifts.

Promote equitable, affordable housing: Pelivan is partnering with other agencies to develop a regional plan exploring housing, road, transit, industrial, and commuter needs and opportunities.

Enhance economic competitiveness: Pelivan provides a key employment link, serving major regional employers, inter-city connections, and schedules to accommodate early and late shifts.

Support existing communities: Pelivan's variety of services expand transportation options for residents, tourists, employees, the elderly, and the disabled. It facilitates community cohesion while providing necessary lifeline services.

Coordinate policies and leverage investment: Pelivan provides a wide variety of services, which is further enhanced, both programmatically and financially, by the activities of the tribal consortium.

Value communities and neighborhoods: Pelivan provides a wide range of services, including meeting specific cultural needs. The provider is also active in the community, participating in local events.

For More Information About this Project Contact:

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Prepared for FTA by the U.S. DOT Volpe
National Transportation Systems Center

This case study, and others related to Livable
and Sustainable Communities, is available at:
http://fta.dot.gov/publications/publications_10991.html