

Kings Point Transportation Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why did the Federation Board change the tram schedule?

A: The cost of fuel has increased over 56% since last September when the budgets were developed. While we budgeted for normal increases in fuel prices, no one could anticipate the huge increase in diesel fuel prices we are experiencing today. The cutbacks in the tram schedule eliminated the hours in which very few rides were provided and will help to keep the cost of the tram within the budget that the residents are paying for today.

Q: How were these specific tram hours chosen to be eliminated?

A: An analysis was conducted of the number of riders using the trams on each run. Based on that information it was determined that, on average, there are only 1 – 2 riders per trip on the tram during the hours from 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM with the exception being trips to/from special programming which remains unchanged. The majority of the tram service remains unaffected.

Q: I do not drive and I rely on the tram for my transportation needs. How will I get to my doctor's appointments, grocery stores, drug stores, etc.?

A: The tram service remains the same during normal business hours for doctors and other businesses. The scheduled trips to Publix, WalMart, and local shopping centers will run as usual during the day from 8:30 AM through the 4:30 PM pick-up.

Q: I use the bus in the evening to go to cards, swimming or just to be with friends. Now what do I do?

A: On the nights when buses are already running for special programs such as bingo, series shows or other organized activities, residents can use the tram, as usual, to come to the clubhouses for any reason (to visit with friends, play cards, swim, etc.). A schedule will be posted monthly so residents can plan their recreational activities.

Q: Why do I see so many buses going around the community with no riders?

A: The Kings Point tram service is a type of "on-demand" service....the resident calls ahead to arrange for pick-up during the scheduled hourly run. Sometimes only one or two people request rides at that time. This can result in only a few people on a tram, and no one riding when the tram is returning to base.

Q: I do not use the Kings Point bus service. Why should I have to pay?

A: Under the terms of the Long Term Lease, "all the costs and expenses of maintaining, managing, and operating the transportation system shall be shared by all..."

Q: Who pays for the Kings Point transportation service?

A: All of the unit owners in Kings Point pay for the transportation service as part of their monthly association fees. All owners share equally in the cost for the transportation service whether they use it or not.

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Q: If gas prices keep rising, what other actions will be necessary?

A: The only way to pay for the services provided to Kings Point residents is through the monthly fees each owner pays. Each year a budget is developed to pay for the recreational facilities, transportation, and security. If the cost for these services increases, that increase is passed on to the owners in their monthly fees.

Q: Why didn't the Federation Board just raise fees to all owners to cover the additional transportation costs?

A: Raising fees may still be a necessary option if costs continue to rise. The Federation Board is doing its best to balance the level of services offered against the cost of those services.

Q: How much does each owner pay for the transportation services offered in Kings Point?

A: Based on the current budget, each owner pays \$8.67 per month for the Kings Point Transportation Services. This amount assumed that diesel fuel would average \$3.50/gallon. At the current rate of \$4.80/gallon, this budget will quickly be exceeded. The current budget cannot support the current transportation system costs. The Federation Board determined that action needed to be taken to control costs for these services.

Q: Who bought the new tram and how much did it cost? How was it paid for?

A: The Federation Board of Directors approved the purchase of the new tram at a cost of \$58,712.62. The funds to purchase the new tram were borrowed from the Recreational Facilities reserve fund, which must be repaid. Currently, there are no funds established for this purpose.

Q: Why did we buy such a big vehicle if costs are a problem?

A: The new tram is much smaller than the previous tram. The old tram held 29 passengers with no handicap accessibility. The new tram is much smaller and offers space for 16 passengers and 2 wheelchair spots. It is also more fuel efficient.

Q: Is it legal for the Federation to charge the \$5.00 surcharge for the Special Bus Trips?

A: Yes, per the Federation's attorney "When transportation services are being provided to transport persons off of the Kings Point premises, the costs of the additional services do not have to be shared equally by the unit owners, and a user fee can be charged."

Q: I moved here for the bus service. Who has the authority to change the service or the schedule?

A: The elected Federation Board of Directors has the ultimate authority, on behalf of the residents, to make changes to the transportation system and schedules. They work with the Management Company and the Recreational Facilities Executive Committee to determine the best solutions to serve all of the residents of Kings Point.

Q: If you told us there was Net Income last year for the Rec Area of over \$400,000, why can't that money be used for the transportation needs?

A: The assessments under the long term leases have been pledged to the bank as collateral for the loan to purchase the facilities (and the leases) and may not be used for alternative sources. Additionally, per each association's documents, the Security & Transportation service divisions are separate stand-alone functional divisions which must operate within the assessment for that division with excesses and/or deficiencies to be allocated over following years.