

"Empowering  
Cherokee County  
Through  
Sustainable  
Transportation —  
Where Every  
Journey Changes  
a Life."



**SEK-CAP**

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# **Annual Ridership Comparison**

[www.sek-cap.com](http://www.sek-cap.com)

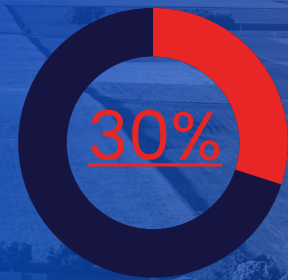


# Current Community Financial Support Report

Immediate Need: 2025 Service Year

SEK-CAP's general public transportation services are a vital lifeline for many in our community, connecting individuals to healthcare, employment, education, and essential services. These operations are made possible through local financial support, which serves as the required match for continued funding.

Currently, services remain suspended and will not resume until SEK-CAP secures the remaining balance of \$20,000 needed to restore operations for the 2025 service year. Without this funding, transportation services will remain unavailable, directly impacting those who rely on them daily.



Local Matching Financial Support is only 30% of the total costs for transportation services. SEK-CAP provides the remaining 70% and 40 years of transportation experience!

## Current Cash Position

| Year                         | Category                                         | Total Needed | Current Pledges | Remaining Needed |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026  | Required Local Community Financial Support Match | \$40,000     | \$20,000        | \$20,000         |
| July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 | Required Local Community Financial Support Match | \$40,000     | \$5,000         | \$35,000         |

## Planning Ahead: 2026–2027 Service Year

To ensure uninterrupted public transportation services in the upcoming 2026–2027 service year, SEK-CAP must begin securing commitments from community partners and stakeholders.

All letters of financial support must reflect a commitment to meet the required annual local match of \$40,000. These letters are essential for demonstrating community investment and securing the remaining 70% of program funding through state and federal sources. For planning purposes, and to allow SEK-CAP to secure this additional funding, all pledge letters must be on file no later than October 31, 2025. Furthermore, all financial commitments must be paid in full by June 1, 2026 to ensure continued, uninterrupted service.

Without these commitments and timely contributions, SEK-CAP will be unable to operate public transportation services in the next fiscal year.

# Transit Demands and Usage Trends

This document provides a comprehensive overview of the demand, utilization, and expansion of Cherokee County's General Public Transportation services over the past three years, since the program's inception. It highlights key performance indicators, ridership trends, and service development, reflecting the growing role of public transit in meeting the mobility needs of our community.

| Public Transportation Utilization Metrics |           |           |           |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Key Indicators                            | 2023–2024 | 2024–2025 | 2025–2026 |
| Total Days of Service Offered             | 181       | 200       | TBD       |
| Total Days of Service Utilized            | 165       | 181       | TBD       |
| Deduplicated Riders                       | 221       | 110       | TBD       |
| Total Number of Rides                     | 1,721     | 1,596     | TBD       |
| Number of Deduplicate Residential Stops   | 241       | 117       | TBD       |
| Number of Deduplicated Commercial Stops   | 135       | 90        | TBD       |
| Percent of Residential Stops              | 52%       | 45%       | TBD       |
| Percent of Commercial Stops               | 48%       | 55%       | TBD       |

| Ridership by Town Location |           |           |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                            | 2023–2024 | 2024–2025 | 2025–2026 |
| Baxter Springs             | 34.8%     | 40.9%     | TBD       |
| Columbus                   | 14.0%     | 17.0%     | TBD       |
| Galena                     | 15.2%     | 14.7%     | TBD       |
| Riverton                   | 7.4%      | 20.1%     | TBD       |
| Other                      | 28.6%     | 7.2%      | TBD       |

SEK-CAP's General Public Transportation program is designed to serve as a fully accessible, community-centered mobility solution for residents of Cherokee County. This service is free to the public and operates as a true door-to-door transportation system, ensuring that individuals can travel to and from their destinations with ease and dignity.

The program is committed to inclusivity and equity—no ride is refused for any reason other than unavoidable scheduling conflicts with other riders. This ensures that transportation remains available to all, regardless of age, income, or circumstance.

By removing barriers to mobility, SEK-CAP helps connect individuals to vital resources such as healthcare, employment, education, and social services, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of community well-being.

# Community Support Needed to Sustain Vital Public Transportation Services

For many years, SEK-CAP, in collaboration with dedicated funding partners, has worked tirelessly to provide reliable and accessible public transportation services across our region. These services have been a lifeline for countless individuals—connecting them to jobs, healthcare, education, and essential resources.

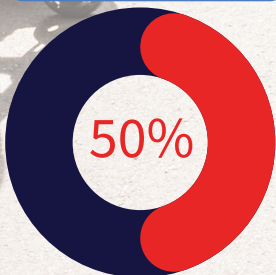
However, the sustainability of these vital services is now at risk.

Without increased local financial support, the future of public transportation in our community is uncertain. SEK-CAP has long filled critical funding gaps to ensure these services remain active, but it is no longer able to shoulder the shortfall alone. The current level of support from funding partners, while appreciated, is not sufficient to maintain operations at the scale our community needs.

We are actively seeking new partnerships and funding opportunities to preserve and strengthen these transportation services. This is a call to action for our community: we must come together to invest in the infrastructure that keeps us connected and ensures equitable access for all.

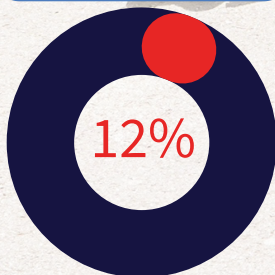
Public transportation is not just a convenience—it is a necessity. Its continued existence depends on our collective commitment.

2025-26  
Total Funding  
Needed  
\$40,000



TOTAL PLEDGED/COLLECTED  
**\$20,000**

2026-27  
Total Funding  
Needed  
\$40,000



TOTAL PLEDGED/COLLECTED  
**\$5,000**

## High Frequency Rider Stops

| 2023-2024                  | 2024-2025                  | 2025- 2026 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Spring River Mental Health | Spring River Mental Health | TBD        |
| King Cash                  | King Cash                  | TBD        |
| Mercy Clinic Orthopedics   | Cowtown Liquor             | TBD        |
| Cowtown Liquor             | Cherokee County Courthouse | TBD        |
| Dollar General             | CHC-SEK                    | TBD        |
| Harps                      | Fresenius Kidney Care      | TBD        |
| CHC-SEK                    | Mercy Clinic Orthopedics   | TBD        |
| Galena Municipal Court     | Celltron                   | TBD        |
| Cherokee County Courthouse | USPS                       | TBD        |
| USPS                       | American Bank              | TBD        |
| Columbus Municipal Court   | Family Dollar              | TBD        |
| Comfort Inn                | Harps                      | TBD        |