

People Mover to mark milestone with free bus rides on Thursday

Sometime this week, the 75 millionth passenger will step aboard a People Mover bus, according to Anchorage's Public Transportation Department.

The city's bus service, which began in July 1974, is a cause for celebration, and so the People Mover will be free for all riders on all routes Thursday, the agency said.

People Mover ridership has increased over the past year, especially during January and February of this year when about 660,000 trips were taken during the department's Care About Air free-ride campaign.

The buses' impact on the community is enormous, transportation director Bob Kniefel

said. The buses are particularly important to residents without vehicles who depend on them to get to their jobs, places for shopping and medical visits, Kniefel said.

The department has scheduled a press conference for 12:30 p.m. today on the third level of the Anchorage 5th Avenue mall to discuss bond Proposition 7 on the April 3 ballot.

The bond, which would cost property taxpayers \$2.18 for each \$100,000 of assessed value, would fund several capital projects and bring in \$4 in federal matching money for every \$1 approved by Anchorage voters, the agency said.

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