

# People Mover offers new airport route, free-ride day

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People living and working near Anchorage International Airport will have a new way to get around starting Tuesday — a city bus.

That's when the People Mover bus system resumes service to the airport, which was halted in 1994 by budget cutbacks. Growing and new businesses in the area — from an expanded Federal Express to a proposed seafood plant — justify the route, said

Bob Kniefel, the city's director of public transportation.

Buses will travel the airport route four times a day, going from the downtown transit center to Spenard Road with various stops, including the airport post office and the domestic and international terminals.

Kniefel said ridership is expected to be slow at first on Route 6 but should pick up to an average of 25 riders per hour by January.

The bus service is targeting the 7,000-plus people who work in

the airport area more so than tourists, but may add more trips later, he said. The new service will cost the city \$80,000 to operate through the end of the year.

On Wednesday, People Mover is offering free bus rides all day and is giving away a packet of flower seeds to each rider, with the goal of introducing more people to the bus system. It also will be celebrating the new bus route with a ceremony at the airport at 11 a.m., and entertainment and a drawing for prizes between 11:30

and 1 p.m. at the downtown transit center.

Beyond the new route, People Mover is making other changes. Every city bus now has a \$600 bike rack on the front, Kniefel said. Some people are biking into work and taking the bus home.

"Now everyone is asking for ski racks for the winter," Kniefel said. "We will have to wait and see on that one."

People Mover is not operating on Memorial Day. For information on routes, call 343-6543.

## Route of new city bus service to airport



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