

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Hall Area Transit (HAT) has served the City of Gainesville and Hall County since 1983. As the public transit service provider for the County, HAT's mission is to provide efficient, effective, and affordable public transportation allowing riders to access employment, retail shops, recreational facilities, medical offices, social service agencies, government offices, and other key destinations.

HAT provides public transportation to the urban and rural portions of Gainesville and Hall County. Services include scheduled fixed route service and paratransit service within the City of Gainesville and a demand-responsive van service in the outlying areas of the County. The urban fixed route service, known as the Red Rabbit, consists of three (3) fixed routes with coverage of major transportation corridors, such as:

- Browns Bridge Road/Jesse Jewell Parkway
- Limestone Parkway
- John W. Morrow Jr. Parkway
- Athens Street/Athens Highway
- Dawsonville Highway

HAT also provides convenient access to local community service/civic venues and to a number of other key destinations, including but not limited to:

- Downtown Gainesville
- Hall County Library
- Lakeshore Mall
- Georgia Department of Labor
- Hall County Health Department
- The Village Shopping Center
- Georgia Mountains Center
- Gainesville Public Utilities, at Red Rabbit Transfer Station
- U.S. Social Security Administration Field Office
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC)
- NGMC Lanier Park Hospital
- Sherwood Plaza

Access to HAT's demand-responsive van service can be attained by contacting HAT 48 hours in advance to reserve service. Vans are equipped with special lifts and service is provided on a curb-to-curb, shared-ride basis. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, HAT provides complementary paratransit service within a three-fourth mile distance of Red Rabbit fixed routes to persons with disabilities, who by virtue of their disability are unable to access or use the Red Rabbit services.

The Transit System Map (Figure 1-1) illustrates HAT's current coverage area for fixed route service.

Figure 1-1: HAT System Route Alignment

