

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

I was approached by the Mayor of Poteet, Willie Leal, to discuss the viability of a daily transit or bus system between the Tri-Cities. I told him that I felt it was a reasonable thing to research, but too costly to take on without outside help. AACOG (Alamo Area Council of Governments) runs the ART (Alamo Regional Transit) program and, I explained, would be a good resource to consult with. I want to thank Mayor Leal for the forethought to bring this up.

The present ART program in Atascosa County will transport one within the city, within the county and from the county up to two counties over. It requires a one-day advance notice and is door to door service (call 866-889-7433). The rates are: in town \$2, In same county \$6, one county over \$8 and two counties over \$12. Those are one way. I think they are very reasonable rates when you consider what it costs to drive a car. What is being considered in addition to this is a transit circuit between Poteet, Jourdanton and Pleasanton that would be at public transit stops in each town. The Mayors of Pleasanton, Jourdanton and Poteet met with me, Commissioner Gillespie and the Director of ART – Sean Scott. I feel the meeting was a very positive one. This service would be much cheaper to the rider – such as a \$1.00 for each boarding. It is not free to the governmental authorities as the current ART program is. If it comes together the circuit would be funded by a participatory agreement between the county and the cities and AACOG. We are a growing county and a transit service would be a great economic asset to businesses in the area. I will keep you advised.

Quote: “You can lead a man to congress, but you can’t make him think.” -Milton Berle

Thank you for listening. We want you to be proud of your county government.