

## CHARTER BUS SERVICE

TCATA provides very limited charter service. Due to governmental restrictions, as a publicly-funded agency TCATA is prohibited from competing with private enterprise.

### Special Rules Apply to TCATA Charters

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), issued a final rule amending 49 CFR Part 604 (73 FR 2326), on January 14, 2008, which governs the provision of charter service by recipients of federal funds from FTA.

The final rule became effective on April 30, 2008, and clarified existing requirements; set out a new definition of “charter service”; allowed for electronic registration of private charter providers, which replaced the old “willing and able” process; included a new provision allowing private charter operators to request a cease and desist order’; and established more detailed complaint, hearing, and appeal procedures. In accordance with this rule we are required to request the following information:

TCATA provides public transportation services and may provide charter service only under the following exceptions defined in the final rule.

Exceptions Include:

1. Government Officials (limited to 80 hours annually)
2. Qualified Human Service Organizations (QHSO) qualified groups serving elderly, disabled, and low income (qualified organizations listed in Appendix A of 49 Part 604)
3. Leasing
4. Agreement with other private operators
5. When no registered charter provider responds to a notice sent by recipient
6. Petitions to the Administrator

Your request for charter service must fall under one of the approved exceptions listed above in order for TCATA to provide charter service for you or to your entity. Exception # 5 provides for notice to charter providers by recipient for charter service request. When no registered charter provider responds to a notice TCATA can then provide charter services.

When buses or vans are available, charter service is granted on a first come - first served basis based on the charter service guidelines below.

- Wheelchair-accessible buses are available.
- We do not schedule overnight charters.
- We do not originate charters outside of the TCATA current service area: City of Benton Harbor, Benton Charter Township and the City of St. Joseph.

**For more information about this service please contact:**

**Bill Purvis, Director**

**269-927-2268**