



Transit Driver Appreciation Day takes on new meaning during Coronavirus crisis

March 18, 2020 – With everything going on in the news about novel Coronavirus, SMART wants to take a moment to pay homage to the extraordinary commitment our drivers are displaying during this difficult time. SMART service is a lifeline, especially now for many people who are essential workers at healthcare facilities and for people who need to get to treatments that cannot be put on hold. We are thankful not only for our drivers but for Chicken Shack, which has wholeheartedly supported this effort, that we all take a moment to acknowledge Transit Driver Appreciation Day today.

“SMART is a mission-critical service that is a lifeline for many who need to get to work, medical appointments or treatments, as well as people who need to get to the grocery store,” said Robert Cramer, Deputy General Manager of SMART. “Our drivers are putting in an extraordinary effort to keep all SMART services on the road, especially during this difficult time. We thank them for their commitment and dedication to keep SMART rolling.”

This is a great opportunity for all of our riders to let our drivers know that they are appreciated, and say thank you. It’s become apparent now more than ever how critical public transportation is, and what a difference our drivers make in so many people’s daily lives.

SMART and Chicken Shack are partnering for a second year to recognize the faces behind public transportation. Transit Driver Appreciation Day is today, March 18th, but SMART is extending this celebration to the entire month. Chicken Shack is generously supporting this effort to acknowledge each member of the team, including those who work behind the scenes.

“At Chicken Shack, we treat our employees as family and partner with companies who share our same values. The bus drivers provide an important service to the community and it’s our privilege to give them something special to let them know we appreciate all their hard work,” said Neil Sobeck, Vice President of Chicken Shack.

While every department is valuable to SMART and to keeping us rolling, we understand that there is a special bond between drivers and riders. SMART is inviting our riders to join in on recognizing drivers. To prevent the spread of the virus, we are asking riders to verbally thank a driver or send us the message on Facebook and we will post it internally. Let us know which card you like (available online) and we make sure your driver gets the message!

Serving since 1967, SMART is southeast Michigan’s only regional public transportation provider, offering convenient, reliable and safe transportation for Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties. Through SMART’s small bus programs, over 2.1 million rides are provided to seniors and people with disabilities annually to connect people to employment and educational institutions, medical appointments and shopping centers. SMART is supported by federal and state funding, local contributions through a transit property tax millage from opt-in communities and bus fares. For routes and fare information, visit www.smartbus.org or call Customer Service at 866-962-5515 to talk with a representative.

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