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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Transit service connects fort, communities

For the first time, the Manhattan, Fort Riley and Junction City areas are connected by public transportation.

The service, provided by aTa Bus, will allow riders to travel from one community to the next, with a number of stops on the Fort Riley military post. The service is a hybrid of a traditional, fixed-route service and a demand-response service. There will be fixed pick-up times and locations, but to avoid over-booking, riders will call to schedule rides on the bus.

"This service is a direct result of our efforts to provide regional, centrallydispatched transit service in Kansas communities," said Joel Skelley, state multimodal planner for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

"Through a partnership of the state and the Flint Hills Area Transportation Agency, the communities will have an interconnected service that will be more efficient than what could be provided by individual providers and easier for riders to use."

The service will operate from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. One bus will originate in Manhattan, and another in Junction City. Rides will cost \$2 each way within a three-mile radius of the city limits of Manhattan, Fort Riley and Junction City. Rides outside those limits are \$4 each way.

11-033

To call for a ride or get information about schedules, call 1-877-551-6345. For more information about aTa, visit <u>www.rileycountyks.gov/ATA</u>.

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This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats upon request. For information about obtaining an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, 700 SW Harrison St., 2nd FI West, Topeka, KS 66603-3754 or phone 785-296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired – 711.