

## **2.5 EXISTING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Regional transportation coordination plans prepared for NACOG, SEACOG and CAAG identified six public transit systems servicing the general public within the Eastern Regional Framework Study Area. The same reports noted there are over 20 specialized transit services primarily servicing seniors and persons with disabilities.

Only one public transit system operates within the Mogollon Rim Focus Area. Approximately 16 percent of the regions specialized transportation providers service the residents of the focus area. Although no public transit exists in the Copper Country Focus Area, almost 20 percent (19.4 percent) of the region's specialized transportation offers coverage to the area; another 12 percent overlap services between the Copper Country and Mogollon Rim Focus Areas between the City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside. Over 80 percent of the Eastern Region's public transit options and about half (48.4 percent) of specialized transportation services operate within the Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus area.

### **2.5.1 Local and Regional Transit Systems**

#### **Mogollon Rim Focus Area**

The Four Seasons Connection is the only public transit system which operates in the Mogollon Rim Focus Area. The service is a joint operation between the City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside. The service was started 1997, utilizing funding from the FTA Section 5311 (Rural Transit and Procurement) grant program for planning, capital, operating and administrative needs. The operation includes a fleet of four Ford E450 15-passenger vehicles.

The service runs on two routes—one serving Show Low and the other servicing the Pinetop-Lakeside area, with a connection to Hon-Dah on the Fort Apache Reservation. The two routes overlap, providing seamless service. The Four Seasons Connection operates Monday through Saturday from approximately 6:30 am to 6:25 pm, with 57 scheduled stops. The system operates on SR 60 from US 60 to the SR 73 junction at Hon-Dah, as well as US 60 within Show Low, diverting to local streets at various points.

#### **Copper Country Focus Area**

There are no public transit services within the focus area.

#### **Cochise-Santa Cruz Focus Area**

Catholic Community Services (CCS) in Southeastern Arizona operates most public transit services within Cochise County.

For express service within the county, CCS operates the Cochise Commuter that provides two roundtrips – 8:35 am and 1:00 pm – Monday through Saturday commencing in the city of Douglas. The route has two scheduled stops in Bisbee and five additional stops in Sierra Vista where riders may transfer to Sierra Vista Transit. With major funding through FTA Section 5311 and additional capital monies from FTA Section 5310 (Elderly & Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program), Cochise Commuter operates service utilizing two medium sized 26- and 22-passenger buses.