

7 David Bruffy

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When David Bruffy first became general manager of Mountain Line Transit Authority, in October 1997, there were only 200,000 passenger trips a year. The authority had 18 employees, 18 buses and a budget of \$900,000.

In 2009, Mountain Line had grown to 1 million passenger trips, 65 employees, 39 vehicles and a budget of \$3.8 million.

In a little more than 11 years, Bruffy said, his main priorities were to establish a relationship with WVU, advertise the transit service and provide more bus stop shelters.

The single most important accomplishment in his time with the transit service was the relationship formed in 2002 with WVU, Bruffy said in 2009. By setting up a contract with the university to reimburse Mountain Line for rides, more WVU students than ever were riding the bus, and the authority had even set up a late-night service. In 2008, about 350,000 student trips were taken using the blue and gold route service, which runs from Sunnyside to the Evansdale Campus and back.

Another big change for the transit authority was the deviating fixed-route service, which allowed for disabled customers who couldn't make it to a bus stop to call ahead of time and have the bus drivers pick them up at their houses.

Under Bruffy's leadership, Mountain Line's main transfer center and manned service center moved to the depot at the riverfront in 2000. In July 2005, another Mountain Line building, which serves as the administrative and service building, was opened in Westover, on Dupont Road. It's a 40,000-square-foot space that includes a drivethrough bus watch and enough space to house all of the buses at night.

Bruffy was born in Webster County, and because his dad traveled for his job, he moved to Randolph County, Charleston, Morgantown and then to Elkins as a child. Upon graduation from high school, in Elkins, he attended WVU, where he received a bachelor's in political science in 1985 and a master's in public administration in 1987. He interned at the Greater Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce Region 6 Development Office while working on his master's. Following graduation, he worked for the City of Morgantown for 10 years in the personnel department, building inspections, planning and then as assistant city manager.

In October 1997, he interviewed with the seven-member transit board for the general manager position at Mountain Line.

In addition to his work at Mountain Line, Bruffy is a member of the American Society of Public Administration and was president of the West Virginia Public Transit Association. He also serves on the Mon-Morgantown MPO Technical Advisory Committee, the Mon-Morgantown MPO Policy Board and the Governor's Transportation Coordinating Council, and is the West Virginia delegate to the Community Transportation Association of America.

He urges people who are interested in public transit to join Mountain Line's Citizen's Advisory Committee. There are also community input forms on the authority's website, busride.org.



Jason DeProspero/The Dominion Post file photo David Bruffy.