

# BABS

BLACKSTONE AREA BUS SYSTEM



# Transit Guide

Blackstone Area Bus System

Author – Joshua Worrell  
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## Dear Rider:

Thank you for choosing the Blackstone Area Bus System (BABS) as your choice of public transportation!

Since 2003, BABS has grown from a single locality route to a multi-county and multi-town system spanning over a substantial geographic area. As the counties and towns we service continue to progress, expand and grow, BABS is committed to meeting the needs of all we serve.

I am pleased to oversee the management and operations of BABS and to continue to move the system forward in an efficient, effective, and progressive manner while also ensuring the safety and security of all users. Public transportation is essential for a community to thrive and prosper in a rural area. It is a vital function for sustainable health and wealth of individuals not fortunate enough to possess their own transportation or to those merely seeking an affordable and reliable means of transport.

It is our mission here at BABS to provide safe, reliable, and efficient public transportation throughout the rural areas of the Heartland and Southern Virginia.

Our Transit Guide covers items such as how to ride the vehicle, schedule rides, fare costs, pass information, rules for riding and more. The purpose of this document is to provide information to all individuals who use or who are interested in using services provided by BABS.

Thank you for your interest in BABS and for trusting us to get you where you need to go!

Sincerely,



Joshua Worrell  
Transit Director – Town of Blackstone  
Transit Manager – Blackstone Area Bus System

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## Contact Us

**Address:**

101 BABS Lane  
Blackstone VA, 23824

**Phone:**

434.292.3025

**Fax:**

434.292.3026

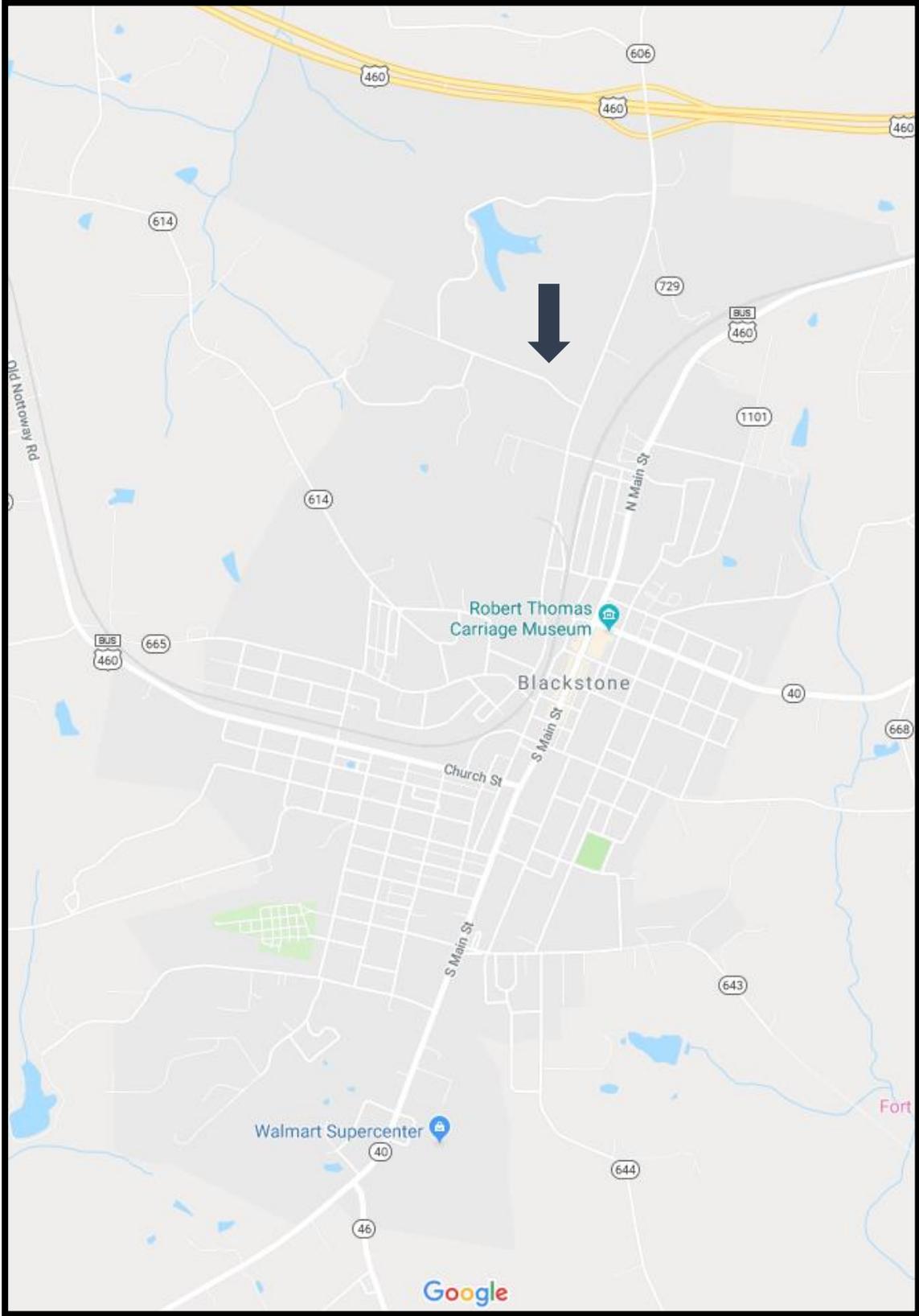
**Contacts:**

Joshua Worrell – Transit Manager

Janet Matthews – Assistant to the Transit Manager

Mary Murphy – Operations Assistant, Dispatcher

*Blackstone Area Bus System Location*



## A Brief History

BABS began operations in 2003 within the Town of Blackstone. At the time, public transportation services were only located within the town limits and did not exist in the surrounding areas. In 2007 BABS began planning for the construction of a central location and base of operations. By this time, several new routes had emerged and were under the management of BABS. In 2008 a new central location was constructed allowing for a base of operations and a maintenance facility capable of overseeing and administering any repairs BABS may need to the growing fleet.

Since 2003, BABS has overseen the creation or annexation of six (6) public transportation routes resulting in the management of seven (7) routes total. These routes now service the towns of Crewe, Burkeville, Kenbridge, Victoria, Alberta, and McKenney as well as the Counties of Nottoway, Lunenburg, Brunswick, Prince Edward, Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, and Dinwiddie. There are also several route expansions and the creation of a new route being planned or underway.

As BABS continues to grow and expand, we are committed to ensuring the goal and mission of providing safe, affordable, and reliable public transportation to our existing services and all future services.

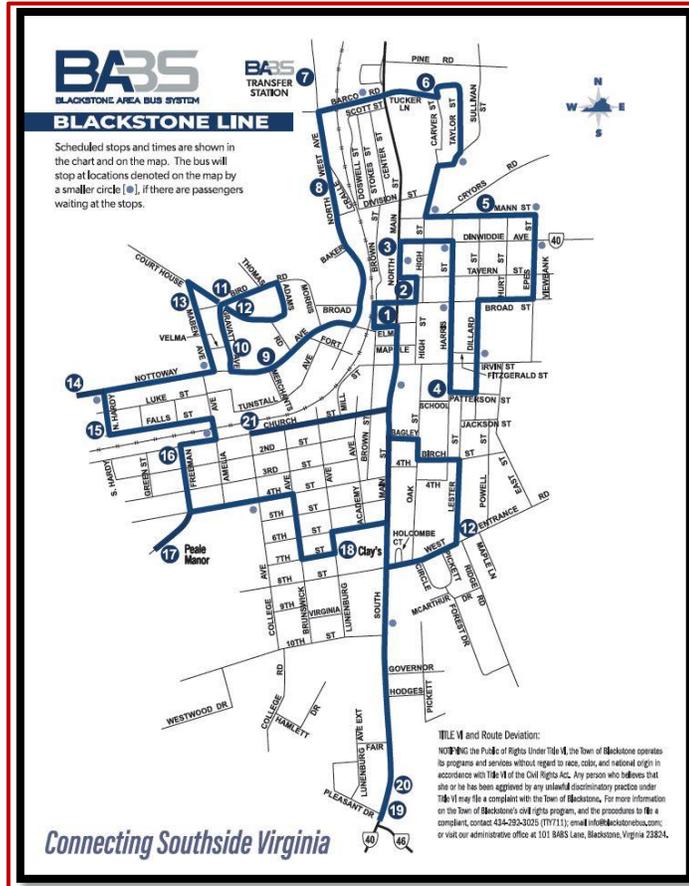
As a public transportation provider, BABS is very pleased to be overseeing the everyday operations and management of all services within Southside Virginia and the Virginia Heartland currently under its jurisdiction. Thank you for Choosing BABS!

## How to Use our Brochures

Route brochures may be obtained on any of our vehicles, on our website, on our Facebook page, or at our location. Here is how to use them:

1. Determine which route you are attempting to board
2. Determine which stop you are attempting to reach. These are arranged in numerical order
3. Find your location on the map. You must reach the closest designated stop to your current location in order to board the vehicle
4. Once you have determined which stop you must reach from your current location, check the timetable to verify when you must reach that stop to be able to board the vehicle. We encourage all riders to reach their stop at least five (5) minutes early

A visual guide has been provided on the following page.



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### BLACKSTONE LINE

The Blackstone Line runs from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Monday - Friday, and from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

	AM					PM					
1 Elm St. & Main	6:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00
2 Tavern & N. Main	6:01	7:01	8:01	9:01	10:01	11:01	12:01	1:01	2:01	3:01	4:01
3 Blackstone Medical	6:02	7:02	8:02	9:02	10:02	11:02	12:02	1:02	2:02	3:02	4:02
4 Patterson & Harris	6:05	7:05	8:05	9:05	10:05	11:05	12:05	1:05	2:05	3:05	4:05
5 Mann St. Apts.	6:08	7:08	8:08	9:08	10:08	11:08	12:08	1:08	2:08	3:08	4:08
6 Carver & Tucker	6:12	7:12	8:12	9:12	10:12	11:12	12:12	1:12	2:12	3:12	4:12
7 BABS	6:15	7:15	8:15	9:15	10:15	11:15	12:15	1:15	2:15	3:15	4:15
8 Northwest Ave.	6:16	7:16	8:16	9:16	10:16	11:16	12:16	1:16	2:16	3:16	4:16
9 Nottoway Commons	6:18	7:18	8:18	9:18	10:18	11:18	12:18	1:18	2:18	3:18	4:18
10 Gravatt Ave.	6:19	7:19	8:19	9:19	10:19	11:19	12:19	1:19	2:19	3:19	4:19
11 Pinewood Apts.	6:21	7:21	8:21	9:21	10:21	11:21	12:21	1:21	2:21	3:21	4:21
12 Bentley Place	6:22	7:22	8:22	9:22	10:22	11:22	12:22	1:22	2:22	3:22	4:22
13 Mohen Ave.	6:23	7:23	8:23	9:23	10:23	11:23	12:23	1:23	2:23	3:23	4:23
14 Cole Harbour Apts.	6:25	7:25	8:25	9:25	10:25	11:25	12:25	1:25	2:25	3:25	4:25
15 Hardy & Falls	6:27	7:27	8:27	9:27	10:27	11:27	12:27	1:27	2:27	3:27	4:27
16 Magnolia Place Apts	6:29	7:29	8:29	9:29	10:29	11:29	12:29	1:29	2:29	3:29	4:29
17 Peele Manor	6:32	7:32	8:32	9:32	10:32	11:32	12:32	1:32	2:32	3:32	4:32
18 Clay's Assisted Living	6:37	7:37	8:37	9:37	10:37	11:37	12:37	1:37	2:37	3:37	4:37
19 Food Lion	6:43	7:43	8:43	9:43	10:43	11:43	12:43	1:43	2:43	3:43	4:43
20 Walmart	6:47	7:47	8:47	9:47	10:47	11:47	12:47	1:47	2:47	3:47	4:47
21 College & Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4:52

**BLACKSTONE LINE**

**Schedule and Route Map**

Effective July 2019

**Fare 50¢**

BABS buses are ADA accessible, and equipped with the latest wheelchair lifts and securement systems. Please ask the driver for help if you need assistance when boarding the bus.

The Blackstone Area Bus System is sponsored by the Town of Blackstone, with assistance from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

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# How to Ride Our Transit Vehicles

## Scheduling Pick-ups and Drop-offs:

BABS operates a fixed route system with some deviation. Individuals may request to be picked up or dropped off at approved locations with at least 24-hour notice and within  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the fixed route. No exceptions will be made without the express approval of the Transit Manager. All disabled individuals are encouraged to utilize this service as some may find it difficult to reach a fixed stop.

## Boarding the Vehicle:

Individuals may ride any BABS' vehicle at designated stops along each route. Some stops are designated for multiple routes. To ensure you are boarding the desired line, ask our drivers for their route information. They will be able to direct riders to the proper vehicle. Riders may also simply check the destination signs to ensure they are boarding the correct vehicle. Please ensure you are visible to the driver at the designated stop. Otherwise, the driver may not see you. Please end or pause telephone conversations and have exact fare or your pass ready before boarding.

For individuals with disabilities, all vehicles come equipped with wheelchair ramps which may be used upon request. Be sure to hold onto handrails as you find a seat.

All mobility devices, such as wheelchairs and scooters, must be secured in the designated areas of the vehicle and must conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition of a wheelchair.

Once seated on the vehicle passengers are required to fasten their seatbelts.

## Exiting the Vehicle:

Please be observant of your location. At a reasonable distance from your desired stop, signal the driver to let you off by pulling the cord located on

either side of the vehicle. If you are not familiar with the area just ask our drivers. They are familiar with the areas of service.

Once the vehicle has stopped, look around your immediate area to ensure you are leaving no personal belongings behind. You may exit via the front door of the vehicle.

For your safety and for the safety of others, when existing the vehicle, hold onto to the hand rails while descending the steps until you are clear from the door.

If you have a disability or have difficulties descending the steps of the vehicle you may request to use the wheelchair lift for exiting. Once in place on the lift, you will be required to grasp the safety railings until the driver clears you to exit the lift pad. Do not move from your placement or release the safety rails while the lift is in motion.

### **Lost and Found Items:**

Any personal item(s) left on the bus can be retrieved at any time during our normal business hours at BABS' location. You will be required to provide the following information when retrieving:

1. Which route you were riding when item(s) was left
2. Date and time you left the item(s)
3. A description of the item(s) left

### **Reporting Suspicious Activities:**

You may report any suspicious activities to our staff who will take appropriate action of investigation. You will remain anonymous if desired. By being an extra set of eyes and ears on the vehicle, this helps ensure the safety and security of fellow passengers.

## Rules for Riding:

All riders are subject to and must follow these rules for riding our vehicles. Failure to comply with these rules and requirements may result in being refused access to our vehicles, removal from our vehicles, and loss of privileges to use our services.

1. Pay fare (exact change only), no courtesy rides will be given. No fare, no ride.
2. All riders must wear shirts, pants, and shoes
3. No riders are permitted to stand past the white line on our vehicles while they are in motion
4. All riders must use headphones if using audio devices
5. Each rider is permitted only one seat on vehicles
6. Packages are limited to what a rider can carry in one boarding without the assistance of the driver or other passengers and must remain in the riders lap. Items are not permitted in the aisles or in the ADA sections of the vehicle
7. Certified service animals are permitted on our vehicles so long as proper documentation can be provided. These animals ride for free and may occupy a seat directly next to the owner
8. No eating or drinking is permitted on our vehicles
9. No smoking, tobacco chewing, electronic cigarettes, or vaping is permitted on our vehicles
10. Blocking the aisles, doors, or stairwell of the vehicle is not permitted

**11.**Shoving, fighting, shouting, vulgare language, or other disruptive behavior are not permitted on our vehicles

**12.**Sleeping on our vehicles is not permitted

**13.**Flammable liquid containers, car batteries, tires, or hover boards are not permitted on our vehicles

## **Fare Information**

### **Types of Fares:**

BABS has several kinds of fares that can be used to board any of our vehicles. The first type is United States Currency. This can be in the form of coins or bills. However, exact change must be used to board the vehicle. Drivers will not provide change to break bills. All fares aside from the Blackstone Route and FASTC are \$1.00 per ride. The Blackstone Route and FASTC are \$0.50 per ride. The second type is passes:

- 1.** Punch Pass – this comes in the form of a single pass good for ten (10) rides on any BABS route. The cost is \$10.00 (\$5.00 for Blackstone Route and FASTC)
- 2.** Month Pass – this comes in the form of a single pass with unlimited rides for a specific month. The cost is \$25.00. These must be requested prior to effective date
- 3.** Tokens – this comes in the form of coin like tokens good for a single (1) ride. The cost is \$1.00 (\$0.50 for Blackstone Route and FASTC)

Passes and tokens may be acquired at the BABS location or at the Town of Blackstone Town Hall.

## Park and Ride

BABS offers park and ride services for all our routes. Riders may park their automobile, motorcycle, or bicycle at BABS' location and ride any of our routes departing from the terminal. This service is only available to individuals riding BABS' vehicles.

Our facility is under 24/7 surveillance and is patrolled regularly by the Blackstone Police. Riders can rest assured their property will be monitored while on location. BABS is not liable for any damages or loss of property while vehicles are located on site.

## Routes

BABS currently manages the operations of the following routes:

1. Blackstone Route – Town of Blackstone
2. Crewe-Burkeville Express – County of Nottoway, Town of Crewe, Town of Burkeville
3. Town and County Express – County of Lunenburg, Town of Kenbridge, Town of Victoria
4. Brunswick Express – County of Brunswick, Town of Alberta, Town of Lawrenceville
5. Piedmont A – County of Amelia, County of Prince Edward
6. Piedmont B – County of Buckingham, County of Cumberland
7. Dinwiddie – County of Dinwiddie, Town of McKenney
8. FASTC – Town of Blackstone

# Points of Interest

## 1. Blackstone Route:

- Blackstone Town Hall
- Walmart – Blackstone
- Food Lion – Blackstone
- Blackstone Medical

## 2. Crewe-Burkeville Express:

- Food Lion – Blackstone
- Crewe Medical
- Nottoway Courthouse
- Piedmont Geriatric
- Burkeville Medical

## 3. Town and County Express:

- Walmart – Blackstone
- Kenbridge Family Practice
- Southside Virginia Community College – Keysville
- Lunenburg Courthouse

## 4. Brunswick Express:

- Walmart – Blackstone
- Southside Virginia Community College – Alberta
- Food Lion – Lawrenceville

## 5. Piedmont Area Transit – Amelia:

- Longwood Visual Arts Center
- STEPS Inc.
- Amelia Courthouse
- Chula Junction

## 6. Piedmont Area Transit – Buckingham:

- Longwood Visual Arts Center
- STEPS Inc.
- Buckingham Social Services
- Cumberland Library

## 7. Dinwiddie Express:

- Dinwiddie Government Center
- Eastside Community Enhancement Center
- Petersburg Transfer Station

## 8. FASTC:

- Fort Pickett
- Walmart
- Historic Main Street

# Thank you for choosing BABS!

Connect with us on:

Facebook, @BlackstoneBus

or

[www.blackstonebus.com](http://www.blackstonebus.com)

Blackstone Area Bus System  
101 BABS Lane, Blackstone VA, 23824  
(434) – 292 3025