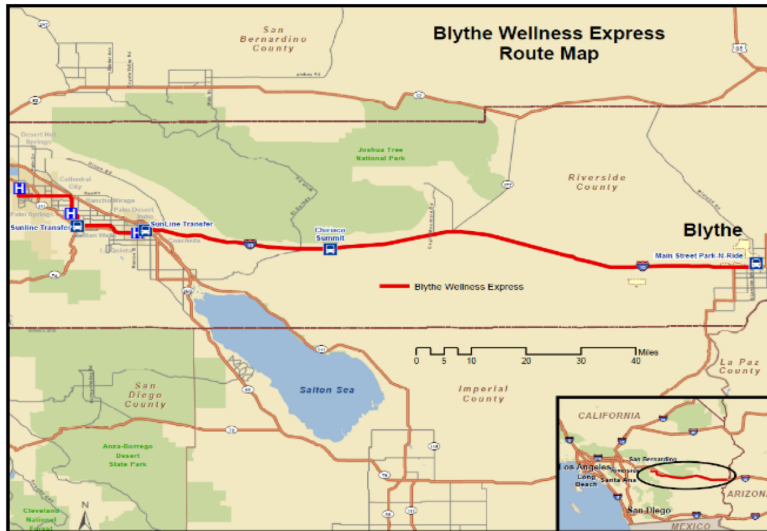




## FTA Rides to Wellness Grant Development for RCTC Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)



As part of its on-going technical assistance to RCTC's Multimodal Programs' staff, AMMA prepared and successfully secured a grant for FTA's new Rides to Wellness initiative. With assistance from RCTC's operations partner, Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency (PVVTA), and the community of Blythe, AMMA conveyed a steering committee, secured \$125,000 in in-kind and cash matching funds and 27 letters of support, developed a business plan, and prepared the grant in a short two-month time frame.

This project will provide currently non-existent non-emergency health care transportation from rural Blythe, CA to the Coachella Valley, nearly 100 miles away. **Blythe Wellness Express (BWE)**, a demonstration NEMT project for long-distance medical trips, designed to be responsive to health care outcomes of interest to FTA's Rides to

Wellness program for/in a rural, medically-disadvantaged and underserved community. The BWE features considerable community partnership lead by the Riverside County Transportation Commission and the small rural operator (PVVTA) as sub-recipient. It follows the design of similar and successful long-distance non-emergency medical transportation services. A three-tiered health outcomes evaluation is a unique feature of this transportation project, designed to track participants over time to demonstrate improved access to care and resultant improved compliance with treatment program. Selected measures will help to report on FTA's interest in improved health care outcomes as self-reported by participants, through reductions in emergency visits and hospital re-admissions, and in reduced healthcare costs.

The project was one of 19 projected selected for funding in 16 states, representing a 24% success rate. The Federal award was for \$185,753 and the total project cost is for \$311,578. AMMA continues to assist RCTC and PVVTA with implementation and preparing for a July 3, 2017 launch.