

Wifi free

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By Ben Cannon

Jackson Hole, Wyo.-START Bus passengers on the Teton Pass route connecting Jackson Hole to Teton Valley, Idaho, may now receive free wireless Internet on the bus. The free Wi-Fi access is part of a pilot program between START and a new regional transportation cooperative called Linx. Linx, which was created by the Yellowstone Business Partnership, provided all of the funding for the design, development, installation and maintenance” of the system, called LinxComm, a press release stated.

“START is glad to partner with Linx in this pilot program,” START director Michael Wackerly said in the release. “We hope that it is successful, and that we will have the ability to have this system on more of our buses.”

The Wi-Fi system should work much like one commonly found at a coffee shop: a user connects to a signal through his or her laptop or other hand-held device.

Beyond providing free access to the Internet, the LinxComm system could someday allow START bus managers to provide bus stop and bus status information in real time, as well as enable riders to purchase tickets online while the bus is already in motion.

While cellular service can be patchy along the mountain pass between Wyoming and southeast Idaho, START officials expect a consistent Wi-Fi signal.

A START motor coach leaves Driggs, Idaho, at 6:35 a.m. and begins its return from Jackson at 5:10 p.m.