NEWS RELEASE

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Yamato Transport Co., Ltd.

First in Kyushu: Pilot Operation Launched for "Nekomiya Bus," a Route-Bus-Type Public Ride-Sharing Service Transporting Passengers and Cargo Simultaneously in the Hyuga and Irigo Area of Miyazaki Prefecture

Miyazaki Kotsu Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Miyazaki-shi, Miyazaki; Representative Director and President: Koji Takahashi; hereinafter "Miyazaki Kotsu") and Yamato Transport Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and President: Seiichi Awa; hereinafter "Yamato Transport") will launch the pilot operation of "Nekomiya Bus," a route-bus-type public ride-sharing service, in the Hyuga and Irigo area of Miyazaki Prefecture (Hyuga City, Misato Town, Morotsuka Village, and Shiiba Village) starting Thursday, October 1, 2026. This project is conducted with support from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Miyazaki Prefecture, Hyuga City, Misato Town, Morotsuka Village, and Shiiba Village.

■ Overview of the Pilot Operation

The service will operate on the same routes and at the same bus stops as Miyazaki Kotsu's currently operating route buses. Prior reservation is not required, and anyone can ride. Yamato Transport's packages will be loaded into a dedicated cargo space at the rear of the vehicle at "Michi-no-Eki Togo" (Roadside Station Togo) and handed over to drivers waiting at bus stops in the pickup and delivery area.

•Name: Nekomiya Bus
•Period: Thursday, October 1, 2026, to Wednesday, March 31, 2027
*Some regular route bus runs will continue to operate in parallel during the pilot operation period.
•Operating Routes:
Michi-no-Eki Togo – Tsukabaru – Oshidani (Oshidani Line): 8 runs/day, operating distance 49.9 km
Michi-no-Eki Togo – Mikado / Hamakobashi (Mikado Line): 9 runs/day, operating distance 30.6 km
Michi-no-Eki Togo – Ikeno (Ikeno Line): 2 runs/day, operating distance 5.7 km
•Timetable: Please refer to the [Reference] section at the end of this volume.
•Fares, Boarding, and Payment Methods: Same as Miyazaki Kotsu route buses.
•Vehicles Used: Large one-box cars (maximum 4 passengers)
•Number of Vehicles: 3 (planned)
• Operational Structure

■ Background and Objectives of the Pilot Operation
In the Hyuga and Irigo area of Miyazaki Prefecture, population decline and aging are progressing rapidly, making the maintenance of daily transportation for residents—such as for shopping and hospital visits—an urgent challenge. Miyazaki Kotsu's route buses, which

serve as the sole public transportation connecting this wide region, face a difficult situation for business continuity due to declining user numbers, surging fuel prices, aging drivers, and a worsening shortage of manpower.
On the other hand, Yamato Transport also faces the challenge of balancing service quality maintenance with pickup and delivery efficiency in the area, as sales drivers make two round trips per day taking approximately 90 minutes one-way from the Hyuga Sales Office. To solve these regional issues, the pilot operation of a route-bus-type "public ride-sharing" service that transports passengers and cargo simultaneously will begin. By securing mobility for local residents while reducing Yamato Transport's pickup and delivery operations to one round trip per day, this initiative will contribute to building and maintaining sustainable regional infrastructure.
Moving forward, by accumulating evaluation results regarding usage status, operational methods, and implementation effects, the parties aim to establish a sustainable and robust regional transportation scheme toward full-scale operation in April 2027.

Contact

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Reference

Timetable
https://www.yamato-hd.co.jp/news/attachment/newsrelease_20260909_1_5.pdf（In Japanese only）