

# Inside RTA

AUGUST  
06

The RTA Letter is published bi-monthly for Greater Cleveland public officials and community leaders. Its goal is to keep you informed of important transit issues and developments, both in the news and behind the scenes.

## Local firms land 92 percent of construction contracts

**A message from Joe Calabrese,  
CEO and General Manager**

■ **UPDATE:** On June 20, the RTA Board of Trustees awarded the last two construction contracts for the Euclid Corridor Transportation Project. Construction on the new Silver Line is in full swing.

■ **92 PERCENT:** I am pleased to report that 92 percent of the contract value has been awarded to prime contractors from Northeast Ohio. This represents \$121 million of the \$131 million in construction-related dollars, and we are delighted at the economic impact this has created. This was pointed out in a recent story in Crain's Cleveland Business. We hope other media pick up on this story – a major success for the project and for our region. Although I am very pleased at these results, I would have certainly been even more pleased if 100 percent of the contractors

were local. The FTA forbids geographic preferences in the award of any contract.

■ **94 COMPANIES:** Just as exciting is the fact that approximately 94 different companies are, or will be, working on this project, and sharing in the economic development vision our community has for the Euclid Corridor.

■ **JUST ONE:** Only one major contract awarded to a company outside Northeast Ohio. This firm specializes in the fabrication of passenger stations, and is known as the premier company of its kind in the nation. Although their headquarter facility is not in Ohio, they will be subcontracting a significant portion of the work to a minimum of two local subcontractors from Cleveland, for the assembly and installation of the passenger stations.

## New timetables needed for Aug. 20 service changes

■ **ROUTES:** New timetables go into effect Aug. 20 for these bus routes: #1, #2, #4, #5, #6, #7X, #9X, #14, #15, #15F, #19, #22, #25B/W, #32X, #35, #36, #37, #41A/C, #42, #46, #49F, #51X, #70, #76X/F, #78, #79A/B, #83, #86, #86F, #135, #145Y/R, #239, #326

■ **GLENWILLOW:** The #41A is being extended in Glenwillow Village, from Tinkers Court to Emerald Valley Parkway, to better serve more places of employment. The #41A will continue to serve the corner of Cochran Road and Bruce Industrial Parkway, but will no longer operate on Bruce. That change was suggested by Glenwillow City Manager Donald Payne and reviewed by RTA Service Planning.

■ **OTHER CHANGES:** A revised set of supplemental service timetables has been issued. The #20C bus, which runs each summer from Public Square to the Metroparks Zoo, will end Aug. 19.

■ **NEW TIMETABLES:** New timetables are posted at rideRTA.com. They are also available at RTA's Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St., and at the Customer Service Center at Tower City. For more information, or to receive a new timetable by mail, call the RTAnswerline, 216-621-9500.

■ **CIRCULATOR:** RTA has proposed a route change for the #821 Community Circulator, which serves Shaker Square, Coventry, Little Italy and University Circle. A public hearing was held July 11, and a public comment period ended July 25. As of August 2, the matter is still being reviewed, and no decision has been made.

# Construction crews work hard to keep project on track

■ **WEATHER OR NOT:** This section includes the “tentative” construction schedule for the rest of the Euclid Corridor project. All work depends on the weather – how much rain, how much snow, how low is the temperature. The weather will also dictate how early in the spring crews can start, and how late the construction season will last in the fall. In all cases, one lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction

■ **PUBLIC SQUARE:** Work on the Southeast Quadrant is underway and will be completed in September. If weather permits, work on the Northeast Quadrant will also be completed this year. Work on the other two sections is slated for 2007.

■ **DOWNTOWN:** Work on Euclid Avenue, from Public Square to East 14th Street, is slated for 2007. Work on the south side will start in January. Work on the north side will start in June. Work is already underway in the Playhouse Square-CSU area, from East 14th Street to the Innerbelt. The north side of Euclid Avenue is being done first.

■ **MIDTOWN:** Work is underway, from the Innerbelt to East 55th Street. Crews will shift to the south side of Euclid Avenue this fall. Work from East 55th Street to East 79th Street is slated for 2007.

■ **FAR EAST:** From East 79th Street to East 86th Street, work will begin this year and be completed in spring 2007. Work near the Cleveland Clinic (East 86th Street to East 107th Street), is slated for May-November 2007. Work in the area from East 107th Street to the Cleveland-East Cleveland border will be completed in 2007 and early 2008.

■ **PUBLIC INFORMATION:** Keeping workers apprised of a moving construction project has been a key challenge. Navigational cards were distributed to businesses impacted by the construction, to help travelers find the best routes and access to these businesses. Various businesses along these access routes were highlighted on the card. Presentations and on-site visits were conducted at various locations and businesses as part of the project’s Speaker Bureau. RTA staff attended construction meetings to obtain communication for construction alerts and public information releases.

■ **QUESTIONS?** If you need more information on the Euclid Corridor Project or RTA’s new Silver Line, call Project Officer Danielle Willis, 216-771-4144, or send e-mail to [dwillis@gcrta.org](mailto:dwillis@gcrta.org). You can also visit the project Web site, [euclidtransit.org](http://euclidtransit.org).

## RTA ridership continues to increase, a new record

■ **GOING UP:** RTA has now recorded 12 straight quarters of increased ridership, the longest sustained quarterly growth in the history of the agency. RTA’s quarterly report card shows a 1.3 percent ridership growth, or about 381,000 rides. The report card compares the first six months of 2006 with the first six months of 2005. Light rail was up 3.1 percent, Paratransit ridership was up 2.3 percent, and Community Circulator ridership increased 2.5 percent. All quarterly report cards are posted on [rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com).

■ **SAFETY:** Traffic safety – the number of preventable collisions per 100,000 vehicle miles -- also improved by 18.8 percent. The figure dropped from .96 in 2005 to .78 in 2006.

■ **ON-TIME:** On-time performance improved 6.5 percent. RTA buses and trains were on time 82 percent of the time in 2006, compared to 77 percent in 2005.

“We are delighted that more and more riders are benefiting from RTA. Everyone here at RTA is working hard to make service exceptional for our riders and our numbers show a significant success. We will continue to improve and provide an even better experience for our riders,” — Joe Calabrese, RTA CEO and General Manager

## Five new members appointed to RTA Board of Trustees

■ **NEW TEAM:** There are five new members on the 10-member RTA Board of Trustees. They will work with staff to guide the agency through the construction phase of the \$200 million Euclid Corridor Project.

■ **COUNTY APPOINTEES:** Cuyahoga County Commissioners have appointed three new members – former Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell, veteran labor leader Nick “Sonny” Nardi, and community activist Julian Rogers. They replace veteran Board members Allan Krulak and Beverly Burtzloff. One spot has been vacant since January, when Charles Patton resigned to become a Municipal Court judge.

■ **CITY APPOINTEES:** Hispanic leader Leo Serrano was named to replaced longtime Board member Francisco Molina. Valarie McCall, Chief of Governmental Affairs for Mayor Frank Jackson, was appointed to fill the seat formerly occupied by Shari Weir. Weir was noted for her work with RTA’s Citizen Advisory Board.

■ **OFFICERS:** George F. Dixon III was re-elected Board President, a position he has held since 1994. Cleveland Heights Mayor Edward Kelly was elected Vice President, to replace Beverly Burtzloff.

■ **CHAIRS:** Committee chairs are: Executive – George F. Dixon III, Operations – Jesse O. Anderson, Planning & Development – Mayor Jerry N. Hruby, and Finance – Mayor Dennis M. Clough.

■ **MEETINGS:** Committee meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday each month, and regular Board meetings on the third Tuesday. All meetings begin at 9 a.m. at RTA’s Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St., and are open to the public. Meeting dates for the rest of 2006 are: Aug. 15, Sept. 5 and 19, Oct. 3 and 17, Nov. 7 and 21, and Dec. 5 and 19.

■ **ADVISORY BOARD:** The 20-member Citizens Advisory Board meets on the second Thursday of each month, at 8:30 a.m. at RTA’s Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St. For information, call 216-566-5220.

## Transit Center opens this month near Parmatown Mall

■ **NEW HUB:** A new \$2.1 million transit center opens this month on a 1.8-acre site at 8555 Day Dr., just south of the Parmatown Mall, and in front of Fitworks and the Fox-n-Hound Restaurant. The transit center will improve service to Parma and all nearby suburbs, by connecting service from six bus lines -- #20A, #23, #45Y/R, #68, #79A and #145Y/R.

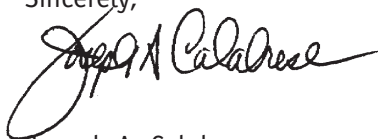
■ **THE FACILITY:** The project includes 52 parking places, and a 1,000 square foot building where customers

can wait in warmth, comfort and safety. Similar to an airport-waiting lounge, it is equipped with a state-of-the-art information system providing “real time” arrival and departure information on RTA services, fare vending machines, and other retail services.

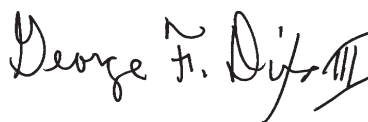
■ **FUNDING:** The Ohio Department of Transportation committed about \$200,000, which covered about 10 percent of the land acquisition and 10 percent of the construction. The contractor was East-West Construction, a local firm.

**IN CLOSING:** For information about RTA, visit the automated trip planner at [rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com), or call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500. If you would like more information on RTA, or if you have changes to the mailing list, send e-mail to [jmasek@gcrta.org](mailto:jmasek@gcrta.org) or call 216-566-5211.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Calabrese  
CEO/General Manager  
Secretary-Treasurer



George F. Dixon, III  
President  
Board of Trustees

# Insider NEWS from RTA

AUGUST 06

A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR GREATER CLEVELAND PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS



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