

Indians open season April 7 at Jacobs Field

Fans attending the Tribe home opener on April 7 are encouraged to:

- Ride RTA
- Allow extra travel time
- Plan to arrive early. The Walkway to Gateway opens, and other festivities begin, at 1 p.m. Gates open at 2 p.m., and the game against the Twins begins at 3:05 p.m.

RTA officials note that construction on many downtown streets, is going to affect nearly everyone who drives to the game.

Downtown parking lots could be full by the end of morning rush hour. RTA will begin extra rail service several hours before the game and continue it through the evening rush hour.

After the game, extra rail service will stay in place as long as needed to handle crowds.

“Considering the high cost of gasoline and parking, I think fans who hop on the train will really hit a home run with their savings,” says Joe Calabrese, RTA General Manager.

Fans can park free in the more than 7,000 spaces at RTA rail stations, and take the Rapid Transit to the game. RTA offers extra rail level service before and after each home game.

RTA's 1,050-foot Walkway protects fans from traffic and the weather. The Walkway begins at the Tower City food court and ends in the Quicken Loans Arena, just a short walk from Jacobs Field.

The Walkway opens two hours before each game, and remains open for 90 minutes after the game.

RTA urges customers to buy a \$3 All-Day Pass, which provides unlimited rides until 3 a.m. Use of the All-Day Pass improves crowd flow, especially after the game. All-Day Passes are available where you pay your fare. Please have exact change.

For service information, visit the automated trip planner at rideRTA.com, or call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500. Visit www.indians.com for other game info.

RTA in April 5 job fair

RTA and 40 other employers will participate in a job fair with the Catholic Charities Employment and Training Program on April 5, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Fatima Family Center, 6600 Lexington Ave., Cleveland.

The event is open to the public. Job seekers should bring an updated resume and dress to interview. Complimentary parking is available. For information, call 216-426-9870.

Nominate a volunteer

RTA seeks nominations for the F. Robert Wiesenberg Community Volunteer Award by April 28.

Nominees must be residents of Cuyahoga County, perform volunteer work in this region, and have demonstrated a willingness to get involved, an unselfish giving of oneself, an ability to lead others and a desire to enhance the quality of life in the community.

Nominations forms are available at rideRTA.com. If you have questions, call 216-566-5220.

Are you registered to vote?

The primary election is May 2. If you are not yet registered to vote, your registration card must be received at the Board of Elections by 4:30 p.m. on April 3. Visit boe.cuyahogacounty.us or call 216-443-3200 for more information.

Walk for diversity on May 6

RTA is a sponsor for the *Walk as One – Rock as One* diversity walk at 9 a.m. May 6 with the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). You are invited to form a team and step out for diversity. Call 216-752-3000 or visit www.nccj-northernohio.org.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



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Two new trolley routes begin service on April 10

Green trolleys, the first of their kind in the nation, will begin service on two new downtown routes on Monday, April 10. They will replace the current #147 loop service.

The trolleys will operate weekdays from 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. Both trolley routes will offer convenient service, with a frequency of every 10 minutes.

The #61 route will be known as the “E-Line” trolley – “E” for entertainment, “E” for Euclid Avenue, the main routes of the trolleys, and “E” for education, because a major stop on the “E” trolley route will be the Cleveland State University campus.

The route starts in the Warehouse District, serves Public Square, and travels up Euclid Avenue past the East Fourth Street entertainment area and Playhouse Square on its way to the CSU campus.

The #62 route will be known as the “B-Line” trolley – “B” for business. It serves the Warehouse District, Public Square, and businesses and government offices along Superior Avenue, East 12th Street and Lakeside Avenue.

The #247 loop will be re-named #47 **Tri-C/Muny Loop**. From Public Square to East 21st/22nd Street, it will operate on Prospect Avenue instead of Euclid Avenue. It will continue to use regular buses.

The #147 loop will be discontinued, but the #47 will offer some additional early-morning service.

Other routes are changing April 9, story inside.

Construction work finally begins on Euclid Avenue

Terrace Construction has begun work on Euclid Avenue to build RTA's new Silver Line.

Work started in Midtown, on the north side of Euclid Avenue, from the Innerbelt to E. 55th Street. From August to December, work will switch to the south side of Euclid Avenue.

In 2007, Terrace Construction will extend the work to E. 79th Street. The firm was awarded a \$22.66 million contract to rebuild two miles of Euclid Avenue, from storefront to storefront. More than 20 percent of the work will be done by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs).

Two additional construction packages for Euclid Avenue are expected to be awarded soon. RTA's new Silver Line will be fully operational in late 2008.

RTA points out that:

- At least one lane of traffic will always be open in each direction
- Bus service is being maintained
- All merchants will remain open, and all entrances to all businesses will be accessible.

"The new Silver Line will accelerate economic development here," says MidTown Executive Director James Haviland. "We will continue to work with RTA to minimize disruptions during construction, so customers can continue to do business here."

Joe Calabrese, RTA General Manager, agrees.

"We are working hard to minimize the natural disruptions caused by any construction project. We have individually contacted and visited all affected merchants. Entrances to all businesses will be accessible, and Euclid Avenue will remain open. These merchants offer many fine products and services, and we urge Clevelanders to continue to support them."

Construction-related questions?

- Call the Euclid Corridor Construction Hotline, 216-566-5178
- Call the Corridor satellite office, 216-881-7501
- Call Project Officer Danielle Willis, 216-771-4144

Some RTA timetables change April 9

RTA will change the timetables for a number of routes on Sunday, April 9.

Pearl Road Corridor

These changes are being made to **#51X** Pearl.

- During off-peak times, all trips will run the full length of the route, to and from the Drake-Howe Loop.
- In response to customer requests for improved service to South Park Mall, buses will operate southbound via Royalton Road and Howe Road, and northbound via Drake Road and Pearl Road, until about 3 p.m. After that, buses will operate southbound via Pearl Road and Drake Road, and northbound via Howe Road and Royalton Road.
- Adjustments will be made to the service frequency.
- The single-trip Bagley/W. 130th branch will be discontinued.
- In the AM peak, southbound #51X riders traveling beyond the Strongsville Park-N-Ride lot will connect to the #51F at the lot to complete their trip

On the **#51F/#251/#451**:

- Minor adjustments will be made to trip times.
- The single-trip #251 branch to West 130th Street will be discontinued.

Other timetable changes

Minor adjustments are being made to:

#9X Mayfield, **#15F** Warrensville Hts. Flyer
#19 Broadway-Miles, **#20** W. 11th St./Broadview
#20A W. 25th/State, **#22** Lorain Ave.
#23 Clark-Ridge, **#25B/W** Madison
#32X Cedar, **#35** Broadview-Quincy
#70 Bunts-W. 150th, **#78** W. 98th St.-Puritas
#81 Tremont-Storer, **#90F** Broadway-Libby
#94 E. 260/Richmond, **#239** Euclid Park-n-Ride
#263 North Olmsted Park-N-Ride
#326 Detroit-Superior
#803 St.Clair-Hough Community Circulator
Southeast supplemental service
Western supplemental service

To obtain a new timetable:

- Visit RTA's Customer Service Center in the Rotunda at the Tower City Station.
- Go to RTA's Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St.
- Log on to rideRTA.com
- To receive a timetable by mail, call the RTA answer-line, 216-621-9500, from 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Fare increase discussions continue with RTA Board and staff

RTA will hold at least six public hearings in late April and early May to gather comments on a proposed fare increase. On March 21, the RTA Board of Trustees directed the staff to proceed with the hearings, and outlined possible ranges for an increase in each fare category.

RTA has not had an across-the-board fare increase since 1993 – longer than any other major transit system in the nation.

Public comments will guide the staff in framing a precise fare increase, which will go to the Board in May. If the Board approves the fare increase at that meeting, new fares could take effect July 3.

A firm schedule of public meetings will be published in late March or early April.

RTA needs to generate at least \$8 million of additional revenue annually to offset projected deficits in the operating budgets in 2007 and 2008.