

RTA news briefs

E-xciting e-news: To subscribe to RTA's twice-a-month free e-mail newsletter, go to rideRTA.com, click on "Important Information", and fill in the information on the right-hand column.

Hail to the Chief: Monday, Feb. 19, is President's Day. RTA will operate regular weekday service.

Ch-Changing: On Sunday, March 18, RTA will adjust a number of routes as part of the spring service changes. New timetables will be needed. Complete details will be published in the March *Rider's Digest*.

Steelyard service: The #807 Tremont Community Circulator now serves the new Steelyard Commons on all trips, seven days a week. Weekday service runs from 5:45am - 7:15pm, and weekend/holiday service runs from 7:45am - 6:15pm. The #807 has a completely new schedule. Visit rideRTA.com or call 216-621-9500.

We are smoke-free: All RTA property is now smoke-free. This includes **all** indoor and outdoor areas -- rail stations, transit centers, park & ride facilities, bus shelters, buses and trains. Transit Police are enforcing these rules and will issue tickets when necessary.

Feb. 20: RTA Trustees meet at 9 a.m. at the Main Office Building, 1240 W. Sixth St. The site, accessible to disabled persons, is served by both trolley routes.

I C U at the Q: This month, Quicken Loans Arena hosts 7 Cavaliers games, a concert, a rodeo and a motorcross. RTA offers convenient service to each of these events. Just ride any Rapid train into Tower City, and use the Walkway to Gateway to stay warm and dry on your way to the action.

National news: Public transportation ridership increased nearly 3 percent in the first nine months of 2006, as Americans took 7.8 billion trips. Using public transportation saves the nation 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline every year, and can reduce household expenses by \$6,200 – more than the average household pays for food.

SMILE!

You're on transit camera, enjoy a safer ride

Taking a ride on RTA just became safer. RTA has decided to equip all new vehicles with a state-of-the-art camera system. The 11 trolleys were the first vehicles to boast that increased security when they rolled out last spring.

Now, 45 new buses – the 2800 series – also offer new and improved security, and the same kind of camera system. They were put into service in December.

They are built by NABI, burn ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, and, like all RTA buses, are equipped with bike ramps and are handicapped accessible.

RTA's total fleet includes more than 650 buses. New coaches are purchased every year, and are kept for at least 10 years.

RTA has also received a \$893,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to install a state-of-the-art video camera system on 60 Red Line heavy-rail vehicles.

Each day, Red Line vehicles are used by about 10 percent of the 200,000 people transported by RTA. The system should be fully operational by next fall.

A similar system is being purchased for 40 light-rail vehicles on the Blue and Green lines, as well as 16 cameras at rail station platforms, and all 21 Silver Line vehicles for the Euclid Corridor in 2008.

There are already 280 cameras watching RTA rail stations, bus facilities and parking lots. RTA has already spent \$2.7 million for existing cameras on vehicles and in facilities.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RTA ridership climbs for 4th straight year

Despite a mid-year fare increase and rapidly declining gas prices, RTA has recorded its fourth straight year of ridership increases.

That has not happened since RTA saw increases in five straight years, 1976-1980. RTA was created in 1975.

RTA CEO and General Manager Joe Calabrese says ridership is increasing because "customers see the continually increasing quality of our service." Calabrese pointed to this ridership growth:

- 52.7 million in 2002
- 53.5 million in 2003
- 55.5 million in 2004
- 57.1 million in 2005
- 57.2 million in 2006

RTA saw growth in four of its five modes – big bus, heavy rail, light rail and Paratransit.

- **Light rail:** up 5.1 percent
- **Big Bus:** up .05 percent
- **Heavy rail:** up 0.5 percent
- **Paratransit:** up 1.2 percent
- **Circulators:** down 2.0 percent

More than 380,000 passengers have jumped on the new downtown trolleys since they were introduced in April. More than 13,600 rides were provided during the week of Dec. 4 – a new record.

Bring your appetite to diverse eateries along the Euclid Avenue Corridor, near CSU

Construction continues along Euclid Avenue, as RTA prepares Cleveland for the new Silver Line. It will be fully operational in late 2008.

However, this is early 2007, and life goes on for merchants along the Euclid Corridor near Cleveland State University.

There are a number of fine eateries and outstanding owners in this area. Yes, Euclid Avenue is "Open for Business." RTA urges you to patronize these merchants while construction is on their doorstep.

The merchants listed here are served by many RTA bus lines, including the free E-Line trolley.

Diverse dining

Few places can offer as many diverse dining opportunities as Euclid Avenue. Just follow the aromas to the establishment that best appeals to you.

Rascal House, 2064 Euclid Ave., has been the center of this area for more than 40 years. Tied to a bar and Peabody's nightclub, the facility offers 150 seats, pizza items, a full menu and a take-out service. It's a common stop for people on their way to the Wolstein Center. Open 7 a.m.-2:30 a.m. daily, 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Sunday. 216-781-6784

Johnnie's Deli & Restaurant, 1840 Euclid Ave., offers breakfast and lunch specials, with reubens, corned beef, soups and other items. Open 5 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. 216-241-1818

Pizza Pan, 1800 Euclid Ave., offers buy 1, get 2 free, for all take-out orders. Open 10 a.m.-midnight Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday. 216-589-9998

Subway, 1800 Euclid Ave., is open 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday. 216-687-1017

Mr. Hero 1818 Euclid Ave., offers a 10 percent

discount to students who show their CSU ID. The restaurant accepts phone orders, Visa and Master Card. Open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. 216-574-9340, fax 216-574-9342

Café Ah-Roma, 2242 Euclid Ave., is a coffee-house with a diverse deli menu, popular chicken salad sandwiches, humus wraps, coffees and syrups. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 216-771-8700

Lodging

Comfort Inn, 1800 Euclid Ave., offers affordable rooms with a pool, fitness center, hot tub and complimentary continental breakfast. 216-861-0001

The Lofts, 1900 Euclid Ave., also offer a convenient location. 216-832-2586

Services

Ross Printing, 1846 Euclid Ave., offers quick copying and commercial printing. Open 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. 216-241-0282

Marino's Haircutting has been a fixture for more than 40 years at 1832 Euclid Ave. Open 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. 216-861-6044

Cousin's Cigars, 1828 Euclid Ave. Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. 216-781-9390

Work on Public Square and Lower Euclid Avenue begins Feb. 15

2007 construction season begins Feb. 15 in two areas for the Euclid Corridor Transportation Project

Public Square

Work will affect the Northeast Quadrant of Public Square (near the Key Tower), and adjacent streets. Work is expected to be completed in May.

Utility crews are working to prepare the area for construction. Construction work will begin as soon as the utility work is done. It will affect these streets:

- Westbound lane of Superior Avenue
- Northbound lane of Ontario Avenue
- Western end of Rockwell Avenue
- North section of East Roadway

Lower Euclid Avenue

Through June, the south side of Euclid Avenue will be a construction zone from Public Square to

East 14th Street by Playhouse Square.

Two-way traffic will be maintained on the north side of Euclid Avenue, with one lane in each direction.

Detours

If your bus or trolley uses one of these roads, you may be impacted by detours. Exact detours will be announced. For details:

- Look for Rider's Alerts posted on the buses and in the shelters.
- Visit rideRTA.com or euclidtransit.org
- Sign up for RTA's free e-mail newsletter. Go to rideRTA.com and click on "Important Information".
- Call the Project Office, 216-771-4144

RTA phone numbers

RTA Answerline (automated 24/7) 216-621-9500
TDD for hearing impaired216-781-4271
Customer Service.....216-566-5227
TDD for hearing impaired216-781-4757
Paratransit.....216-781-1110
TDD for hearing impaired216-781-6148
Transit Police (on duty 24/7)216-566-5163
Elevator Status Hotline216-566-5170
Main Office Building216-566-5100