

RTA on display at Cleveland Auto Show

Visitors to the Cleveland Auto Show can stop at the RTA display to see two unique public transit vehicles.

The display includes an MCI over-the-road coach, which has many more amenities than a standard bus, and a green old-fashioned trolley. On the weekends, bring your camera, and have your photos taken with a trolley ambassador in an old-time train conductor uniform.

The Auto Show runs Feb. 26-March 6 at the IX Center. Hours are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturdays, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. Sundays, and noon-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Adult admission is \$12 per person.

RTA staff will be there to provide information and answer questions. RTA will also have computers on hand. Show attendees will be able to access www.fundohiotransitnow.org and write to State officials about the importance of increased funding for public transit.

For more information, go to clevelandautoshow.com

Windermere station boasts new eatery

How about some toast before your transit trip?

Now you can, thanks to a new restaurant inside the Louis Stokes Station at Windermere, 14233 Euclid Ave. in East Cleveland.

Pastor David Mathis serves the Courts of Praise Church, 707 E. 159th St., in the Collinwood area. He and his staff also serve food at the Courts of Praise Café inside the Windermere station.

The restaurant is open seven days a week, from 4 a.m.-11 p.m., with full menus offered for breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus a special diabetic diet.

The Windermere station is ADA-accessible, and allows easy transfers from a number of bus lines, the HealthLine and the Red Line Rapid Transit.

For Your Safety

Be cautious, alert near railroad crossings

When trains and cars collide, the car always loses.

The average train weighs 12 million pounds, and, at 41 miles per hour, can cover 661 feet in 11 seconds.

To keep yourself safe, show trains the respect they deserve. Here are some safety tips for crossing train tracks safely.

- Remember, any time is train time.
- Slow down when approaching a railroad crossing and look both ways – twice.
- Never race a train to cross the tracks. Never pass another vehicle within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.
- Watch out for vehicles that **MUST** stop at railroad crossings, like school buses or trucks carrying hazardous materials.
- When approaching a crossing, roll down your windows, turn off the radio or air conditioner, and listen for whistles or bells.
- Always yield to flashing lights, whistles, closing gates or stop signs.
- Never shift gears on the railroad crossing. Down-shift before you reach it.
- If you must stop, keep a distance of 15 to 50 feet from the tracks. Since the tracks are four feet eight and a half inches wide, and the train hangs three feet past the rails on each side, be sure to leave enough space between your vehicle and the tracks.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Rider's Digest



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ODOT helps fund six new services

Thanks to \$2.2 million in funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), RTA will have several new services on the street by late spring.

The money is part of a \$10 million per year Next Generation fund, which was announced as a three-year program by ODOT in October. These funds allow transit agencies in Ohio to invest in services that benefit economic development and job access in urban centers.

More than 40 business and political leaders wrote in support of RTA's application.

ODOT approved funds for:

- C-Line Downtown Trolley is a unique route that will extend RTA's popular service. Currently, trolleys on two routes operate from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday. The new route will operate from 7-11 p.m. weeknights, and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. weekends, with a 10-minute frequency.
- "Rock-Line" is a weekend trolley that provides access to the Rock Hall, the Great Lakes Science Center and Voinovich Park on Cleveland's lake-front. This service will operate weekends from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Campus Connector will connect students at Cleveland State University and Cuyahoga

See New Service Inside

Painting of RTA station wins award

A Shaker Square artist has won a prestigious award for a watercolor of RTA's Coventry Road light-rail station on the Green Line.

Tim Myrick has received the Ampersand Aquabond Award for "Coventry Street Depot" in the North East Watercolor Society's 34th Annual International Juried Exhibition.

Judges said the landscape "captures the luminous early-morning light". The historic Tudor-style station house, at Shaker Boulevard and Coventry Road, was built in 1913, when a streetcar line started on Shaker Boulevard. It was last renovated in 1980.

Myrick says the station caught his eye one morning as he was walking his dogs.

"There was a shaft of light coming down the Rapid right-of-way that I had to capture," he says. He took a photo of it and based the watercolor on that.

Myrick, a native of Florida, is a 1981 graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art.

A selection of framed and unframed prints can be found at the Lake Erie Artists Gallery on Shaker Square. For copies of his original work and signed prints, go to: HowSweetTheSouth.com

Regular service on Presidents' Day

RTA will operate regular weekday service on Monday, Feb. 21, President's Day.

All RTA facilities, including the Main Office Building and the Customer Service Center at Tower City, will be closed.

All calls to the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500, will be answered by the automated attendant.

Warm news on a cold day

If you are looking for some welcome warm news on a cold, snowy day, try this:

RTA's newest transit stations are both moving rapid-ly toward their opening day, which will be, thankfully, in warmer weather.

Both will be ADA-accessible, and both are being built with federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

A new \$9.54 million Red Line Rapid Station at Puritas Avenue and West 150th Street is slated to open around Memorial Day in late May. The station, at 4200 W. 150th St., will offer entrances for both the main parking lot and the local neighborhood.

A new \$8.5 million station at East 55th Street is targeted for opening around Labor Day, in early September. It will serve all three lines – Red, Blue and Green. It is located just east of the present station, on the east side of East 55th Street, near the I-490 entrance.

Looking ahead to March

Be sure to pick up the *March Riders Digest* for information on the March 20 service changes, St. Patrick's Day on March 17, two major college basketball events at Quicken Loans Arena, and the Cleveland International Film Festival.

Nominate a top volunteer

RTA's Citizens Advisory Board is seeking nominations for the F. Robert Wiesenberger Community Volunteer Award.

The award honors the late Mr. Wiesenberger, who served on RTA's Advisory Board for more than 25 years.

Nominations will be accepted from individuals and organizations until April 1. Nomination forms are available at rideRTA.com.

If you have questions, call 216-566-5251.

New Service, from front

Community College's Metro Campus. Students who take classes at both schools will be able to make quicker connections between their classes.

- Southwest Connector, Southeast Connector and Steelyard Direct: Three new daily bus routes serving customers getting to work, medical facilities, grocery stores and other merchants. This will serve a large group of customers, from students to young professionals to senior citizens, in various communities.

Exact routing and schedules are being developed. RTA staff is coordinating a plan to launch these new services by late spring.

"We've listened to our community and developed these concepts with their input," says RTA General Manager Joe Calabrese. "We look forward to establishing these programs quickly and finding a way to sustain them into the future."

Initially a three-year program by ODOT, this funding is for one year, with the next two years requiring approval in the upcoming ODOT budget. RTA will also work with Northeast Ohio companies and organizations to provide additional funding and support to maintain these services.

Please visit fundohiotransitnow.org to ask that an additional 2 years of funding be approved in the upcoming State of Ohio budget.

Customer feedback program 10 years old

RTA's Ride Happy or Ride Free program is 10 years old this month.

In 2010, through the first 11 months of the year, RTA received one postcard for every 21,756 riders. The figure is an indicator of customer service.

When it was announced, it was believed to be one of the few programs of its kind in the nation.

A poster explaining the program is mounted in every RTA bus and rail cars.