

Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Mark this date! June 17 meeting set

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is giving you a chance to be heard.

A task force is examining transit planning in Ohio. Recommendations from the task force may result in a higher profile for transit at the Statehouse.

ODOT invites you to voice your concerns at a June 17 public meeting. Come to listen, or make a brief presentation on what public transit means to you.

RTA officials say a key point is state funding. State funding levels average 23 percent nationally, but in Ohio, that state funding accounts for only 3 percent of a agency's budget.

The task force will also look at:

- Transit's future. The population is rising at a rapid rate. The baby boomer generation is getting larger and 20 percent of seniors do not drive.
- Reasons that people use transit. About 60 percent of trips on the transit are work-related.
- The importance of transit to the disabled.

Tuesday, June 17, from 4-8 p.m

Joseph E. Cole Center, CSU, 3100 Chester Ave.

The site is ADA-accessible.

Ride the #6 to East 30th Station on Euclid Avenue and walk one block north or ride the #7 or #9 on Chester Avenue.

Ride RTA to July 2 free concert on Public Square

RTA offers the best ride to see the popular Cleveland Orchestra, as it offers a free Independence holiday concert at 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, on Public Square.

Pre-concert entertainment begins at 4 p.m. The concert ends around 10:30 p.m., when fireworks begin, weather permitting.

Several downtown streets will be closed for the concert and the set-up, and many RTA buses will be rerouted. Check rideRTA.com for details.

RTA offers more than 7,000 free parking places along its rail system, and all Red, Blue and Green line trains serve Tower City. Extra rail service will operate both before and after the concert.

Riders are encouraged to purchase an All-Day Pass. This will help speed up operations after the concert.

TWE workshop set for June 24 at RTA's Main Office

RTA is seeking persons, agencies or groups who want to sponsor improvements to transit waiting environments (TWE).

RTA will host a TWE workshop at 1240 W. Sixth St. at 10 a.m. on June 24. All interested sponsors are encouraged to attend. The workshop will include an overview of TWE, review of federal requirements, and time for questions. Sponsors are encouraged to meet with the RTA prior to submission.

Applications are due by Aug. 1. Direct questions to Project Manager Beth Long, bjlong@gcrta.org or 216-566-5260.

Campaign discourages giving to panhandlers

Panhandlers are one of the biggest day-to-day challenges of the Downtown Cleveland Alliance's clean and safe program. Last August, the DCA launched a behavioral campaign *Don't give where it can't help*.

Since then, there has been an estimated 40 percent decrease in funds being given to panhandlers – some of whom are not really homeless.

To make it simple and easy for you to give money to the homeless, the DCA plans on placing donation stands near parking meters.

Money donated in these meters will help the homeless obtain copies of their birth certificate and Social Security card, which they may need to find employment. The money will also go towards supporting housing for the homeless.

The DCA has a full-time social worker who works in the field with the homeless.

The DCA listed the top 5 reasons **not** to give to panhandlers.

1. Panhandlers are not always homeless, they just have fewer resources.
2. The money you give them may not be used for long-term benefits.
3. There are programs in place to help the truly needy.
4. A new program will allow you to donate through parking meters to the homeless.
5. If we stop giving, they will stop asking.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

New route planned for #41 A/C in Solon

RTA has developed a proposal to simplify and improve the #41A/C route in Solon, and is seeking your comments.

Public hearings will be held at noon and 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24, at the Southgate Transit Center,

5400 Warrensville Center Road. More information is posted at rideRTA.com/hearings.

Comments can also be sent to public-comment@gcrta.org, by July 8.

SERVICE CHANGES

Zoo bus begins June 15

Route #20Z, special seasonal service from Public Square to the Metroparks Zoo, begins Sunday, June 15.

Customers can ride any Rapid Transit or bus route downtown to connect with the #20Z. The Zoo bus picks up on Public Square at Superior Avenue at West Roadway. It also serves all #20A stops on Superior Avenue, West 25th Street and Pearl Road, between Public Square and Wildlife Way.

Through Aug. 24, the Zoo bus leaves Public Square every hour, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The bus departs the Metroparks Zoo approximately every hour from 10 a.m. until 5:05 p.m.

Zoo summer hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and July 4.

A valid proof-of-purchase from the Zoo bus operator allows passengers half-price admission to both the Zoo and RainForest. When buying Zoo tickets, the RTA proof-of-purchase must be turned over in order to receive the discount. Only one proof-of-purchase per person can be used per visit.

Summer admission to the Zoo is \$10 for those age 12 and older, \$6 for ages 2-11, and free for children under age 2.

For more Zoo information, visit clemetzoo.com.

Many routes change on June 15

Other service changes also begin June 15, and new timetables will be needed.

In another significant change, the #45Y will no longer pull in to the Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus on weekends. Riders can still access the campus from York Road.

New timetables are also be needed for the #67X/AX Blue/Green rail lines, and these bus routes: #2, #3, #4/#38, #6, #8, #11, #15, #20A, #25, #34, #35, #37, #50, #51X, #77F and #90F.

Randall Park Mall closing

Because Randall Park Mall is closing, RTA will no longer be permitted to travel on mall property. This is prompting several changes to bus routes in that area.

On June 9, reroutes went into effect for #15 Union-Harvard (mall trips), #19 Miles (Fargo trips), #34 Green and the #802 Southeast Circulator. Rider's Alerts have been posted on all affected buses.

New timetables will be posted on rideRTA.com, and distributed, as soon as possible. The new timetables will all be dated June 29.

To get a timetable

New timetables are being posted on riderta.com. They are also be available at:

- RTA's Main Office, 1240 W. Sixth St.
- Customer Service Center at Tower City

For more information, or to receive a new timetable by mail, call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500.

RTA hosts Family Fest for July 4th fireworks

For a fifth year in a row, RTA will host a Family Fest as part of the July 4th fireworks celebration.

The festival runs from 7 p.m. until dusk. Families are encouraged to ride the Waterfront Line to the Settler's Landing Station, bring a blanket, and grab a spot on the hillside for a great view of the fireworks. The fireworks are expected to start around 9:30 p.m.

RTA will operate extra trains before and after the fireworks, to make travel to and from the Flats fast and convenient.

The event includes:

- 12-Piece Sousa Band
- WNXC live broadcast
- Emcee Mike Olszewski
- Free glow sticks
- Free bottles of AquaFina water
- Free frisbees & other giveaways
- Stilt walkers and fire jugglers
- Caricature drawings
- White Castle 25-Cent slyders

Customers are encouraged to buy an All-Day Pass -- \$4 for adults and \$1.75 for each child, age 6-12, up to three children. Up to three children younger than age 6 can ride free. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Trolleys begin third year

RTA's downtown trolleys recently began their third year of free service. Ridership growth continues.

During the first quarter of 2008, more than 240,000 rides were taken, a 53 percent increase over the first quarter of 2007.

The average daily ridership is up by 4.2 percent. Ridership on some days approaches 4,000 customers.