

New timetables needed

Spring service changes begin Sunday, April 3. All changes are minor ones. New timetables will be needed for these routes. New timetables should be posted on rideRTA.com by March 18, and Google Transit should be updated by March 25. Printed timetables should be ready by March 28, one week before the changes begin.

RAIL: Red Line (#66), Blue/Green Lines (#67/67A)

TROLLEY: E-Line (#61)

BUS: #8, #9, #11, #15, #20, #22, #26, #28, #32, #34, #35, #37, #45, #49, #51, #55, #68, #75, #79, #83, #86, #90F, #94

3 Operators saluted

Every month, RTA salutes a special operator for providing outstanding customer service. When you see an operator who does something exceptional, tell us about it at:

www.rideRTA.com/feedback

In October, operator Jerry Ivery was saluted for saving the life of a motorcyclist. While Ivery was turning left onto Euclid Avenue, a motorcyclist lost control of his cycle and slid under the coach's left side. Ivery was able to stop the coach before the rear tires made contact with the cyclist, thus saving him from injury or death.

In November, operator Janice Harris was saluted for helping an elderly woman who was in distress, and then alerting Transit Police. Her quick thinking and calm action helped save the woman from further distress and possible harm.

In December, Paratransit operator Paris Bennett was saluted for giving one-on-one help to a diabetic woman passenger who was suffering from low blood sugar while on the bus. The woman said the operator was "cool, calm and courteous."

For Your Safety

If you are lost in a crowd, be careful, stay safe

'Tis the season for crowds, whether it is a sporting event or the St. Patrick's Day parade. If something happens, or you get separated from children or others in your group, here are some tips to help you stay safe.

- If you're traveling with a group, exchange cell phone numbers. Arrive with your phone fully charged. Exchange a phone number of a contact who is not with you at the event.
- Leave extra credit cards at home. Carry what you need in a concealed place. Know exactly which credit cards you are carrying so that if you do lose them, you can call immediately to block any charges.
- Carry a small bottle of instant hand sanitizer, extra water, a small snack, and enough cash to cover emergencies.
- Keep identification on your children at all times. When there is a problem, you may become separated. Your child's name and your phone number (or home number) should be written somewhere, even on a piece of paper in their pocket.
- When you enter any large arena, stadium, or theater, look for the fire exits. These should be bright enough to be seen when the lights go down. Know where the ones closest to you are and show your children.
- The most important things to remember are: know where the exits are and be mindful of what is going on around you.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2011

Rider's Digest



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

ODOT cuts funding, shelving new services

More than \$2.2 million to fund new RTA services has been rescinded by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The routes will not go forward as planned on April 3.

"We are disappointed," says RTA General Manager Joe Calabrese. "At the same time, we understand the State budget, and are even more concerned about the upcoming State budget process. At a minimum, we hope there are no further funding cuts. We believe that good transit service is vital to future economic development, and critical to Ohio's recovery."

Calabrese says the \$2.2 million, awarded by former Administration, would have funded new services specifically designed to get workers to work, students to school and promote downtown development, such as to link the Horseshoe Casino and Medical Mart with hotels and restaurants.

The services included an expansion of the popular trolley routes, a Campus Connector between CSU and Tri-C's Metro Campus, and bus routes serving Ohio City, Old Brooklyn and Steelyard Commons.

The budget process in Columbus continues. To tell your elected officials about the importance of transit funding in the upcoming State of Ohio budget, visit:

www.fundohiotransitnow.org

March calendar full of great events that you can reach on RTA

Come downtown for St. Patrick's Day Parade

RTA will add extra rail service to meet the increased demand, on Thursday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day.

Riders are encouraged to purchase a \$5 All-Day Pass. It is good for unlimited use from its first use until 3 a.m. the next day.

No matter what pass or farecard you use, try to purchase it ahead of time. That will reduce the large number of people trying to purchase fare media that day.

If you plan on paying cash to board the bus or train, bring exact change.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Because of the large number of people using the Rapid, cyclists may want to consider another mode of transportation. Bicyclists will not be allowed on trains that carry full loads.

RTA offers more than 7,000 free parking places, but do not try to "squeeze in" if a lot is full. Look for an alternative station. Obey all signs. Transit Police will ticket and tow cars that block normal operations.

The parade will be on Superior Avenue, but crowds will be everywhere. Use all crosswalks. Obey all signs.

Buses will be detoured off parade routes to nearby streets. Normal operations will resume as soon as possible.

Open beverage containers are not permitted on RTA vehicles or property. Transit Police will enforce regulations with uniformed and plainclothes officers.

March Madness!

MAC basketball at Arena March 9-12

Mid-American Conference (MAC) basketball comes to Quicken Loans Arena March 9-12. RTA farecards with MAC logos allow you to save \$4 on admission to any session. Tickets must be purchased in person at the Quicken Loans Arena box office. There is a limit of four passes per farecard, based on availability.

Eight of the 12 MAC schools will send teams to compete for the championship. The men's tournament games will be March 10-12, while the women's games will be March 9 and March 11-12.

Fans who use the RTA Rapid get more than the discount. Using the Walkway, they can go from their seat on the Rapid to their seat in the Arena without ever going outside in the cold, or paying a high price for parking.

NCAA basketball At Q March 19-20

The second and third round games of the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship will be played on March 18 and 20 at Quicken Loans Arena. Tickets are now on sale, on-line only.

Six games will be played. Two sessions of two games each will be played on Friday, March 18, with the final two-game session on Sunday, March 20.

RTA offers convenient service to all games via the Rapid Transit to Tower City, and the Walkway to Quicken Loans Arena.

Cleveland Film Festival at Tower City Cinemas

If they made a movie about RTA, it could be called Easy Rider. Why? Because it's convenient and easy to ride RTA directly to the Cleveland International Film Festival at Tower City Cinemas!

The 35th annual Film Festival returns from March 24-April 3.

The Red, Blue, Green and HealthLine rapid transit lines provide direct service to Tower City Center. Red, Blue, and Green Line trains operate seven days a week until approximately midnight. The HealthLine operates 24 hours a day on Euclid Avenue, from East Cleveland to Tower City.

RTA customers who show their Monthly Pass will now receive a \$2 discount on all tickets purchased at the Film Festival store.

More than 300 films will be shown. The event attracts more than 50,000 persons each year, and generates more than \$3.1 million of economic impact. It is the largest film event between New York and Chicago.

For more info, go to clevelandfilm.org.

MCI bus on display at Cleveland Auto Show

Visitors to the Cleveland Auto Show can stop at the RTA display to see an MCI over-the-road coach, which has more amenities than a standard bus.

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.

Driving is the only way to reach the IX Center. For info, go to clevelandautoshow.com.