

Reminder to rapid riders: let's be courteous

Because of the recent surge in riders on the Rapid Transit, this is a good time to remind all riders of a few simple rules.

All RTA vehicles and facilities are smoke-free. This includes all buses and trains, all transit centers and rail stations. It also includes outside areas, such as rail station platforms, bus waiting areas or just outside the rail station doors at the street level.

This is state law and a common courtesy. Sometimes, the no-smoking signs aren't there, but the rules are always in effect.

When trains are crowded, seats are for passengers, not packages, luggage, knapsacks or your laptop. Keep these items with you or use the space

inside the rail car to store luggage or packages.

Feet also belong on the floor of the rail car, not on the seat. It's no treat...to sit on a seat...that's been covered by feet.

Use trash cans in stations to dispose of your personal trash and newspapers. Rail car floors can be slippery. When they are covered with trash, they are more hazardous.

Listening to music? Just make sure that only your ears hear your music. Some folks may not appreciate your music choices.

A little uncommon courtesy can mean a nicer ride for everyone. Thanks for riding RTA.

Cleveland offers free services to seniors

The City of Cleveland Department of Aging offers a free Benefits Check-up to city residents age 55 and older. You can learn if you are eligible for a host of federal, state and local assistance programs.

In the past, determining eligibility was both difficult and time-consuming. Today, the process is done quickly with an automated computer program. You just complete a questionnaire, and a report of all eligible programs is produced – including info on where to apply and what paperwork is needed.

In addition, eligible seniors have until Oct. 15 to apply for a one-time economic stimulus payment. You must file a 2007 tax return, even if your income is normally low enough that you are not required to file. The Benefits Check-up will help you apply for the stimulus payment.

For more information, call 216-664-3418.

Where to go for more info

If you have questions about any items mentioned this issue, here is where you can go for help.

- rideRTA.com contains all timetables, press releases and links to the automated trip planner
- 216-621-9500, the RTAanswerline
- RTAHealthLine.com, Euclid Corridor Transportation Project and new HealthLine service
- riderta.com/safety/ectp.asp, Euclid Corridor safety tips
- Indians.com, Cleveland Indians
- clevelandbrowns.com, Cleveland Browns
- theqarena.com, all events at Quicken Loans Arena
- csuohio.com/wolsteincenter/events, Wolstein Center
- Cleveland.com/tasteofcleveland, Taste of Cleveland
- Universitycircle.org, Vatican Splendors
- Crockerpark.com, Crocker Park
- Shakersquare.net or shad.org, Shaker Square



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

We heard you

I sincerely thank the more than 2,000 persons who attended our public hearings, and the 1,000 others who took the time to call or write.

It was encouraging to hear from so many people who need more RTA service, not less, and to hear of the importance of public transit to their quality of life, employability and well-being. My staff and I left these hearings with a renewed commitment to provide the maximum amount of high-quality service possible, with the revenues that we have.

It is unfortunate that additional fare revenue from new customers who are switching to RTA to find relief from high gas prices will not be enough to offset the dramatic increase in diesel fuel prices, or the reductions in funding from the State of Ohio experienced over the past several years.

Many of you asked RTA to look internally for savings, and I assure you, we have. RTA has frozen hiring and slashed travel, and is cutting administrative positions.

Our staff is thoroughly reviewing all your comments. To allow more time for a comprehensive review, and to see if the State of Ohio can produce additional funding, we have pushed back the timetable for a staff recommendation to September.

Joe Calabrese
General Manager



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
rideRTA.com

Summer fun is not over yet! Ride RTA to these great events

SPORTS

Indians at Progressive Field

- Aug. 19-20, 29, Sept. 1-2, 12, 15-17, 19-20, 7:05 p.m.
- Aug. 30, 3:55 p.m.
- Aug. 31, Sept. 13-14, 21, 1:05 p.m.
- Aug. 25, Sept. 3, 12:05 p.m.

Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City and take the Walkway to Gateway.

Football at Browns Stadium

- Aug. 28, Chicago Bears, 7:30 p.m.
- Aug. 30, Patriot Bowl, KSU vs Boston, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 7, Dallas Cowboys, 4:15 p.m.
- Sept. 14, Pittsburgh Steelers, 8:15 p.m.

Game times may change.

Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City. Ride the Waterfront Line to the West Third Street Station.

Pro Wrestling at Quicken Loans Arena

- Sept. 7 at 7:35 p.m.

Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City and take the Walkway to Gateway.

MUSIC

At Quicken Loans Arena

- Aug. 22, 7 p.m., Nine Inch Nails
- Sept. 24, Celine Dion, 8 p.m.

Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City and take the Walkway to Gateway.

At the House of Blues, 308 Euclid Ave.

- Concerts held nightly

Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass, ride any rail line to Tower City, and walk east on Euclid Avenue for two blocks.

Wolstein Center at CSU, 2000 Prospect Ave.

- Sept. 4, American Idols Live, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 20, Celtic Thunder, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 23, Carrie Underwood, 7:30 p.m.

Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass, ride any rail line to Tower City. From there, ride the #6 to the East 19th Street Station and walk one block, or ride the #8, 11, #12 or #13. Routes #55 and #75 serve the center weekdays only until 10 p.m.

COMMUNITY

At Burke Lakefront Airport

- Aug. 30-31, Sept. 1, Cleveland National Air Show, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City. From there, ride the Waterfront Line to the North Coast Station, and walk to Burke Lakefront Airport.

Time Warner Amphitheater

- Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Taste of Cleveland, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on Friday, noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and noon to 8 p.m. on Monday.
- Park free at most rail stations. Buy a \$4 All-Day Pass. Ride any rail line to Tower City, and walk to the Time Warner Amphitheater at Tower City

New timetables needed for Aug. 24 changes

New timetables are needed for a number of service changes that will begin on Sunday, Aug. 24. These service changes are NOT related to the public hearings held earlier this month.

New timetables are needed for these routes:

#1, #2, #3, #4, #6, #10, #11, #15, #19, #20A, #22, #26, #32X, #37, #38, #39, #41A/C, #50, #51X, #55, #75X, #86, #86F, #135, #145Y/R, #246, #263, #704, #803, #805, #821

Most changes involve minor schedule adjustments. However, a few deserve special mention.

- #20Z – Summer season service will be discontinued on the bus to the Metroparks Zoo
- #41A/C – There is a new route and schedule change.
- #51X – All trips will operate via Lucerne and Normandie in Middleburg Heights.
- #55 – There will be hourly frequency after 7:10 p.m. The last bus will leave CSU at 10:10 p.m. After that time, trips depart from Ontario and Rockwell.
- #75X – The frequency has been adjusted. The last bus will leave CSU at 10:10 p.m. After that time, trips leave from Ontario/Rockwell.

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.