



A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER CLEVELAND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## New fares on Sept. 1

The fare increase, effective Sept. 1, 2009. This fare structure expires March 31, 2010. In the coming months, the Board of Trustees will review the fare structure that will take effect April 1, 2010.

September monthly passes purchased in August will be sold at the old rate.

Cash fares	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$0.85	\$1.00
Trolley/Loop/Circulator	\$1.25	\$1.50
Bus/Rapid	\$2.00	\$2.25
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$2.25	\$2.50
Out-of-county	\$3.25	\$3.50

  

Farecards	Now	As of 9-1-09
Students, per trip	\$1.60	\$1.75
5-trip Senior/Disabled	\$4.25	\$5.00
5-trip Bus/Rapid	\$10.00	\$11.25
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$11.25	\$12.50

  

All-Day Pass	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$2.00	\$2.50
Child (ages 6-12)	\$2.00	\$2.50
Individual	\$4.50	\$5.00

  

Weekly Pass	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$8.50	\$10.00
Bus/Rapid	\$20.00	\$22.50
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$22.50	\$25.00

  

Monthly Pass	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$32.00	\$38.00
Bus/Rapid	\$76.00	\$85.00
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$85.00	\$95.00

  

Paratransit	Now	As of 9-1-09
Cash Fare	\$2.00	\$2.25
5-trip Farecard	\$10.00	\$11.25
Weekly Pass	\$20.00	\$22.50
Monthly Pass	\$76.00	\$85.00

## Some routes change on Sunday, Aug. 23

RTA is changing a number of bus and rail timetables on Aug. 23. Riders should pick up new timetables for the following routes.

Red Line, #1, #5, #9, #22, #23, #25, #26, #32, #35, #48/48a, #50, #55, #70, #75, #81, #246.

Where to get a new timetable:

- rideRTA.com
- 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.

## Ride RTA to see The Browns

RTA will provide extra rail service for two hours before every college and pro football event at Browns Stadium this fall. The Stadium is conveniently served by the West Third Street Station on the Waterfront Line.

Fans are encouraged to buy an All-Day Pass to ensure smoother crowd flow. Events this month are:

- 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, Family Day, free but tickets are required. Browns will play a scrimmage game. A family-oriented tailgate party starts at 10:30 a.m., and gates open at 11 a.m.
- 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, Browns host Detroit, pre-season game.
- 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, Browns host Tennessee, pre-season game.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
rideRTA.com

## A letter from Joe Calabrese

In this tough economy, every transit system in the nation is struggling to keep operating. RTA is no different.

RTA is taking two actions to help close a \$5.2 million deficit in the 2009 operating budget.

A 25-cent (per ride) fare increase on Tuesday, Sept. 1, will generate an estimated \$1.5 million this year.

A service reduction that begins Sunday, Sept. 20, will save RTA an estimated \$1.6 million this year, and more than \$6 million annually in future years. The reduction includes the elimination of all 12 Community Circulator routes, and modifications to 12-15 other low-ridership big-bus routes.

Both items are included in the 2009 budget, which was adopted by the Board of Trustees in December 2008.

Six public hearings on these issues were held in August 2008. RTA received verbal or written comments from more than 3,000 persons.

### The Money

These actions will help balance the 2009 budget, which now faces a deficit of \$5.2 million.

This tough economy is hurting every public-sector agency and private-sector company. RTA is not

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## Letter (continued from front)

immune from what is happening to the rest of the nation. We had hoped these actions could have been avoided, but they can't. RTA is now providing more service than we can pay for.

The sales tax, our primary source of revenue, is projected to be \$18 million below 2008 receipts by the end of the year. This is about the same amount received in 1999.

And, because of the recession, the latest two-year State budget reduced funding to public transit by an additional 33 percent.

Alone, these changes will not balance the 2009 budget, but they will help, as we continue to work on various strategies to address this crisis. We have already taken "significant steps" to balance the 2009 budget, including:

- \$13.7 million in cost-saving initiatives -- a hiring freeze, a salary freeze, a reduction in administrative positions, a 3 percent salary cut for all non-union employees, travel restrictions, reduced overtime, subcontracting work, and service changes.

- \$20.5 million in revenue-generating initiatives, including the fuel surcharge and various supplemental and one-time State and Federal funding initiatives

### The Circulators

RTA policy is that, if service needs to be reduced, the changes should be designed to affect the fewest number of riders. Circulators are being eliminated for several reasons.

- Circulator routes impact about 2.5 percent of RTA riders, according to numbers from the first six months of 2009.
- Circulator routes often duplicate other RTA service. For instance, 91 percent of the route of the #804 Lakewood Circulator is directly served by other RTA routes, and 100 percent of the route has other RTA service available within a quarter-mile. Overall, 66 percent of Circulator routes duplicate other existing service, and 85 percent have other services within a quarter-mile.
- We believe that eliminating the Circulators will impact only about 1 percent of our riders. We will hold informational meetings in each

area, to help Circulator customers plan their future trips. For more details, please visit our Web site, [rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com).

Last fall, we heard from more than 3,000 customers, with many passionate pleas to keep the Circulators. We listened, and kept the service operating for another year. The last thing we want to do is cut service, but we have no other options. We can't spend money we don't have. We tried everything we could, but in the end, the economy won.

The reality is that very few cities in the nation operate Circulators. We began to offer the service in the 1990s, when the economy was robust.

About 12-15 other low-ridership routes will also be modified. That list will be finalized after the informational meetings are held for the Circulators.

This is a tough time for all of us. Working together, we can overcome these significant challenges. We sincerely appreciate your continued support.



Joe Calabrese  
RTA CEO / General Manager

## RTA staff to meet with circulator riders to help plan future trips

A number of meetings will be held in August to discuss riding options. RTA staff will be on hand to assist in trip planning and to answer service related questions. The meeting schedule is listed below:

**Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**August 10:** Southgate 5400 Warrensville Center Road, Maple Hts. (#802, Southeast Circulator)

**August 11:** W. 25th Rapid Transit Station: 2350 Lorain Rd., Cleveland (#807, Tremont Circulator)

**August 12:** Westgate Transit Center: 21159 Center Ridge Road, Fairview Park (#808, West Shore Circulator and #822, Southwest Circulator)

**August 13:** West Park Rapid Transit Station: 14510 Lorain Rd., Cleveland (#809, Kamm's Circulator)

**August 14:** W. 117th St. Rapid Transit Station: 11631 Madison Ave., Lakewood (#804, Lakewood Circulator)

**August 17:** Lakewood Main Library: 15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood (#804, Lakewood Circulator)

**August 18:** Cleveland Public Library- Addison Branch: 6901 Superior Ave., Cleveland (#803, St. Clair-Hough Circulator)

**August 20:** Euclid Library: 631 E. 222nd St., Euclid (#806, Euclid Circulator)

**August 20:** Cleveland Heights City Hall: 40 Severance Cir., Cleveland Heights (#821, University Circle/Heights Area Circulator) 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**August 21:** Cleveland Public Library- Downtown: 325 Superior Ave., Cleveland (#820, St. Clair-Five Points Circulator)

**August 24:** Harvard-Lee Library: 16918 Harvard Ave., Cleveland (#801, Lee-Harvard Circulator)

**August 25:** TBD (#805, Slavic Village Circulator)

For More information, call the RTAanswerline at (216) 621-9500 or visit [rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com).