

Resolution unanimously passed by the members of the CAB at their September 8th, 2016 Meeting

Transit Access on Superior is Critical to Transit Users and RTA Superior Avenue should remain open to buses on Public Square

The newly redesigned and reopened Public Square was designed to accommodate buses, which were scheduled to return to Superior Avenue on August 1, 2016. Ignoring this plan increases GCRTA's operating costs, negatively impacts transit riders, and puts GCRTA at risk of losing federal funds provided for the creation of a "Downtown Transit Zone".

A 2012 traffic study completed by Nelson Nygaard recommended maintaining Superior Avenue access for buses through Public Square. Closing both Ontario and Superior would mean \$2.6 million in additional operating costs for GCRTA. Increasing GCRTA's costs while displacing transit users from Public Square not only degrades public transportation and future development in Cleveland, but also serves to divide the community.

The Federal Transit Administration has notified GCRTA of the potential violation of the funding agreement for the HealthLine/Euclid Corridor and downtown Cleveland transit connections in the Downtown Transit Zone. In addition to putting millions of dollars of federal funding at risk, this means longer, less accessible connections for riders, and decreased access to jobs and downtown amenities -- including Cleveland's new Public Square.

Not only are the benefits of increased safety, desirability, and access to transit lost with the closure of Superior Avenue, transit riders will continue to be marginalized if transit service is not a priority in Cleveland's newest public space. Transit riders in Cleveland are already shouldering the burden of reduced service and increased fares. We need leadership that supports restoring bus access through Public Square as planned.

The Citizen Advisory Board's purpose includes making recommendations to the Board of Trustees on "fare changes, Long-Range Plan updates, and major or new projects" and to "provide comments on service changes." Given this significant negative impact to riders, the negative impact to the financial health of GCRTA, and the potential risk of penalties for non-compliance with the FTA's funding agreement, the Citizens Advisory Board supports re-opening Superior Avenue to buses and recommends that GCRTA's Board of Trustees join us in our support.