

October 2021



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Pedestrian safety focus of St. Rt. 59 study

Initial recommendations for improving the stretch of St. Rt. 59 between Horning Road and Rt. 261 include the addition of sidewalks, mid-block crosswalks, and a bike lane. Currently, it is extremely difficult for pedestrians to traverse the corridor. Stakeholders, including representatives of PARTA, the City of Kent, Franklin Township, and the local metropolitan planning organization, got their first look at proposed pedestrian amenities in late September. Arcadis, a global leader in engineering design and consultancy, shared a map detailing possible improvements. After receiving feedback, Arcadis plans to refine its concept. The study is being paid for with a \$40,000 grant awarded to PARTA last year. Final recommendations concerning how the area can be made safer and more accessible to pedestrians are due by the end of 2021.



PARTA General Manager to lead state association in 2022

PARTA General Manager Claudia Amrhein has been elected to serve as president of the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) through 2022. Public transit officials from around the state met at the John S. Knight Center in Akron recently to conduct business of the association and hold their annual conference and expo. Amrhein, who served as president in 2021, was nominated by her colleagues to serve a second term. OPTA is the primary advocate for public transportation in Ohio. The association provides leadership, resources, training, and support to public and private transit agencies and businesses across the state.



PARTA gets nod from ODOT

In a recent email to stakeholders, the Ohio Department of Transportation gave a “shout out” to PARTA. The transit system was recognized for being the first agency in the state of Ohio to expend their Rides for Community Immunity allocation.

PARTA was allotted \$97,000 to provide free rides for Portage County residents to COVID-19 vaccination sites. The funds allowed PARTA to use its Dial-A-Ride service to provide transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccination sites and eligible medical trips for anyone who requested the service.



Revised passenger policy impacts utility carts and packages on PARTA buses

The PARTA Board of Trustees has approved an updated passenger policy providing bus drivers the discretionary authority to determine if a personal utility cart is too big to be transported and limits the number of packages that can be carried onto vehicles by a single individual.

Carts and strollers are permitted if they are no greater than 30 inches tall, 18 inches deep, can easily negotiate vehicle entrances, and do not contain loads that exceed the capacity of the device. However, passengers are limited to only those items that can be boarded in a single trip. Multiple trips to load bags, carts, strollers, or cargo are not permitted. PARTA's full passenger policy can be viewed [here](#).



Veterans Day Ceremony planned

PARTA will host an in-person Veterans Day Ceremony this November. The transit system has traditionally honored men and women who served and are currently serving in the military at an annual ceremony dating back to 2013. In 2020, this ritual was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, PARTA will once again host an in-person ceremony on Thursday, November 11, at 2 p.m., at the Veterans Memorial located adjacent to the Kent Central Gateway at 201 East Erie Street in Kent. The event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.



Hiring event scheduled for Wednesday, October 20

Job seekers are encouraged to learn more about career opportunities at PARTA on Wednesday, October 20, from 3 pm - 7 pm. The hiring event will take place at the transit system's administrative offices located at 2000 Summit Road in Kent. Human resource professionals will be on hand to provide information and take applications. PARTA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug free workplace. More information about the hiring event can be found by clicking [this link](#).



CNG Fuel Benefits Everyone

PARTA built and operates Portage County's first and only Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station. Cleaner & greener, PARTA's CNG fueling station is open to the public.

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