

RTA celebrates Ohio Loves Transit Feb. 7-14

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For Immediate Release

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(DAYTON, OHIO) ... Every segment of Ohio – businesses, communities, individuals and families – benefit from public transportation, an essential service that enhances economic development, ensures sustainable lifestyles and a higher quality of life. The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will join Ohio agencies to highlight the impact of public transit in local communities during a week-long celebration of Ohio Loves Transit.

This year, the RTA will celebrate Ohio Loves Transit week through a virtual campaign, using social media to share why our communities support public transit. On Valentine's Day, Sunday, Feb. 14, RTA will cap off the week by crediting \$1.50 (single-ride) to customers who are signed up with Tapp Pay, RTA's mobile-ticketing app, by the end of the service day on Feb. 11.

The RTA provides over 9 million trips each year, helping to create and maintain jobs that are essential in keeping our communities strong. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine labeled public transit an essential service to ensure transportation for essential workers. The RTA sought out creative solutions to ensure its fleet remained safe for customers while simultaneously providing quality service, said RTA Deputy CEO Bob Ruzinsky.

"RTA has been working diligently since the start of this national health crisis to ensure our buses and transit centers are continually cleaned and disinfected. RTA is following all CDC guidelines and recommendations. We have added staff hours, increased janitorial contracts, and we continually provide staff with disinfectant and related PPE items. We take our role in providing essential transportation to essential workers seriously, and know we must ensure we are doing all we can to combat COVID while maintaining critical operations," Ruzinsky said.

Ohio Loves Transit week aims to highlight how Ohio's public transportation systems are striving to meet the daily mobility needs of the growing senior population, along with keeping up with the capital need to move workers, students, and those without access to their own vehicles. Public transportation in Ohio comes in many shapes and forms, from rail and streetcars, to buses, vans, and bikes.

Transit drives our economy, with statistics showing that every \$1 invested in public transit generates \$4 in economic return. Whether getting to area shopping centers, local medical facilities, libraries, parks, bike trails, or countless other destinations—transit will get you there.

Ohio's transit systems also provide a vital link to thousands of people with disabilities, by providing rides to work, job training programs, medical appointments, and adult day care facilities. With the "baby

Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority

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boomer” generation aging, the needs for these services has grown, and both urban and rural transit agencies alike are working to ensure all citizens have the access to the transportation services they need to remain an active part of their community.

To learn more about how RTA and other transit agencies keep our communities moving, view the Ohio Loves Transit video here: https://youtu.be/V5XlgMDB_v0