

# TARTA News & Updates

February 2021

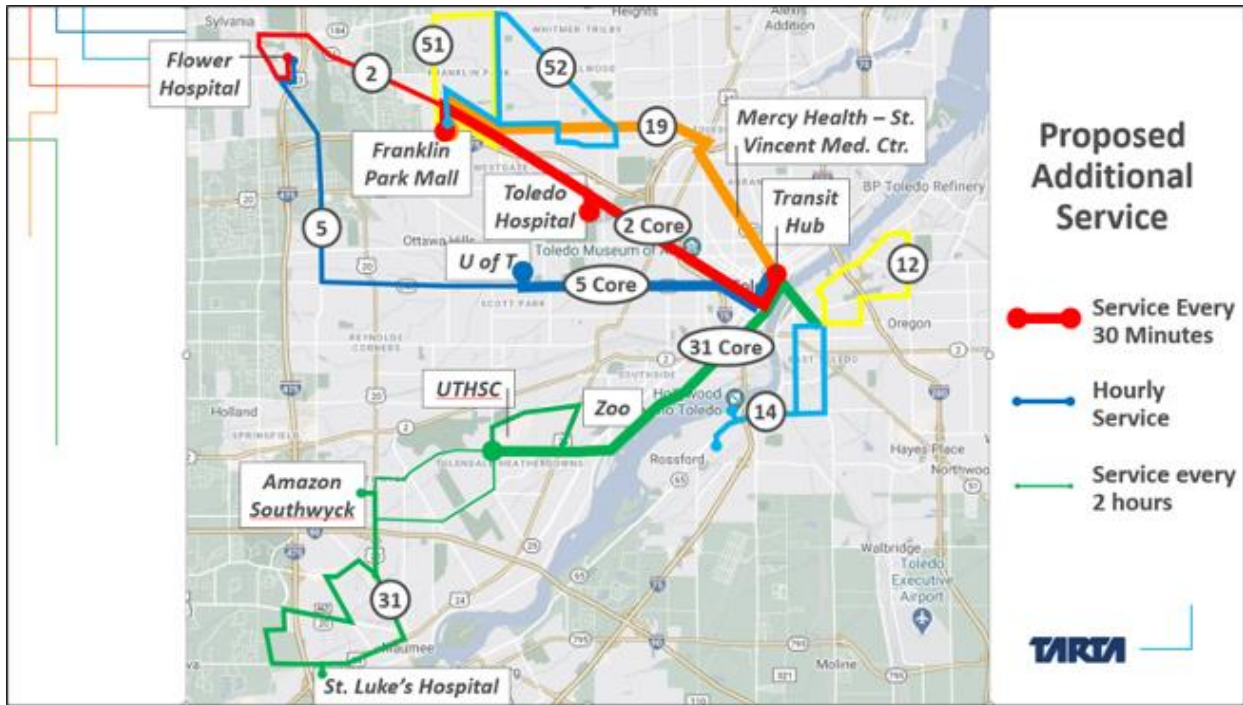
## TARTA Building Back Service to Jobs and Hospitals

This Spring, TARTA riders can expect route changes with improved service to local hospitals, employers and other essential destinations in Toledo, Sylvania, Sylvania Township and Maumee. The following TARTA fixed routes are expected to see significant changes beginning mid-March.

- Route #2 - Monroe St./Franklin Park Mall
- Route #5 - Dorr St./University of Toledo
- Routes #12 and #14 as new independent routes in East Toledo
- Route #19 - Sylvania Ave to Franklin Park Mall
- Route 31- Broadway/Glendale/Southwyck

Among these changes, TARTA will also be introducing 'Core' service – where service frequency will increase from every 90 minutes to every 30 minutes where demand is the highest and on the highest demand routes. Beyond Core service areas, hourly service will be extended to major hospitals, job centers and services.

Core service will be effective during weekdays, Monday-Friday. Saturday service will remain at its current service hours of 9 am to 6 pm, and no changes are anticipated for TARPS and Call-a-Ride. Continuation of Core service is subject to available funding.



Proposed Core Service Map - Effective March 2021

Stay tuned at [tarta.com/routes](https://tarta.com/routes) or by following TARTA’s social media channels for updates regarding the Spring service changes.

## Ohio Loves Transit

Thank you to all who participated in #OhioLovesTransit Week 2021! All week long, transit agencies across Ohio celebrated transit and the important role it plays in the success of thriving communities, economies and lives.



TARTA was no different in celebrating the need for increased transit in the Toledo Metro region. One of the many ways TARTA increased awareness for transit was by hosting a virtual Community Forum with transit thought leader, **Mark Aesch**. With over 100 webinar participants, the forum was largely attended and showed the interest our region has in creating a strong mobility ecosystem in Northwest Ohio.

[Rewatch the forum here.](#)

TARTA continued its online celebrations through social media by asking customers, local businesses and **Ohio Loves Transit partners** to share what transit means to them. Several community leaders and organizations including the **City of Toledo**, **Toledo Opera**, **TMACOG**, the **Sojourner's Truth** and

the **Maumee Chamber of Commerce** participated in sharing their testimonials of support for transit.

TARTA and TARPS riders as well as TARTA Board of Trustees President, Kelsie Hoagland, also participated by speaking on why public transit matters to them.

**Watch Ohio Loves Transit Testimonials here.**

TARTA and TARPS customers were also given TARTA swag bags in celebration of the week and as Customer Appreciation gifts. Over the course of two days, nearly 600 bags were given out to fixed route and paratransit riders.

TARTA swag bags were made available to paratransit riders on a first-come first-serve basis when riding a TARPS vehicle on Friday, Feb. 12. The following day, Team TARTA members were onsite at the downtown Toledo TARTA Transit Hub to hand out swag bags to fixed route riders. TARTA's Ohio Loves Transit partner, Food For Thought was also onsite to distribute meal packages and hot beverages to the community.



### **Introducing New TARTA Board Member**

TARTA welcomes Heather Baker as its newest addition to the TARTA Board of Trustees representing the City of Toledo. In her current role, Heather serves as the Director of Pupil Placement and Child Adjustment Services at Toledo Public Schools.

“As an administrator within Toledo Public Schools, I'm always looking for ways to be an advocate and voice on behalf of the students and families that our school district represents. I'm looking forward to advocating for them and serving our community as a member of the TARTA Board of Trustees.”

With extensive leadership experience and knowledge in grant writing, education services, public relations and communications, Heather makes an excellent addition to a growing and robust team serving TARTA and its surrounding communities.

## TARTA and TARPS Operators Receive COVID-19 Vaccine



Now more than ever, maintaining the health of our workforce and our customers is a top priority. Within the last month, several TARTA and TARPS bus drivers have received the COVID-19 vaccine. As a partner in the [VProject](#), TARTA is supporting this community effort to vaccinate 70% of Northwest Ohio residents. TARTA is educating its own workforce about the vaccine, as well as working with local leaders to increase the awareness in the community and present accurate information regarding the vaccine. Learn more at [VProject.org](#).

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## Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, TARTA is honoring historic and present day African American leaders and community contributors through social media.

Join in on the celebration by following TARTA's social media channels and tuning it for weekly Black History Month spotlights.

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## TARTA Recognized by the United States Secret Service

In recognition of outstanding public service during the U.S. presidential campaigns, TARTA is being acknowledged by the United States Secret Service. During the U.S. presidential campaigns in Ohio and locally in Toledo, TARTA used its vehicles to provide barriers for safe travel for both presidential candidates and their respective running mates.

"Our partnership with the U.S. Secret Service is just one more example of transit bringing value to our community, allowing us to participate in national security efforts," said TARTA CEO, Kimberly A. Dunham.

TARTA is proud to receive this acknowledgement of its service and commitment to public safety and national security.

## ICYMI:

### Infrastructure Report Card

Here is another reason to increase state funding for transit. Of the 16 categories that were assessed in the Ohio Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2021 Report Card for Ohio's Infrastructure, transit was rated the lowest with a report card grade of D-. Read the full report [here](#).

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## ODOT Budget Bill

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) released its two-year, biennium budget this February. The budget provides funding for our state and local transportation system including public transit, roads, bridges, and pedestrian and bicycle amenities.

In 2019, when the last ODOT budget was approved, public transit received \$70 million in funding. For the budget year of 2022 to 2023, annual state funding is proposed to be cut for public transit agencies to \$7.3 million – a loss of \$62,700,000 dollars.

To stay up to date on the ODOT budget and transit advocacy efforts, visit [www.ohioneedstransit.org](http://www.ohioneedstransit.org).

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## Restaurant Week Toledo

From March 1-7, TARTA will show support for Leadership Toledo's 11th annual Restaurant Week Toledo (RWT) celebration as one of its event sponsors. Explore the Toledo dining scene traveling via TARTA and enjoy delicious meals at special prices from the best local restaurants. A portion of all proceeds will also be donated to Leadership Toledo's high-impact programs designed to cultivate and empower young aspiring leaders. Learn more at [restaurantweektoledo.com](http://restaurantweektoledo.com).



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