



News Release

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Ohio Public Transit Association Names COTA Vice President as New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) has hired Laura Koprowski, vice president of government affairs and communications at the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), as its new executive director. OPTA is a statewide membership organization advancing innovation and investment in Ohio's public transportation authorities and businesses through education, networking and advocacy.

Koprowski has more than 15 years of notable experience in local, state and federal government relations and advocacy in transportation issues. She also successfully led communications and external affairs at COTA and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC).

"The mission and purpose of OPTA is aligned very well with Laura's professional background and accomplishments," said OPTA Board President Carrie Woody, director of the Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit System. "Laura authentically projects a strong passion for public transportation and she is a well-known, successful relationship builder. I am confident that she is an ideal fit to lead OPTA during a period of considerable opportunity and change."

During Koprowski's tenure at COTA she served in a senior management role on a variety of nationally recognized initiatives including the launch of COTA's first bus rapid transit service; a complete transit system redesign of COTA's services; deployment of COTA Plus to provide the first on-demand microtransit option in Central Ohio; and as a liaison to the Smart Columbus effort that is creating, testing and deploying new mobility solutions.

"What an exciting time to be in public transportation and to join OPTA," said Koprowski. "The transportation landscape is quickly and dramatically changing. I can't imagine an opportunity with greater potential, and I intend to ensure our OPTA membership are engaged and successful."

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Koprowski is transitioning into the position as current OPTA Executive Director W. Curtis Stitt is preparing to retire from the organization in January 2020. Prior to joining COTA, Koprowski served 12 years as MORPC's director of public and government affairs during a time of organizational and membership growth and expansion. Koprowski has a Masters of Public Administration from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Ohio University.

About OPTA

OPTA is the primary advocate for public transportation in Ohio. The Association provides leadership, resources, training, support, technical assistance, media outreach, public engagement, and governmental relations services to public and private transit agencies and businesses across the state.

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