

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order Oral  
Roll Call
2. Meeting Minutes Attachment 2a  
Minutes from December 16, 2021, Meeting (Motion Required)
3. Guest Communications (2-minute limit) Oral
4. General Manager's Report Attachment 4
5. Committee Reports Did Not Meet
  - a. Administration Met 1/12
  - b. By-Laws Review Did Not Meet
  - c. Finance Did Not Meet
  - d. Personnel Did Not Meet
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - Presentation on the Portage Public Transportation Assistance Foundation, Inc. (PPTAFI)
8. Resolution - Roll Call Approval Required

**#2022-01-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE, ENTER INTO, AND SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) CNG TROLLEY BUSES, OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND SPARE PARTS WITH TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SALES CORPORATION (TESCO).**
9. Executive Session, as needed.
10. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:**  
**February 24, 2022 @ 7 p.m.**

**PARTA**  
**PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES**

**December 16, 2021**

**Board Members Present:**

Karen Beck  
Marge Bjerregaard  
Richard Brockett  
Jeff Childers

Debbie Davison  
Dave Gynn, President  
Mike Lewis, Vice President  
R. T. Mansfield

Morgan Tipton  
Karen Wise, TPO  
Marvin Woods

**Staff Present:**

Karen Adinolfi, Roetzel & Andress  
Denise Baba  
Claudia Amrhein

Cody Brookover  
Marcia Fletcher

Kelly Jurisch  
Rebecca Schrader

**Board Members Not Present:**

Virginia Harris (2<sup>nd</sup> excused absence)  
Jack Murphy (1<sup>st</sup> unexcused absence)

Frank Vitale (2<sup>nd</sup> excused absence)

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dave Gynn called the December 16, 2021, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7 p.m. and asked for a roll call. After roll call, it was determined that **a quorum was participating.**

Mr. Gynn thanked everyone for coming out at this busy time of the year and said the meeting would be short but very interesting. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2021, meeting. **Ms. Marge Bjerregaard** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by **Ms. Karen Beck.**

Mr. Gynn asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he asked all those in favor to say aye. He asked any opposed to say no. Hearing no opposition, he said the **motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

**GUEST COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Moving on, Mr. Gynn asked Ms. Claudia Amrhein if she had anything to add to the General Manager's report that was included in the Board packet.

Ms. Amrhein thanked Mr. Gynn and everyone for coming out for the last meeting of the year. She welcomed Ms. Karen Adinolfi, as legal counsel, who would be presenting on the Ohio Sunshine Laws. She asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Richard Brockett asked how the ice-skating rink was working out and if many people were taking advantage of it.

Before getting to that question, Ms. Amrhein noted that some people were wearing masks. She said PARTA is not requiring masks, but there are some available if anyone would like one. As far as the ice rink, it is working out well. PARTA became a landlord during the early stages and worked out some issues with the tenants. She could not speak to how many people were taking advantage of it.

Mr. Mike Lewis said somebody has always been at the ice rink the numerous times he has been by. Even today around 11 a.m., there were about 12 people.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any other questions for Ms. Amrhein. Hearing none, he moved on to the committee reports.

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Administration Committee did not meet.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Gynn said Mr. Lewis would review the extensive report that was provided to everyone.

Mr. Lewis thanked Mr. Gynn and said November was a relatively normal month. KSU Revenues was \$39,471 above budget for the month, which was nice. Sales Tax Revenues continued to be strong, which is projected to continue in the next few years. Other Revenues had a little bit of income, which was the sale of a couple vehicles on govdeals.com. Looking at expenses, the only thing that was a little off, but expected, was Other Fringe Benefits, which included some accrual buyouts. The surplus over budget was \$125,879 for the month and the year-to-date surplus over budget is \$5,582,847. Ms. Schrader was kind enough to include the annual projected, which is close to what is anticipated by the end the year. The capital side had two expenses: Bus Storage Facility (5339) and OTP2 CDL Training Pad, which has been completed for the most part. There's some painting that needs to be done in the spring but other than that, it's up and functional. Everyone is excited about using it. Restricted for future capital projects is \$5.9 million. He asked if there were any questions on PARTA.

Hearing none, Mr. Lewis moved on to the Kent Central Gateway (KCG) and said it's nice to see this year continue to get better after last year. The Total Cars Per Month graph in the Parking Summary showed 2021 is almost running exactly what it was pre-COVID, which was good to see. It is still under what it was in 2019, but it is much stronger than it was in 2020. Last month, all the revenue items were above budget, which is the same for this month. Expenses were in line. November had a surplus of \$15,201, which brought the year-to-date to \$96,843. He asked if there were any questions on KCG.

Hearing none, Mr. Lewis said the last thing the committee talked about was Resolution 2021-12-01, which they moved on for recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any questions for Mr. Lewis. Hearing none, he thanked the committee for meeting on a regular basis.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Operations Committee did not meet.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Personnel Committee did not meet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Gynn said there was no Old Business and moved on to the presentation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gynn said Ms. Karen Adinolfi from Roetzel & Andress will provide a presentation on the Ohio Sunshine Laws as part of continuing to upgrade the Board's education information program. He thanked everyone for bringing their Ohio Sunshine Laws notebook with them.

Ms. Adinolfi thanked Mr. Gynn and presented her PowerPoint on the Ohio Sunshine Laws, which is attached. After her presentation, she asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Lewis asked what would happen if, for some reason, some Board members didn't want to take a vote to move into executive session and a roll call wasn't taken. If that discussion had to happen, would it be in open session or would there be no discussion at all.

Ms. Adinolfi said if the roll call vote wasn't sufficient to carry the Board into executive session, the options are to either save it for another day or discuss it in public session, keeping in mind that there are things that should never be discussed in public session. Thankfully, that doesn't happen very often, but it is certainly a possibility. She has advised very contentious boards, which this one does not seem like at all, where everything is a fight but in the normal course, there would be a roll call to enter executive session and then a discussion would occur.

Mr. Gynn asked if a straw vote could be taken in executive session to get an idea of how everybody was going to vote.

Ms. Adinolfi said waters can certainly be tested in executive session knowing that what somebody commits to in an executive session doesn't mean they have to commit to it outside. If a vote is taken, it means nothing more than testing the waters and determining to what extent people are agreeable.

Mr. Brockett asked if an ordinary citizen could get access to the Board members' personal files or evaluation of a person, such as in a personnel file.

Ms. Adinolfi said yes, that is a public record.

Mr. Brockett asked if there could be restrictions on the entity requesting the information, such as requiring a written notice.

Ms. Adinolfi said there can be requirements to follow procedures in the Ohio Public Records Act, but the agency itself does not have any way to prevent that release because those are all public records open to inspection and copying. However, the released records would include redactions of social security numbers, addresses, medical records, and information about minor dependents.

Mr. Gynn asked how many requests PARTA received for public records.

Ms. Amrhein said it varies.

Ms. Kelly Jurisch said right now there are around 10 or 11.

Ms. Adinolfi said there are frequent filers with public records requests. In years when there is a levy, requests tend to increase. The motivation for the request isn't relevant. If it's a public record, anybody can ask for it.

Mr. Gynn asked if somebody could be charged for the cost of producing the public record.

Ms. Adinolfi said there is a provision in the Ohio Public Records Act for collecting reasonable costs of preparing the public record. There is no way to charge somebody for the time involved even it's a voluminous records request, but if they want them copied or mailed, the actual cost can be charged. It's harder to collect anything if they want it sent electronically, which is the common way people want to get it, but there are provisions for some cost recoupment. If an employee spends 20 hours amassing a public records request, that time can't be recouped. However, if it's going to take 20 hours, there should be a discussion about what the requests are about since it's such a huge burden. It is inconvenient in terms of an unfunded mandate for public agencies and large cities and counties. She asked if there were any other questions.

Hearing none, Ms. Adinolfi said if there were questions later, they should let her or Mr. Justin Markey know and to also let her know if the Board would like any further discussions on public records or open meetings.

Mr. Gynn then moved on to the resolution.

### **Resolution**

Mr. Gynn introduced Resolution #2021-12-01.

**#2021-12-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO GLADIEUX TRADING AND MARKETING CO LP TO PROVIDE DIESEL AND GASOLINE FUEL FOR 2022 AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO SIGN A FEDERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE ON BEHALF OF PARTA. THIS IS A JOINT PURCHASING VENTURE WITH AKRON METRO RTA, WESTERN RESERVE RTA, AND STARK AREA RTA, ET AL.**

Mr. Gynn asked for a motion to adopt the resolution.

**Motion: Marge Bierregaard**

**Second: Morgan Tipton**

Mr. Gynn said this resolution was discussed by the Finance Committee. He asked if anybody had any questions.

Ms. Amrhein said this resolution is for the annual fuel bid for delivery of gasoline and diesel next year. Ms. Schrader ran the procurement for the group of RTAs that procure fuel every year and she can say a little more about it.

Ms. Schrader said PARTA budgeted for a cost of \$3.20 per gallon. With the cost of a barrel of oil doubling from the previous year, PARTA was concerned and budgeted conservatively. There were approximately five different bidders, and she was happy when the bids came in. The prices are listed in the resolution. The quantities changed a little bit from previous years because the bus quantities are changing. There are more gasoline vehicles now with the LTVs and CNG buses that are being purchased. This is the same vendor that PARTA is currently using.

Mr. Gynn asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Fletcher to call the roll.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>		<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Mike Lewis	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Virginia Harris	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>   </u>
Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
Frank Vitale	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>   </u>	Richard Brockett	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
Morgan Tipton	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
Jack Murphy	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>   </u>	David Gynn	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>

Mr. Gynn said the resolution was approved.

Moving on, Mr. Gynn turned the meeting over to Ms. Schrader to give the annual service awards.

Ms. Schrader said PARTA traditionally recognizes the years of service for both employees and Board members. Service pins are given at one year, three years, five years, 10 years, and then every five years thereafter. For 2021, the following Board members were recognized: Karen Beck for one year of service, Marvin Woods for one year of service, R. T. Mansfield for one year of service (again), Jack Murphy for one year of service, Frank Vitale for five years of service, and Marge Bjerregaard for 20 years of service.

Mr. Gynn thanked PARTA for the refreshments provided and then entertained a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Karen Beck made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Mike Lewis. Mr. Gynn asked all in favor to say aye. He asked any opposed to say no. Hearing no opposition, the **motion to adjourn passed unanimously**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Fletcher  
Executive Assistant

**PARTA**  
**2000 Summit Road**  
**Kent, Ohio 44240**

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**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**TO:** PARTA Board of Trustees   
**FROM:** Claudia B. Amrhein, General Manager  
**DATE:** January 2022

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**Committee Meetings and Resolutions.** Happy New Year and thank you for your willingness to serve on the PARTA Board of Trustees again this year. The January meeting agenda includes Resolution #2022-01-01 to authorize the production and purchase of four (4) CNG trolley buses.

**Presentation.** During the January meeting, we will present an overview of the Portage Public Transportation Assistance Foundation, Inc. (PPTAFI), including its purpose and fundraising efforts through 2019. Due to COVID-19, we cancelled both the 2020 and 2021 golf outings and have used the time to update the articles of incorporation to support a rebranding effort that will change the name from PPTAFI to FORE! Transit.

**Ordering Trolley Buses.** Normally, the finance committee reviews large purchase contracts prior to the board meeting. However, since the finance committee is not scheduled to meet to allow time to close the 2021 books, we will bring Resolution #2022-01-01 forward for review by the full board at the January 27 meeting. The four (4) trolley bus order will be: 1) funded with grant awards and local dollars set aside for this purpose; 2) acquired through the established, five-year contract awarded to TESCO via Resolution #2021-05-02; and 3) deployed to replace old buses that have reached or exceeded their useful life that are scheduled for replacement. We will be happy to answer any additional questions about this second order of CNG trolley buses for not to exceed \$2.7 million prior to or during the board meeting.

**#2022-01-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE, ENTER INTO, AND SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) CNG TROLLEY BUSES, OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND SPARE PARTS WITH TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SALES CORPORATION (TESCO).**

**By-Laws Review Committee Meeting.** The ad hoc by-laws review committee convened on January 12 and is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, February 2, at 12:30. When finished with their review, the committee will present recommendations for revisions to the full board. As always, all board members are welcome to attend all committee meetings.

**Retail Space Leasing Update.** The bulk of transitioning into the role of landlord for the retail space tenants is nearly complete. Utilities previously paid by RLB Phoenix have been transferred to PARTA with pass-through arrangements being finalized with tenants. An exception to this is the one-year lease agreement with Kent City Health Department (KCHD) for the former Cutler Realty space, which is set to expire July 15. We will meet with the city in late February to review 2021 parking deck performance and KCHD lease agreements.

**Aurora and Streetsboro Work Transportation Survey.** The cities of Streetsboro and Aurora are exploring a partnership between their local governments, Portage County Job and Family

Services, Portage Development Board, the private sector, and PARTA to evaluate public transportation accessibility as a component of connecting potential workers to job opportunities in their communities. We are developing a survey to gather information about the obstacles faced by potential workers and public transit to connect individuals without cars to destinations not developed with pedestrian and public transit access in mind. Identifying the origin and destination of any public transit service is the first step. While we generally know where the jobs are located, we do not have reliable data to support where potential workers are concentrated or to develop service around different work shift schedules. At this early stage, we hope to gain a better understanding of job opportunities in our northern cities and the availability and location of potential qualified workers.

**Service Reports. Ridership.** (*Coronavirus closures began March 2020*). Total county fixed route and DART ridership decreased by 14.60% through December, as compared to December 2020, with total county service performing 194,902 trips as compared to 228,234 trips performed through December 2020.

County fixed route service decreased by approximately 17.57% as compared to last year, with 155,265 trips completed through December, as compared to 188,359 trips completed through December 2020. DART service decreased by just .60% through December, as compared to last year, with 39,637 trips completed in 2021 as compared to 39,875 trips completed in 2020.

Overall ridership, including campus service, decreased by 12.21%, with campus down by 10.13%. Total system ridership totaled 384,548 as compared to 438,028 through December 2020.

**On-Time Compliance. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service.** ADA on-time compliance was 96.31% in December as compared to 95.15% in November. Of 704 trips, 26 were performed late, with the latest running 28 minutes behind. Year-end totals show on-time compliance remaining steady at 94.25% as compared to 94.27% in 2020, with the total trips increasing from 7,783 in 2020 to 7,829 in 2021.

**General Public (non-ADA) DART.** On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips increased to 98% for December, as compared to 84% in November 2021.

**Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM).** On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules was 100% in December as compared to 100% in November 2021.

**Parking Deck.** A total of 7,919 cars used the deck in December, a decrease of 7% as compared to November, when 8,538 cars utilized the deck. Year-end usage increased by 55.5% as compared to 2020, with a total of 89,535 cars in 2021 and 57,561 cars in 2020.

**Kudos for January 17 Performance.** Like other RTAs, the snowstorm that dropped over 12 inches of snow overnight caused service disruptions. Operations focused available drivers on dialysis and life-sustaining transportation on demand response service and recalled buses on fixed routes that were not serviceable due to road conditions. In addition, our service crews worked all night and throughout the day to keep PARTA's campus cleared for early morning pull-out and the parking deck clear of snow and ice for our tenants and parkers. Great job, everyone!

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you have any questions prior to the Board meeting, please feel free to contact me by calling (330) 676-6315, or by e-mail at [Amrhein.c16@partaonline.org](mailto:Amrhein.c16@partaonline.org).





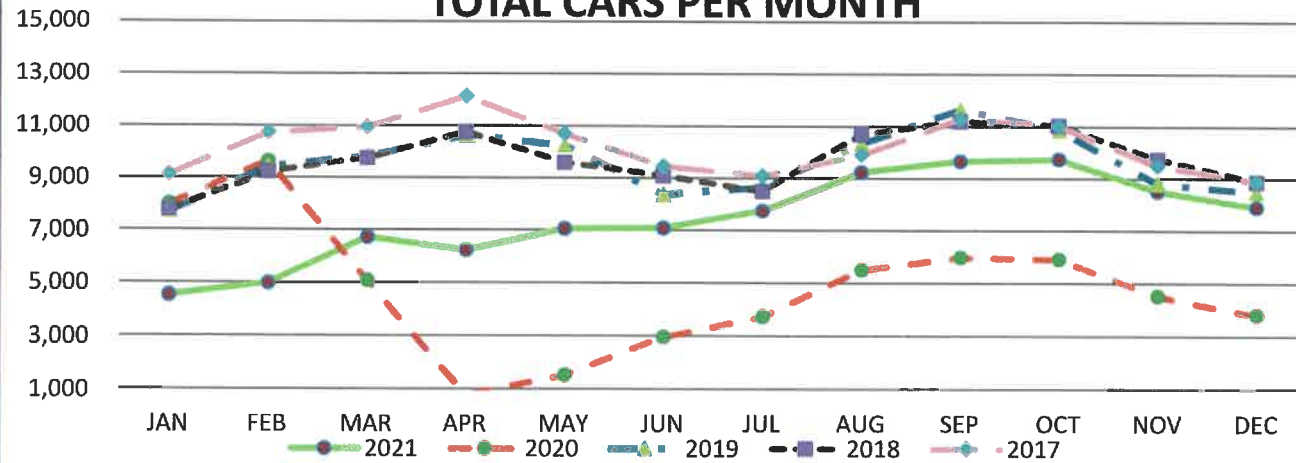
# KENT CENTRAL GATEWAY PARKING SUMMARY - December 2021

	6 Month Lookback					
	Monthly	Transient	Total	Cars/Day	Last	Last Year
Jul-21	3,537	4,225	7,762	250	10%	108%
Aug-21	4,082	5,166	9,248	298	19%	68%
Sep-21	5,123	4,542	9,665	322	5%	61%
Oct-21	4,922	4,827	9,749	314	1%	64%
Nov-21	4,273	4,265	8,538	285	-12%	88%
Dec-21	3,560	4,359	7,919	255	-7%	107%

## Annual Comparison

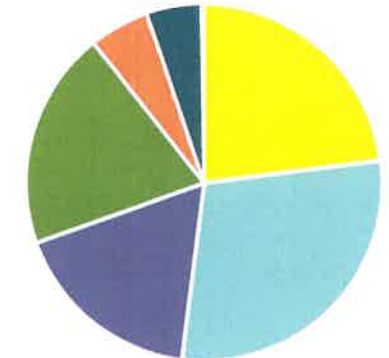
	2021	2020	2019
JAN	4,534	8,024	7,707
FEB	4,982	9,642	9,424
MAR	6,738	5,082	9,836
APR	6,249	785	10,639
MAY	7,067	1,535	10,268
JUN	7,084	2,961	8,371
JUL	7,762	3,730	8,672
AUG	9,248	5,502	10,352
SEP	9,665	5,996	11,657
OCT	9,749	5,938	10,888
NOV	8,538	4,538	8,812
DEC	7,919	3,828	8,505
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,535</b>	<b>57,561</b>	<b>118,373</b>
	-22.2%	55.5%	-50.0%

## TOTAL CARS PER MONTH

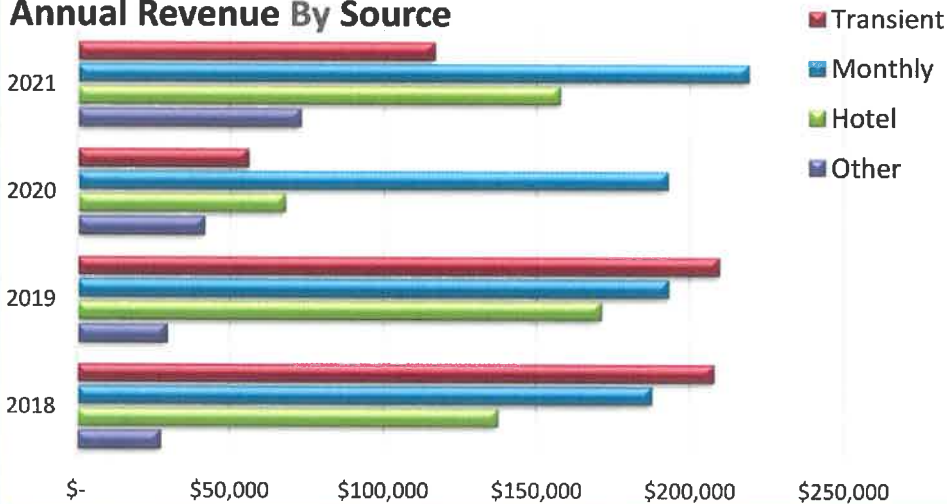


## # Rate Types Collected

- \$1.00
- \$2.00
- \$3.00
- \$4.00
- \$5.00
- \$6 - \$9
- \$10 - \$15
- >15

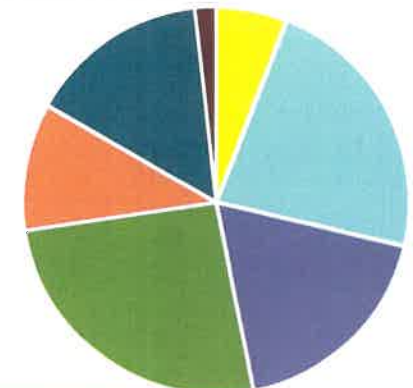


## Annual Revenue By Source



## \$ Rate Types Collected

- \$1.00
- \$2.00
- \$3.00
- \$4.00
- \$5.00
- \$6 - \$9
- \$10 - \$15
- >15



**RESOLUTION #2022-01-01**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER, OR HER DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE, ENTER INTO, AND SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) CNG TROLLEY BUSES, OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, AND SPARE PARTS WITH TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SALES CORPORATION (TESCO).**

**WHEREAS, PARTA has identified a need to purchase trolley buses to replace buses that are beyond their useful life and are included in the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and**

**WHEREAS, PARTA conducted a formal procurement (RFP #Low Floor 2021-01), in accordance with the procurement procedures, and awarded a contract to Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation (TESCO) for trolley buses in Resolution #2021-05-02; and**

**WHEREAS, PARTA has identified a need to purchase four (4) CNG trolley buses consistent with PARTA's bus replacement schedule, which is vital to the continued efficient operation of PARTA; and**

**WHEREAS, PARTA was awarded Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds in the amount of \$920,000 to cover up to 80% of the cost of two (2) CNG buses; and**

**WHEREAS, PARTA was awarded \$722,876 to cover up to 60% of the cost of two (2) CNG buses through Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) funds; and**

**WHEREAS, additional grant funds were awarded from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) through the Ohio Transit Partnership Program (OTP2); and**

**WHEREAS, PARTA will utilize local sales tax revenue as local match and to supplement the grant funding in the event unexpected contingent expenses arise.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) Board of Trustees that:

The General Manager, or her designee, is hereby authorized to execute said contract with Transportation Equipment Sales Corporation (TESCO) for the production and purchase of four (4) CNG trolley buses, optional equipment, and spare parts, for a cost not to exceed \$2,700,000.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The undersigned duly qualified Board President, acting on behalf of the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 27, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Gynn, President  
Board of Trustees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested

# Storm cripples region with a foot of snow



**Jalen Podsiadlo uses a snow blower Monday to clear his driveway in the Firestone Park neighborhood of Akron.**  
KAREN SCHIELY/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

## Several closures announced as crews work around the clock to clear roads

**Doug Livingston**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A foot of snow kept many Northeast Ohio residents from work Monday and sent vehicles into ditches when others tried to venture out.

Already short-staffed agencies that provide critical care struggled as local governments worked around the clock to clear roads.

Public transit routes ran behind schedule or were canceled due to buses stuck in deep snow and absent employees.

A COVID testing site and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Stark County closed, as well as Lock 3 and the zoo in Akron. Kent State University decided Monday afternoon to go virtual Tuesday with much of the region still buried.

And stressed hospitals and long-term care facilities were left with even

fewer employees. Nurses and staff slept overnight in hospitals, worked extra hours or got emergency rides to work from their employers during the snowstorm.

Travel was impaired or impossible in some places long after the tail-end of snowstorm Izzy passed the Akron-Canton region around 10 a.m.

In Akron's Firestone Park neighborhood, Gavin Smith and a neighbor were digging his car out of the unplowed city street in front of his home. It was 3:15 p.m. He was expected to clock in at a nursing home in 15 minutes.

"The road is definitely not plowed at all. Hasn't been touched," he said. "It was a struggle getting it out of the driveway. Now it's even harder getting it down the road."

Already late for work, he eventually pushed his way through the city block of unplowed street.

**See SNOW, Page 3A**



**AJ Stair snowboards down a makeshift ramp on his front porch Monday in Cuyahoga Falls.**

PHIL MASTURZO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

# Snow

Continued from Page 1A

Municipal workers had been treating the roads for days before the storm. City officials said Monday afternoon that residential streets across Akron would not be plowed until Monday night or Tuesday morning as crews prioritized higher-volume routes and streets leading to schools and hospitals.

High call volume kept some requests for a city plow truck on the 311 hotline for 10 minutes or longer.

## How winter storm Izzy unfolded across the region

The National Weather Service forecasted 7 to 14 inches by 10 a.m. Monday. But several residents in Summit County reported closer to 14 inches, with gusty winds threatening snow drifts and a couple more inches on the way, especially in communities near the Interstate 80 snow belt.

At its worst, the snow fell an inch an hour overnight. It let up about 8 a.m. for much of the region as temperatures dipped to about 24 degrees by noon. The highest totals of 18 inches or more were recorded east of Interstate 77. Two feet of snow fell in Ashtabula.

Photos of stranded public buses and a snowmobile ripping through the streets of downtown Cleveland were shared on social media. People scrambled to sheds to gas up snow blowers, flagged down plow trucks or just resigned themselves to a day inside with a view of the season's first heavy snowfall.

Many never made it out of their driveways.

Cleveland's regional transportation agency reported 50 buses stuck by 5 a.m. In Summit County, 42 Metro RTA operators — about one in six — did not report for work. Fortunately to be running only fixed-routes and services for the disabled on the federal holiday, 17 of the agency's buses got stuck in deep snow and 23 routes were canceled.

"Our operations supervisors are reporting that, while driving conditions are stressful, everyone is doing their best to keep the services up and running in extraordinary circumstances," Metro RTA spokeswoman Molly Becker said.

The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority also reported delays. An Ohio



Zach Marzick takes his dog Sage for a walk along a sidewalk covered knee-deep in snow Monday in Akron's Firestone Park neighborhood.

KAREN SCHIELY/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL



Mack Rodgers digs out his snow-covered car Monday on Edgehill Drive in Akron's Ellet neighborhood. MIKE CARDEW

National Guard COVID-19 testing facility at the Stark County Fairgrounds and Stark County Fair offices, as well as the Pro Football Hall of Fame and other attractions, were closed because of the winter storm.

The Akron-Canton Regional Airport was open and operating at normal capacity Monday.

"Our team has done a really good job of clearing the runways," said Lisa Dalpiaz, airport spokeswoman. She said some airlines have delayed flights, so travelers should check their flight times.

Summit County was upgraded to a Level 2 snow emergency Monday morning by Sheriff Kandy Fatheree after the National Weather Service upgraded it and Cuyahoga County from a winter weather advisory.

Roadways were hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. The sheriff said only people who felt it is necessary to drive should be on roadways.

The snow apparently had little impact on electrical lines. By 9 a.m., about 200 of the more than 2 million customers served by FirstEnergy and its

subsidiaries were without power, the Akron-based electric company reported. That figure had dropped to 77 by 2 p.m.

## Treacherous roads

For vehicles that escaped their driveways, travel was treacherous Monday. The Ohio Department of Transportation reported numerous vehicles off the road or stuck in the snow across the region.

The left lane of I-76 East at state Route 8 was closed at 8 a.m. because of snow and ice, ODOT said.

Most communities in the region implemented parking bans Sunday night and, by Monday evening, had not lifted them. Schools were closed for the Martin Luther King holiday.

Plow/salt truck crews in Akron began pre-treating streets with brine on Friday. The full fleet was deployed by Sunday, pre-treating roads with salt.

Cuyahoga Falls had 28 plow/salt trucks working on Monday, Mayor Don Walters said on social media. The trucks were concentrating first on state Route 8, main roads, intersections and hills until the snow stopped, then transitioned to secondary roads and then to neighborhoods.

The city of Cuyahoga Falls also announced that there would be no sanitation pickup on Monday. There will be a one-day delay in refuse collection for the balance of the week, with crews planning to work on Saturday.

## Upcoming weather

Lake-effect snow for parts of Northeast Ohio was expected to increase through the afternoon into the evening.

The weather service said it did not expect hazardous weather Tuesday through Sunday, though additional accumulation of 1-2 inches in Akron, 1 inch in Canton and 3 or more inches in parts of northern Summit County and northwestern Portage County are forecasted by 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Wednesday's forecast — rain-snow mix in the morning with a high of 39 followed by snow in the evening — is expected to generate about a half inch of accumulation by the end of the day. Precipitation isn't forecasted again this week until Sunday.

Other Gannett reporters contributed to this report. Reach Doug Livingston at [dlivingston@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:dlivingston@thebeaconjournal.com) or 330-996-3792.