

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order Oral  
Roll Call
2. Meeting Minutes Attachment 2a  
Minutes from July 27, 2023, 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 Scheduled to Meet 8/22  
b. Finance Did Not Meet  
c. Operations Did Not Meet  
d. Personnel Did Not Meet
6. Old Business
7. New Business  
  - Presentation
8. Resolution - Roll Call Approval Required
9. Executive Session, as needed
10. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:**  
**September 28, 2023 @ 7 p.m.**

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES**

**July 27, 2023**

**Board Members Present:**

Karen Beck  
Jeff Childers  
Debbie Davison

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

Stacey Wilson  
Karen Wise, TPO  
Marvin Woods

**Staff Present:**

Claudia Amrhein  
Denise Baba  
Marcia Fletcher

Natalie Rothenbuecher, Roetzel & Address  
Rebecca Schrader

Greg Springer  
Brian Trautman

**Board Members Not Present:**

Marge Bjerregaard (1<sup>st</sup> excused absence)  
Virginia Harris (1<sup>st</sup> excused absence)

Jack Murphy (1<sup>st</sup> excused absence)  
Frank Vitale (1<sup>st</sup> excused absence)

**Guests Present:**

Richard Brockett

Mary Ann Brockett

Pat Gynn

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dave Gynn called the July 27, 2023, PARTA Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7 p.m. He asked for a roll call, after which it was determined that a **quorum was participating**.

Mr. Gynn thanked everyone for coming and acknowledged the PARTA staff for making the arrangements for the RubberDucks game last month since there wasn't a Board meeting. He said it was nice that the trolley was available to provide transportation to and from the game.

Moving on, Mr. Gynn asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2023, Board meeting. **Mr. Mike Lewis** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by **Mr. Marvin Woods**. The **motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.**

**GUEST COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Gynn asked the guests in attendance if they would like to comment.

Mr. Richard Brockett said in his former profession, there was a saying, "By your students, you'll be taught." He tweaked that a little and said, "By the staff of PARTA, I was taught." He said he learned about eminent domain and the audit process during his years on the Board. It was a new world for him, and he is happy to have been a part of it. He is sure that the public is getting a lot of bang for their buck.

Mr. Gynn thanked Mr. Brockett for his many years of service and then moved on to the committee reports.

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Gynn asked Ms. Karen Wise to present the Administration Committee report.

Ms. Wise said the Administration Committee met this evening. She thanked Ms. Karen Beck and Ms. Debbie Davison for rounding out the committee. She said the committee discussed Mr. Brockett's retirement from the Board and Resolution 2023-07-03 honoring him. The committee also discussed Resolution 2023-07-01 and unanimously passed that resolution on to the Board for consideration. The big item of business was the slate of Board officers for consideration: Mr. Dave Gynn for President, Mr. Mike Lewis for Vice President, and Mr. Marvin Woods for Temporary Presiding Officer.

Mr. Gynn thanked Ms. Wise and said voting would occur later in the meeting. He asked if anybody had any questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Gynn said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday and he asked Mr. Mike Lewis to give that report.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Lewis thanked Mr. Gynn and said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday. He thanked Mr. Jeff Childers and Mr. Gynn for attending the meeting. Looking at the June Finance Report, he said KSU Revenues were down \$106,278, which was expected. There was a draw from State Capital Maintenance Assistance of \$115,661 and a draw from Federal Operating (ARPA) reimbursing driver wages of \$114,468. Investment Income was \$40,773 for June, which was \$36,607 above budget. On the expense side, wages were well below budget because of unfilled positions. There were two things that were a little out of line. Something hit at the end of the month that should have correctly been posted in July and there were additional monies that went to purchase new bus stops for \$21,363 above what was budgeted for the month. For June, there was an overall surplus of \$291,859 against budget; and year to date, there was a surplus of \$1,321,210 above budget. He asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Lewis moved on to the Kent Central Gateway (KCG). He said June was a good month with all revenues above budget and almost all expenses below budget. Employee wages were behind again for the same reason as with PARTA. Daily Parking Revenue was up \$13,012 for the month, which was \$4,012 above budget. The current period had an overall surplus of \$26,315 to budget and year to date had a surplus of \$80,814 to budget. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Gynn said it's interesting to look at the difference between the average revenue per car and the average expense per car on the KCG Finance Report, which has changed over the last year or two.

Mr. Lewis said June typically has been one of the higher months when it comes to the difference between the two.

Mr. Gynn thanked Mr. Lewis for the report and moved on to the Operations Committee Report.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Gynn said the Operations Committee met tonight and he asked Mr. R. T. Mansfield to give the report.

Mr. Mansfield said the committee met and had one item to consider, which was a resolution authorizing the General Manager to negotiate a contract with Duo-Gard Industries for designing, producing, and delivering a 730 square foot polycarbonate canopy. This is an elaborate L-shaped structure, like a bus shelter, to go between the Administration building and the bus storage facility. The committee unanimously recommended referring this to the Board for positive consideration. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Gynn said there were details in the Board packet; and if anybody had any questions, now was the time to ask.

Hearing none, Mr. Gynn thanked Mr. Mansfield for the report and moved on to the Personnel Committee Report.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Gynn said the Personnel Committee did not meet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gynn moved on to the resolutions.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Gynn introduced the first resolution.

**#2023-07-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR SFY 2024 AND 2025 TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS. THESE GRANTS MAY INCLUDE THE OHIO ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSIT FARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE URBAN TRANSIT PROGRAM, THE OHIO TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (OTP2), THE SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (SECTION 5310), AND THE OHIO WORKFORCE MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

Mr. Gynn asked for a motion and a second to pass this resolution.

**Motion: Mike Lewis**

**Second: Karen Beck**

Mr. Gynn said the Administration Committee discussed this resolution and forwarded it on to the Board for approval. He asked if anybody had any questions or comments.

Ms. Claudia Amrhein said this may look familiar because in March the Board passed a very similar resolution to authorize grant applications with ODOT for 2024. Since that time, the Governor signed a new biennium budget, which included a new source of funding availability that wasn't listed in the original authorizing resolution that was passed in March. Also, ODOT switched up its application schedule for the 2025 round of funding so this resolution will accompany the grant applications due by the end of August or early September 2023 for the new Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program if pursued. To make it more confusing, 2024 isn't due until October 2023 so this resolution will blanket the remaining grant applications made in 2024 and 2025 through ODOT.

Mr. Gynn asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Marcia 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>
Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	<b>Frank Vitale</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	
Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Stacey Wilson	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
<b>Marge Bjerregaard</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>		<b>Jack Murphy</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Mike Lewis	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	<b>Virginia Harris</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	
Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>	Dave Gynn	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>
Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	<u>   </u>			

Mr. Gynn said that resolution was approved. He then introduced Resolution 2023-07-02.

**#2023-07-02: 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 AN AGREEMENT WITH DUO-GARD INDUSTRIES FOR DESIGNING, PRODUCING, AND DELIVERING A 730 SQUARE FOOT POLYCARBONATE CANOPY.**

Mr. Gynn asked for a motion and a second to approve that resolution.

**Motion: R. T. Mansfield**

**Second: Debbie Davison**

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

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

Mr. Gynn said that resolution was approved and then moved back up to the General Manager’s report.

**GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**

Ms. Amrhein thanked Mr. Gynn and everyone for coming out tonight. She thanked Board members for their participation on the committees and Ms. Wise for her guidance on the annual nomination process. She welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Brockett and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Gynn for bringing them tonight. She said there will be refreshments after the meeting, which include homemade ice cream made by Ms. Denise Baba. Mr. Brockett is cycling off the Board and the Portage County Commissioners have advertised that position but there is no appointment yet. She will keep the Board posted. She asked Mr. Brian Trautman to say a few words about the parking system upgrades at KCG, as mentioned in her Board report. Some Board members may recall the complications with the parking system technology that was installed in 2017.

Mr. Trautman said parking is currently paid for through pay on foot machines. A ticket is obtained upon entry to the parking garage, the ticket is paid through the pay on foot machine, the pay on foot machine validates the ticket, and the ticket is inserted into the machine upon exiting. The new system and software allow for payment with a cell phone. There is an app available for downloading where the parking space is entered into the app and payment processed through that app. The pay on foot machines cost about \$70,000 each to buy and there are two of them. They are 10 years old now so this new technology will eliminate that expenditure in the future. The other nice thing about it is that the vendors downtown, like Kent Stage, can buy validations for their customers to go along with event ticket purchases through that app. It provides for a lot more diversity in billing. It’s a big step forward and should be wrapped up very soon. There are a few things that are being taken care of with credit card companies, but it should be a lot easier and more user friendly across the board especially when someone leaves their ticket in their car and forgets to validate it. He asked if there were any questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Gynn asked Ms. Wise to introduce and read Resolution 2023-07-03.

Ms. Wise read the resolution in its entirety.

**#2023-07-03: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES HONORING RICHARD BROCKETT, BOARD MEMBER, IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE.**



Mr. Gynn asked for a motion and a second.

**Motion: Mike Lewis**

**Second: R. T. Mansfield**

<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 Wise	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
<b>Frank Vitale</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>	<b>Marge Bjerregaard</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>
Stacey Wilson	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
<b>Jack Murphy</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>	R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
Mike Lewis	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
<b>Virginia Harris</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>	Dave Gynn	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>			

Mr. Gynn said the motion was approved. He thanked Mr. Brockett and encouraged everyone to stay after the meeting for refreshments.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Moving on, Mr. Gynn said the next item of business was the election of Board officers. The nominations, as Ms. Wise presented, were Mr. Dave Gynn for President, Mr. Mike Lewis for Vice President, and Mr. Marvin Woods for Temporary Presiding Officer. He asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he said the officer elections would be conducted by a roll call vote rather than by written ballot as outlined in the Bylaws, Section III. He asked for a motion and a second to close the nominations.

**Close Nominations**

**Motion: Debbie Davison**

**Second: Karen Beck**

Mr. Gynn then asked for a roll call.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>		<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
Michael Lewis	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
<b>Virginia Harris</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>	Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	<b>Frank Vitale</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>
Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Stacey Wilson	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
<b>Marge Bjerregaard</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>	<b>Jack Murphy</b>	<b><u>EXCUSED</u></b>	<u>    </u>
Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Dave Gynn	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>			

Mr. Gynn closed the nominations and then asked for a motion and a second to accept the elected slate of officers.

**Accept and elect slate of officers:**

<b>President</b>	<b><u>Dave Gynn</u></b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b><u>Mike Lewis</u></b>
<b>Temporary Presiding Officer</b>	<b><u>Marvin Woods</u></b>

**Motion: Stacey Wilson**      **Second: Karen Wise**

Mr. Gynn asked for a roll call.

Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Jeff Childers	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Stacey Wilson	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
Marge Bjerregaard	<b>EXCUSED</b>		Jack Murphy	<b>EXCUSED</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>EXCUSED</b>	
Marvin Woods	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Debbie Davison	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
Karen Wise	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>	Dave Gynn	<u>X</u>	<u>    </u>
Frank Vitale	<b>EXCUSED</b>				

Mr. Gynn said the motion was approved. The officers will take office beginning immediately for one year. One of the duties of the President is to appoint Board members to committees. Last year, he sent Board members a description of all the committees, and they signed up for what they wanted. If any Board member wants to stay on the same committee as last year, they don't have to do anything. If any Board member would like to be put on a different committee, let him know and he will be happy to consider the request. There are four committees with three Board members on each committee. Also, the Board packet included schedules for Board meetings and Finance Committee meetings for 2024. Put them on your calendars. Board meetings almost always fall on the last Thursday of the month and Finance Committee meetings almost always fall on the Tuesday prior to the Board meeting unless there's a holiday or some other reason. Remember that every Board member is entitled and encouraged to attend every committee meeting whether they are on that committee or not.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moving on, Mr. Gynn said there was no reason for an Executive Session. He asked Ms. Baba if she would like to say anything about the fair.

Ms. Baba said the 165<sup>th</sup> Portage County Fair is coming up and *PARTA* will have a booth next to the merchant building again. If anyone would like to volunteer to staff that booth, it would be greatly appreciated. The Board meeting is on that Thursday of fair week, but the fair opens on Tuesday, goes all day Wednesday and Thursday, all day Friday for Senior Citizens Day, all day Saturday, and then it ends on Sunday at 8 p.m. The sign-up sheet is available tonight for anyone who would like to volunteer. Senior Citizens Day on Friday is free but if anyone signs up for another day, they will get a pass for that day.

Mr. Gynn encouraged everyone to sign up and reminded everybody that August 8 is an important election day. He asked if there was any other business to come before the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing nothing further, Mr. Gynn entertained a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Mike Lewis** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Mr. Marvin Woods**. Mr. Gynn asked all in favor to signify by aye. He asked any opposed the same sign. Hearing none, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Marcia Fletcher  
Executive Assistant

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

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**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

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**TO:** PARTA Board of Trustees   
**FROM:** Claudia B. Amrhein, General Manager  
**DATE:** August 2023

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**Committee Meetings and Resolutions.** We have no resolutions to bring forward during the **August board meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 24, at 7 p.m.** This in no way reflects a lack of activity at PARTA, however, as outlined in this board report. **The finance committee** will meet on **Tuesday, August 22, at 11:30 a.m.** to review July financial reports. Lunch will be provided.

**Board Committee Assignments.** President Dave Gynn finalized new standing committee assignments for members and chairs following the July annual meeting. An updated list is included in this packet.

**Presentation.** During the August meeting, we'll highlight the primary initiatives we are beginning to develop for 2024.

**Celebrating Polly the Trolley's First Anniversary.** This week marks Polly the Trolley's one-year anniversary. On August 16, employees enjoyed cake in honor of the momentous occasion. On August 18, Main Street Ravenna celebrated Polly's big day with a ride along through downtown.

**New Transit Bus Design.** The GILLIG transit buses authorized and ordered via Resolution #2022-11-05 will begin line production in December 2023, with delivery expected in early- to mid-year 2024. The buses will be CNG-powered and will sport a new graphic design and the "PARTA Pride/Ride" logo. We included employee input and voting on the top 3 designs prepared by our graphic design intern, Makayla Gibson. Included in this packet is a mock-up of the winning design.

**Facilities and Maintenance Updates.** Our maintenance team keeps a very busy schedule during summertime, coordinating seasonal maintenance work and building projects while maintaining access around the property. Replacing the original administration wing roof with a green metal roof makes a big impact on longevity and the visual appeal of our building. Sealing and restriping the parking lot is underway, and surface preparation work needed for the garage connector project was completed this week. Photos of this work are included in this packet.

**Detoured Raven Route Supports Octane Nights Car Show.** On August 2, thousands of classic cars and spectators filled the one-half mile stretch in Ravenna from Freedom Street to Cotton Corners for the annual *Octane Nights on Main Street Cruise In*. Our Raven route services Ravenna High School on Chestnut Street and this lot served as off-site event parking. This allowed event visitors to ride trolley buses to the corner of Freedom and Main Streets throughout the evening, where the route detoured due to the road closure.

**Community Engagement Initiatives.** Launching new software solutions for fixed route services this summer provided a great opportunity to interact with our passengers and others who help people access resources throughout the county. We set reengaging with the community as a priority for 2023 as pandemic disruptions eased. The "Ride Free" in June initiative provided a soft launch of the new payment system and opportunities to work directly with passengers to enroll in and use the new system. In July, we supported a United Way drive to collect back-to-school supplies for local children.



We opened August with the transportation workshop described below and are actively recruiting KSU students to drive as they return to campus. We'll be a daily presence at the Randolph Fair next week; and in October, we are planning to hold a stuff-the-bus food collection drive to support Kent Social Services and the Center of Hope.

**Health and Transportation Workshop.** We hosted a workshop on August 9 in partnership with the Portage County Health District and Portage County Job and Family Services. Staff from social service agencies, county departments, and service providers learned how to help families and clients access transportation options for reaching healthcare services and other important resources in Portage County.

**USDOT Awards \$5.25 Million RAISE Grant to City of Kent East Main Street Project.** The city of Kent will receive \$5.25 million in funding to support its East Main Street Project through the second round of USDOT RAISE discretionary grant awards. The joint application included the city, KSU, and PARTA, demonstrating a partnership-based approach to improving safety, accessibility, and mobility in the worst crash corridor in the AMATS region. The project is one of four awards in Ohio of 162 total awards nationwide. Construction is set to begin in 2025.

**Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) Conference is September 18-20.** As president of OPTA, I've been involved in conference planning activities for months. The conference will offer numerous sessions on alternative fuel planning, grants and fiscal updates, mobile ticketing and other emerging transit software platforms, active transportation, and other timely topics.

**Service Reports.** *Please note: The passenger counts reported monthly in this section may be adjusted in future months. The transition to new software platforms continues, and we're working through tracking, reconciliation, and reporting functions with each platform.*

**Ridership.** Total county fixed route and DART ridership increased by 30.14% through July, as compared to July 2022, with total county service performing 166,593 trips, as compared to 128,013 trips performed through July 2022. County fixed route service increased by 37.93%, as compared to last year, with 141,568 trips completed through July, as compared to 102,635 trips completed through July 2022. **On-Time Compliance.** ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. ADA on-time compliance was 96.11% in July, as compared to 96.90% in June. Of 797 trips, 31 were performed late, with the latest running 54 minutes behind.

General Public (non-ADA) DART. On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips increased to 97.43% for July, as compared to 96.54% in June 2023. Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM). On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules was 98% in July, as compared to 98% in June 2023.

**Parking Deck.** A total of 7,730 cars used the deck in July, nearly identical to June usage, and a decrease of 3% as compared to year-to-date usage through July 2022. Overall, parking continues to trend closely with 2022 patterns.

**Randolph Fair Begins Tuesday, August 22.** It is not too late to sign up to greet visitors at the PARTA table at the Randolph Fair. Please contact Marcia or Denise for more information.

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).

## 2023-2024 PARTA BOARD

### Members

Dave Gynn, President  
Mike Lewis, Vice President  
Marvin Woods, Temporary Presiding Officer

Karen Beck  
Marge Bjerregaard  
Jeff Childers  
Debbie Davison  
Virginia Harris  
R. T. Mansfield  
Jack Murphy  
Frank Vitale  
Stacey Wilson  
Karen Wise

### **BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### ADMINISTRATION

Karen Wise – **Chair**  
Jack Murphy  
Stacey Wilson

#### FINANCE

Mike Lewis - **Chair**  
Jeff Childers  
Virginia Harris

#### OPERATIONS

R.T. Mansfield - **Chair**  
Debbie Davison  
Marvin Woods

#### PERSONNEL

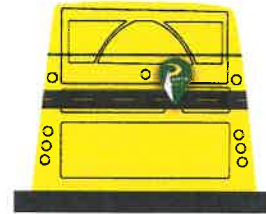
Karen Beck – **Chair**  
Marge Bjerregaard  
Dave Gynn

\*\* In accordance with the *PARTA* By-Laws, the current President shall be an *ex-officio* member of each committee.

**HAPPY 1<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY POLLY!**



# NEW TRANSIT BUS DESIGN





**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NEW ROOF**





**LOT STRIPING**



**GARAGE CONNECTOR PROJECT**

Preparation Work Begins



**UNITED WAY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

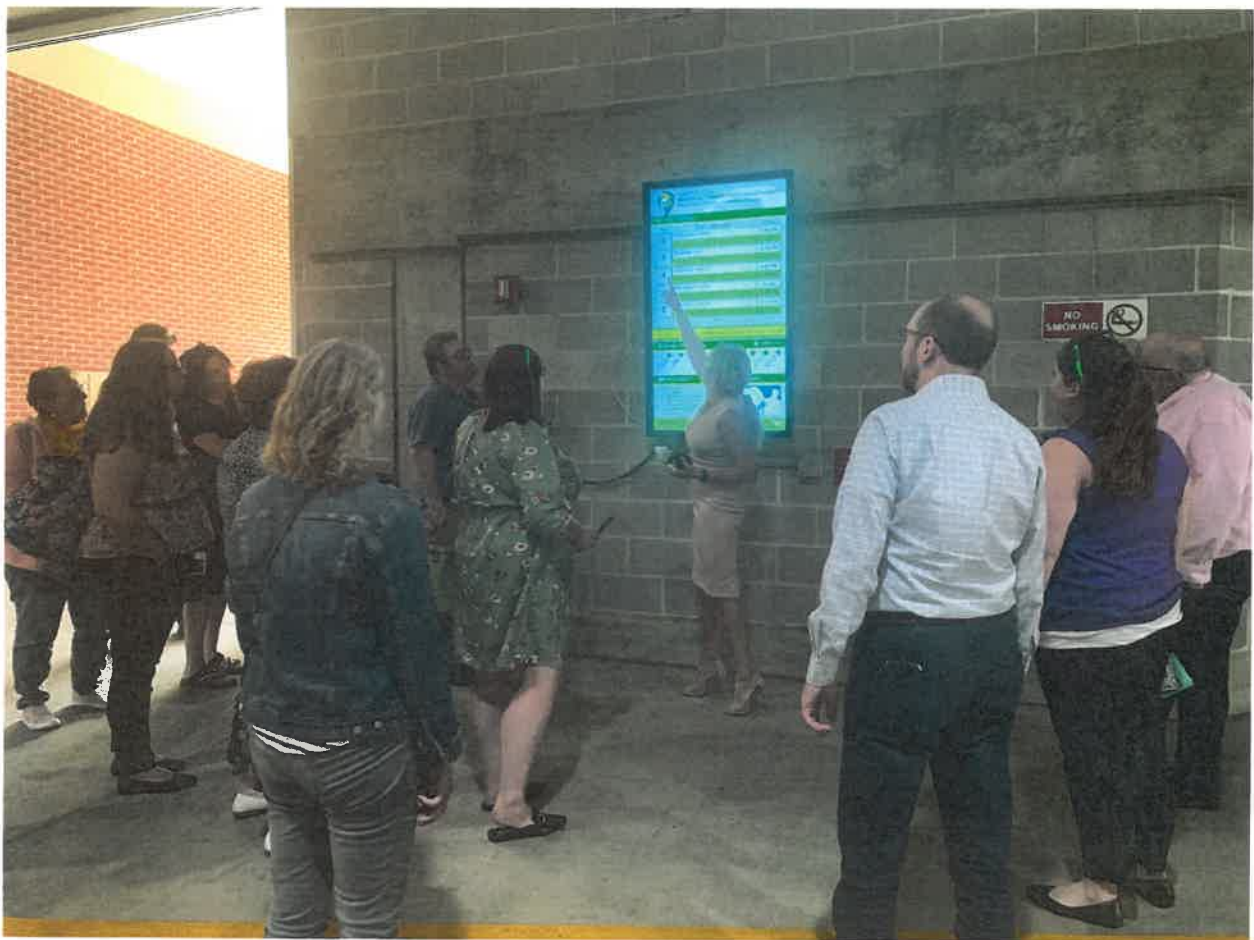




**HEALTH AND TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP**











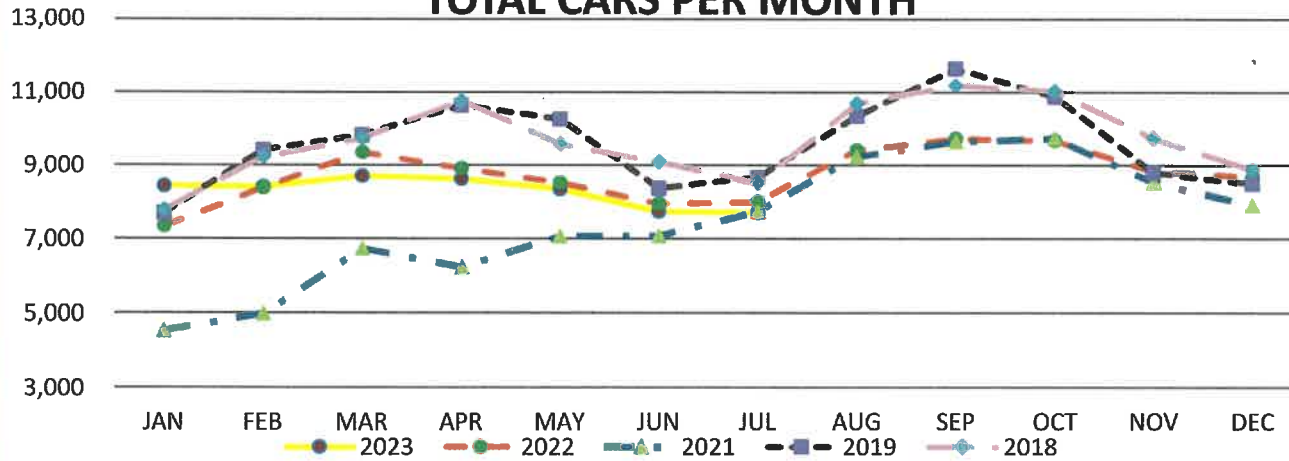
# KENT CENTRAL GATEWAY PARKING SUMMARY - JULY 2023

6 Month Lookback						
	Monthly	Transient	Total	Cars/Day	Last	Last Year
Feb-23	4,328	4,093	8,421	301	0%	0%
Mar-23	4,309	4,406	8,715	281	3%	-7%
Apr-23	4,284	4,350	8,634	288	-1%	-3%
May-23	3,921	4,439	8,360	270	-3%	-2%
Jun-23	3,076	4,673	7,749	258	-7%	-3%
Jul-23	3,099	4,631	7,730	249	0%	-3%

## Annual Comparison

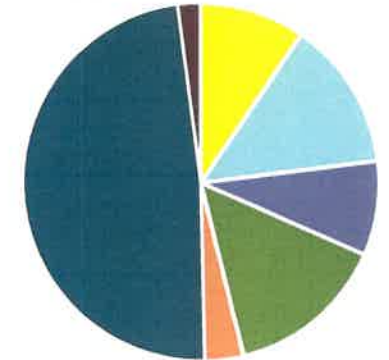
	2023	2022	2021
JAN	8,445	7,349	4,534
FEB	8,421	8,391	4,982
MAR	8,715	9,363	6,738
APR	8,634	8,923	6,249
MAY	8,360	8,529	7,067
JUN	7,749	7,967	7,084
JUL	7,730	8,009	7,762
AUG		9,437	9,248
SEP		9,749	9,665
OCT		9,693	9,749
NOV		8,840	8,538
DEC		8,694	7,919
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58,054</b>	<b>104,944</b>	<b>89,535</b>
	-0.8%	17.2%	55.5%

## TOTAL CARS PER MONTH

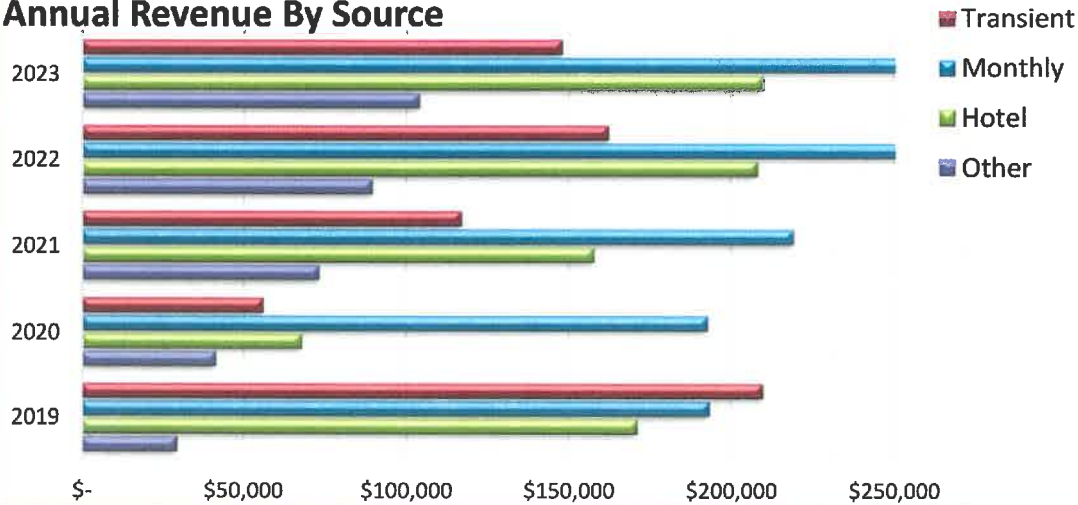


## # Rate Types Collected

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

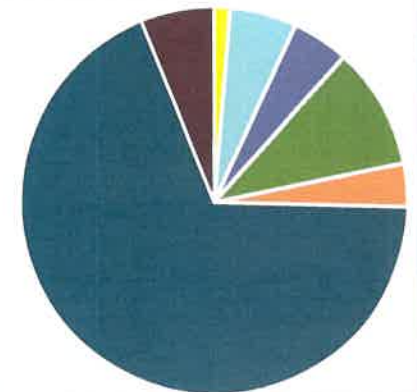


## Annual Revenue By Source



## \$ Rate Types Collected

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



Covering Ravenna, Kent & Portage County

# Record-Courier

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 | RECORD-COURIER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



# IT'S ELECTRIC

## Portage County locations adding charging stations

**Jeff Saunders**  
Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

With Ohio gearing up to boost the number of electric vehicle charging stations, some Portage County communities and entities have actively sought to jump on board.

Melanie Knowles, Kent State University's sustainability manager, said KSU began installing charging stations around 2012 and now has eight scattered in parking lots around the campus, including three that began operating just this past spring.

"We know we have people coming to campus regularly, as well as visitors to campus, who have electric vehicles and may need to charge while they're here," she said. "So we want to make sure that we have the infrastructure to be able to accommodate that."

The Portage County Regional Transit Authority also provides public charging stations at its Kent Central Gateway parking garage.

See STATIONS, Page 4A



**The state's electric vehicle business is expected to create 25,400 jobs by 2030, according to a new report. That includes the jobs being created by the EV battery plant being built in Jeffersonville by Honda and LG Energy.**

PROVIDED BY HONDA, LG ENERGY

**TOP: This new electric vehicle charging station began operating this month at 9015 Maple Grove Road in Windham. It is by a building where the village's police department plans to move.**

LISA SCALFARO/RAVENNA RECORD-COURIER

## EV industry to create 25,400 jobs by 2030

**Mark Williams**  
Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

The burgeoning electric vehicle industry is expected to create 25,400 jobs in Ohio by 2030, according to a new state report that lays out a strategy meant to make sure that the state's advanced manufacturing workforce is ready to meet the challenge of making EVs and their components along with the infrastructure to keep the vehicles running.

EV investments in the state have topped \$8 billion in the past year and a half, led by Honda's move to make Ohio the U.S. hub for its investments in electric vehicles and the batteries that power them.

"The advent of EVs necessitates comprehensive changes to our power grid, workforce, and production systems, and Ohio is poised to play a significant role in meeting these demands and accelerating their adoption across the United States," Lt. Gov. Jon Husted said in the report, released last month at the

See INDUSTRY, Page 3A

## Stations

Continued from Page 1A

"It's just trying to stay as diverse as we can in the transportation market," said PARTA Chief Operating Officer Brian Trautman.

Two recently installed stations now provide options in a portion of the county that was previously an EV charging station desert, in Garrettsville and Windham.

And thanks to efforts at the state level to develop a charging station infrastructure along interstates in Ohio, one is expected to be put into place at the Brimfield Meijer store.

For various reasons, including because the charging stations are too new or they are not set up to provide data, solid numbers showing how much stations are used is unavailable, but in at least some cases, sources say they have reason to believe they are being used enough to make them worthwhile.

Demand is expected to increase as electric vehicle sales continue to accelerate.

There are currently about 53,000 registered electric vehicles in Ohio, according to the governor's office.

### KSU chargers go back a decade

According to online maps showing charging stations in Portage County, Kent in particular seems to have more than its share, including at KSU and PARTA's Kent Central Gateway.

Knowles said four of KSU's stations have single ports and four have two for a total of 12. Up until this spring, the campus had five stations in parking lots at Harbour Hall, Heer Hall, the Institutional Advancement building at Summit and Lincoln streets, the Center for Visual Arts, and Kent Student Center.

Three more were then added in the spring, at the Center for Performing Arts, Bowman Hall and the Liquid Crystals Materials Science / Aeronautics Technology buildings. All three are dual port chargers paid for with an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency grant totaling \$45,000.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/3jahzvn5> for a map of the KSU campus.

Power for the chargers is supplied by

KSU's own Summit Street power plant. How people pay for charges depends on the station. It could be through a direct payment at the charger, a parking lot fee or at a parking meter.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ykmw35vefor> for more information about the KSU chargers.

Knowles said that while hard numbers on usage are not currently available, "we know anecdotally that they were being used." This includes payments made at the parking meters and requests the university has received for additional charging stations.

Knowles said the new charging stations, unlike the older ones, are part of a network that allows for the collection of usage statistics, but are too new for any good numbers to be available. A condition of the grant is that usage data for those three stations be provided to the EPA over the next five years.

There was a day in May, said Knowles, when there were a total of 10 charges at the three newest stations, a record so far. She acknowledged this may not sound like a lot, but pointed out that this was soon after the stations began operating and not many people

were aware yet that they were there.

"We're keeping an eye on how this develops over time and how many people are using the stations, what the demand will be and we're just trying to accommodate the folks who are coming to campus," she said.

### PARTA part of charging station expansion

Trautman said PARTA has two charging stations with a total of three ports on the first level of the Kent Central Gateway parking garage, 201 E. Erie St.

"The charging stations would be on your left as you come up and start to make your turn at the top of the ramp," he said.

Trautman said the stations were put in around 2015 or 2016 because PARTA supports different modes of transportation. Besides running buses and providing parking for vehicles, there are bicycles racks at Kent Central Gateway and a compressed natural gas fuel station at 2000 Summit Road.

"I think that the electric charging

See **STATIONS**, Page 5A

## Stations

Continued from Page 4A

stations have a good fit inside the city areas or the more populated areas," said Trautman. "It seems like, you know, more and more people are getting electric cars to do their commuting."

Trautman said he did not have data about usage of the charging stations, but people have been seen using them regularly and it is noticed when the charging stations need maintenance.

"There are some customers that use them, I think, almost every day during the week," he said.

"I've seen times when we've had special events where all three [ports] are being used at one time. So they get a fair amount of usage, enough that when it goes down, I get a phone call pretty quick."

### Villages first in their area

Garrettsville Mayor Rick Patrick credited the efforts of former Village Councilman Tom Collins for the village's new dual-port charger in a municipal parking lot behind the High Street police station. Collins died in January 2022.

"We wanted to make sure it got done in his memory," said Patrick, adding that Collins was instrumental in getting an Ohio EPA grant to pay for the station.

"It's kind of neat, unique, because out of our villages in the area, we're the first ones to do anything, get one," he

said.

Village Fiscal Officer Donna Love said the charger became operational during the first half of May. The grant, she said, is for \$13,309 and is expected to pay for at least most of the charger's cost.

Windham Fiscal Officer Katrina Washington said the village's charging station became operational at 9015 Maple Grove Road in early July. It is in the parking lot of a building that the village police department is planning to move into.

Washington said at least part of the station's cost was also paid for with an Ohio EPA grant, but the amount of the grant was not immediately available.

"I know it's pretty standard for everybody. The dollar amount, it's like the same all across the board," said Washington.

Payment for charges is made via AmpUp, a downloadable mobile payment app. Go to <https://ampup.io/drivers> for more information.

A larger charging station was installed earlier this year in the Aurora Memorial Library parking lot, thanks to a \$30,000 Ohio EPA grant.

Ravenna City also attempted to get an Ohio EPA grant for its own charging station in 2022, but was unsuccessful.

### Meijer store expected to get charging station

Gov. Mike DeWine's Office announced last fall that \$100 million was being made available for charging stations statewide. To get funding, proposed charging stations must follow re-

quirements spelled in Ohio's EV Infrastructure Development Plan, created by Drive Ohio, an initiative of the Ohio Department of Transportation. This includes that chargers accommodate at least four direct current fast chargers with at least 150 kilowatts per port. At the time, Ohio had 13 such charging stations, with plans to have 30 more by 2025.

DeWine's office announced July 13 that \$24 million is earmarked to install and operate 27 fast charging stations along seven interstates in Ohio, with \$18 million coming from the Federal Highway Administration's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program and \$6 million from various private entities. The stations are to be in a variety of locations in 50-mile intervals and located within a mile of the interstate.

"This is an exciting time for Ohio as we continue to lead the charge in electric mobility," said DeWine in a media release. "As more Ohioans purchase EVs, this statewide network of chargers will ensure that our transportation infrastructure is prepared to accommodate these drivers, as well as visitors who travel to Ohio to see all that our great state has to offer."

One of the locations slated for a charging station is in Portage County at the Meijer store off Tallmadge Road in Brimfield, just a little west of Interstate 76. Meijer is one of the private entities providing funding.

"About 29% of our stores have EV chargers, so we continue to build out EV charging stations at our stores to facilitate electric vehicles for our customers,"

said Erik Petrovskis, Meijer's director of environmental compliance and sustainability. "So we see that as a role within our community to enable EV charging, which aligns with our commitment to reduce carbon emissions."

Petrovskis said Meijer is still determining a timeline for installing the charging station and whether it will be at a Meijer Express gas station by the road or farther back, closer to the store.

Petrovskis said Meijer has had enough of a history with electric vehicle charging stations to feel confident of success.

"We put in our first chargers 10 years ago when EVs were first being driven and so we've learned a lot through that process," he said. "Our stores have a mix of chargers owned by third parties like Tesla and Electrify America, as well as chargers that we own ourselves. And so we have a portfolio that has been pretty successful. Tesla, of course, launched its network, their cross country traveling network, and they selected Meijer as its partner and so we've had a growing relationship with Tesla. But we also develop our own chargers and the charger here at our Brimfield Township store is one we will own ourselves."

### Where to find charging stations

Need a charge for your electric vehicle? Go to <https://chargehub.com> or <https://driver.chargepoint.com> for maps showing locations across the country.

Reporter Jeff Saunders can be reached at [jjsaunders@recordpub.com](mailto:jjsaunders@recordpub.com).



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- [RAISE Discretionary Grants 2023 Social Press Kit](#)

## Media Contact

### Press Office

US Department of  
Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States

Email: [pressoffice@dot.gov](mailto:pressoffice@dot.gov)

Phone: [1 \(202\) 366-4570](tel:1(202)366-4570) 

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# Biden-Harris Administration Announces Funding for 162 Community-Led Infrastructure Projects as Part of the Investing in America Agenda

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

*This year, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program funds projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories*

ORANGEBURG, SC – Today, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg will join Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn and others in South Carolina to announce that the Biden-Harris Administration has awarded more than \$2.2 billion from the RAISE discretionary grant program to 162 different infrastructure projects across the country. Today's funding includes a nearly \$23 million grant to build a pedestrian bridge and a multi-modal transit hub to better connect neighborhoods and college campuses to downtown Orangeburg, South Carolina.

The RAISE grant program, expanded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, supports communities of all sizes, with **half of the FY2023 funding going to rural areas and the other half to urban areas**. The grants are part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda that is growing the American economy from the bottom up and middle-out—from rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, to driving nearly \$500 billion in private sector manufacturing and clean energy investments in the United States, to creating good-paying jobs and building a clean-energy economy that will combat climate change and make our communities more resilient.

"Using the funds in President Biden's infrastructure law, we are helping communities in every state across the country realize their visions for new infrastructure projects," said **U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg**. "This round of RAISE grants is helping create a new generation of good-paying jobs in rural and urban communities alike, with projects whose benefits will include improving safety, fighting climate change, advancing equity, strengthening our supply chain, and more."

This year's awarded projects will help more people get where they need to be quickly, affordably, and safely. From projects that will strengthen supply chains and reduce bottlenecks, to bridge replacements and road projects to make them safer and more efficient for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, this year's awards will build and repair infrastructure that benefits Americans for future generations to come, while taking steps to reduce emissions from the transportation sector and support wealth creation and good-paying union jobs. **Seventy percent of the grants are going to projects in regions defined as an Area of Persistent Poverty or a Historically Disadvantaged Community.**

Like last year, demand for RAISE funding was higher than available funds. This year, DOT received \$15 billion in requests for the \$2.26 billion available.

Today's awardees include:

- **Chula Vista, California: Palomar Street Grade Separation Project:** \$21.5 million to eliminate a rail crossing that causes frequent delays for drivers and been the site of 85 crashes over a 10-year period. Project also separates Palomar Street from the rail corridor, making it safer for people who walk, bike, and roll.
- **Iowa: Rebuilding Bridges:** \$24.7 million grant to replace up to 9 bridges in poor condition in rural counties. Some bridges are weight-restricted and currently force detours for both residents and commercial truck drivers.

- **Eudora, Kansas: Church Street Community Connectivity and Multimodal Enhancements Project.** \$21 million grant to fix Church Street between 20th and 28th Street near schools, converting a two-lane road into three lanes with a center turn lane and new shared-use paths. Also realigns an intersection, installs a roundabout and adds new stormwater infrastructure.
- **Jackson, Kentucky: Panbowl Lake Corridor Project:** \$21 million grant to make improvements to KY 15, the main artery through town, and strengthen an earthen dam that helps protect community from catastrophic flooding. Jackson was the site of historic, deadly flooding in recent years.
- **New Orleans, Louisiana: New Orleans Downtown Transit Center and Connecting Corridors:** \$24.8 million grant to construct a Downtown Transit Center for the city's bus and streetcar network and make safety improvements at intersections with a history of pedestrian-involved crashes.
- **North Bergen, New Jersey: Tonelle Avenue Bridge and Utility Relocation Project:** \$25 million grant to relocate and construct a new, approximately 100-foot road bridge to carry Tonelle Avenue over a new railroad right-of-way for the new Hudson River Tunnel in North Bergen.
- **Standing Rock, South Dakota: Route 6 Reconstruction and Preservation:** \$18.5 million grant to resurface BIA 6 on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, addressing a road with higher than average roadway injuries and deaths.
- **Caldwell County, Texas: SH 130 Advanced Commercial Truck Travel Plaza:** \$22.9 million grant to design and construct a truck parking plaza that improves safety and convenience for truck drivers. Plaza will include short- and long-term spaces with lighting, fencing, restroom and shower facilities, with 24-hour monitored security.

The full list of projects can be viewed [here](#).

RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the State and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects that they may not have had the funding to carry out prior to passage of President Biden's infrastructure law. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors to obtain funding for projects that are harder to support through other U.S. DOT grant programs.

The RAISE program is one of several ways communities can secure funding for projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's competitive grant programs. This week, the Federal Transit Administration announced early \$1.7 billion in funding through the agency's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program, which puts more zero-emission and low-emission buses on the road while supporting workforce training on new vehicle technologies.

Earlier this week, the Department also published the 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the [Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant \(MPDG\) Program](#): a three-in-one grant opportunity for communities interested in funding made available through the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) discretionary grant program, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural), and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program.

For more information on the RAISE program, click [HERE](#).

###





## EAST MAIN STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

CITY OF KENT

*CITY OF KENT, OH: OHIO*

**CAPITAL**

**URBAN**

AREA OF PERSISTENT POVERTY

RAISE GRANT FUNDING: \$5,250,000

**Project Description:** The project will reconstruct a five-lane road to a four-lane road that includes a landscaped center median, sidewalk, multi-use trail, two roundabouts, bus pullouts, and pedestrian amenities.

**Project Benefits:** The project is strong in safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, and partnership and collaboration. Safety will be addressed by adding a raised median, traffic signal modifications, two roundabouts, and transit pull-offs. The project will also enhance non-motorized users safety by adding a buffered multi-use path, improved lighting, high-visibility mid-block crosswalks, and pedestrian refuge islands. The project aims to reduce on-road emissions in the corridor by implementing traffic calming measures, improving traffic flow, and encouraging non-motorized transportation. The addition of a separated path for pedestrians and improved transit options combine to provide better access to jobs, shopping, medical facilities, and Kent State University. Mobility and community connectivity is addressed by filling gaps in the regional trail network and improving first and last mile connections. The project's investment complements Kent State's long-term economic development plans and helps the university attract faculty and students.



# Reimagining the Gateway

## East Main Street



The City of Kent, the Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, Kent State University and others have partnered to make improvements to a nearly one-mile section of East Main Street in the City of Kent.

When complete, this reimagined stretch of East Main Street will better serve the community, including nearby low- to moderate-income residents, by:

### Improving Safety

This section of East Main is one of the most dangerous corridors in the region.

These project components and others will improve safety for **all users**:

- Midblock crosswalks with in-street crossing signs
- Transit pull-offs
- Tree-lined center boulevard
- Roundabouts



Enhanced Crossings



Since 2013

**Worst crash corridor in the City**

Since 2014

**Worst crash corridor in the region**

Compared to similar streets in Ohio, East Main Street sustained:

**30%+**

Rear-end Crashes

**10%+**

Left turn Crashes

**8%+**

Angle Crashes

**7%+**

Injuries

**3%+**

Pedestrian Crashes





## Advancing Environmental Sustainability

The reimagined East Main Street will reduce environmental impacts by supporting first- and last-mile travel and increasing multi-modal travel options with:

- Shared use path for bikes and pedestrians
- First- and last mile connections using active transportation that are linked to a multi-modal facility
- Tree lawns
- Relocated and widened sidewalks
- Electric Vehicle charging stations constructed across the Kent State University campus.

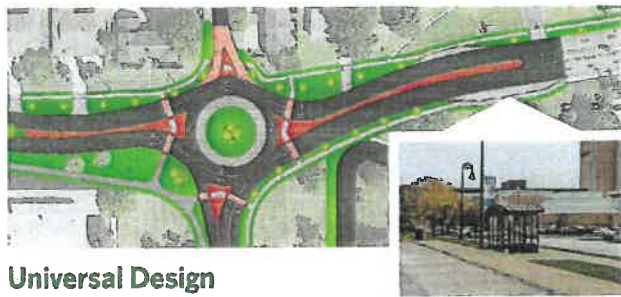


Shared-used path

## Enhancing Quality of Life

East Main Street's improvements will reduce transportation cost burdens and remove barriers to transportation, jobs, businesses and opportunities by:

- Added and enhanced bus pull-outs
- Multi-use trail
- Safer crossings
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Increased green space



Universal Design

### Timeline

#### Planning Phase →

Complete, December 2021

#### Design Phase →

January 2022-December 2024

#### Construction →

Begins 2025

## Increasing Mobility and Community Connectivity

The East Main Street corridor is flanked to the north and south by lower income residents; and more than **61% of the City of Kent is low and moderate income.** The project will increase community connections and access with:

- Improved transit connections and features, including a transit-oriented corridor that links to PARTA's Kent Central Gateway.
- Universal design features to remove barriers
- Increased access to active transportation options - walking, biking, rolling, etc.



Transit-Oriented Improvements

## Supporting Valuable Partnerships

Project funders and partners to date include:

- City of Kent
- Kent State University
- Ohio Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Program
- Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) grants - Surface Transportation Block Grant and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)
- Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority

### Funding Total \$25.5M

City of Kent \$2.22M

Kent State University \$2.22M

Highway Safety Program \$5M

Surface Transportation Block Grant \$3.6M

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement \$6M

Other Funds \$2.5M

Buses & Bus Facilities Grant \$4M



**The city of Kent is getting \$5.25 million in federal funds to help address safety concerns on East Main Street from Willow Road to Horning Road.**

LISA SCALFARO/RECORD-COURIER

## Improvements coming to East Main Street in Kent

**Derek Kreider**

Ravenna Record-Courier

USA TODAY NETWORK

Kent's vision of a redesigned and safer East Main Street is one step closer to fruition.

The city has received a \$5.25 million federal grant to address safety concerns along East Main Street from Willow Road to Horning Road.

The proposed improvements include wider sidewalks and a tree lawn on the north side of the street, shared bike and pedestrian paths on the south side of the street, and two new roundabouts. The rehabilitation of this stretch of road is projected to cost \$25.5 million total and will be paid for by the city and federal grants.

According to a report from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the project also "aims to reduce on-road emissions in the corridor by implementing traffic calming measures, improving traffic flow and encouraging non-motorized transportation."

According to the city website, the design phase of the project will be completed by 2024, and the three-year construction is projected to begin in 2025.

Since 2018, Kent has been working with the project's Citizen Advisory Committee, Kent State University, Portage Area Regional Transport Authority, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation, and Ohio Department of Transportation to undertake this rehabilitation.

Contact reporter Derek Kreider at [DKreider@Gannett.com](mailto:DKreider@Gannett.com)





1956 Chevy 4 door hard top. PHOTOS BY LISA SCALFARO/RAVENNA RECORD-COURIER

# ‘THIS IS AMAZING’

## Octane Nights on Main Street in Ravenna features 4,000+ cars

Diane Smith Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

**M**ore cars than ever before were displayed at the ninth annual Octane Nights on Main Street Cruise In — in many cases, making a slow drive down Main Street in Ravenna in search of a parking space. • Tricia Krause, owner of Mongoose Motorsports and Portage Trim and an event organizer, said she arrived for work at 7:30 a.m. the day of the car show on Wednesday, hours before the event was to begin. Already, she said, “a lot of people” had arrived, ready to park their cars.

See CARS, Page 7A



**LEFT:** Gary Marr, of Youngstown, brought his grandsons Julius Rozsa, 15, and Garrett Rozsa, 10, visiting from Germany to Octane Nights car show Wednesday in Ravenna. They are looking at a modified 1983 Chevy Malibu station wagon.  
**RIGHT:** Danica Di Vincenzo, 10, helps detail her grandfather John Obeisk's 1968 Chevy Nova at Octane Nights car show in Ravenna.

# Cars

Continued from Page 1A

By 4 p.m., all 4,000 parking spaces had been claimed, forcing a steady line of vehicles to head west on Main Street, in hopes that a parking spot had opened up. Because vehicles were only allowed to drive west on the closed street, those who hadn't found a parking spaces needed to find their way back to Cotton Corners to try their luck again.

"It's a rolling cruise," Krause said, watching the line of motorists drive slowly past her business, where dozens of car enthusiasts hand purchased VIP parking passes in advance.

Spectators were encouraged to take a trolley from Portage Area Regional Transit Authority, which picked up people at Ravenna High School or University Hospitals Portage Medical Center and dropped them off at Freedom and Main streets. However, many spectators found other parking options.

The event has grown every year since it started in 2014. Last year, the show was expanded from a quarter mile to half a mile, from Freedom Street to Cotton Corners.

Car enthusiasts reveled in the chance to show off their classic vehicles to the community. Some drove from out of state to take part in the event, while others came from within Portage County.

Sheri and Dave Saltsman of Edinburg came with both their "goats" — a blue Pontiac GTO and an 11-week-old baby goat named Lindy. While his wife took



A 1957 Buick Special with a classic Bob's Big Boy tray of a burger and milkshake at Octane Nights car show Wednesday in Ravenna.

PHOTOS BY LISA SCALFARO/RAVENNA RECORD-COURIER

delight in letting spectators pet Lindy, Dave Saltsman talked about his vehicle, called "the goat" because of its reputation beating other cars in racing.

He said he's owned the car about four years but didn't participate in the cruise in until last year.

"I think it's awesome," he said of the event. "It puts Ravenna on the map."

Bill and Cheryl Starcher of Shalersville came with a collection of Bill's sculptures, including a Komodo dragon, in the back of their 1957 Studebaker. Nearby, another trailer was parked with a collection of Starcher's other pieces

—including a mama and baby bear, a Spinosaurus and Big Foot — holding a pizza box from Siciliano's pizza.

Cheryl Starcher said she was amazed that cars were lining up at 11 a.m., three hours before the event started.

"This is amazing," she said. "We don't miss it. It's a wonderful thing."

The cruise in was founded in 2014 by Tricia Krause's late husband, Gary. The event has been held every year except 2020, when it was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Months later, Gary Krause died from COVID.

Michael Stanley of Youngstown, who



Melanie Sinkie McCavich is dressed as a police officer with a 1968 Dodge Coronet cop car at the 2023 Octane Nights car show in Ravenna.

was at the Mongoose parking lot with his dog, Harley, and his 1967 Camaro, told Tricia Krause the weather was perfect for the show.

"Your husband is smiling down on us," he said.

Tricia Krause said she was "humbled" that the show was going so well.

"There's a lot of stress leading up to it, but on the day of the show, it's all worth it," she said.

It was her third show without Gary, which she found bittersweet.

"I think he'd say, 'I knew you could do it,'" she said. "I'm sure he's smiling down on us."

Reporter Diane Smith can be reached at 330-298-1139 or [dsmith@record-pub.com](mailto:dsmith@record-pub.com).