

Agenda

1. Call to Order Oral
 - Roll Call
2. Meeting Minutes Attachment 2a
 - Minutes from July 28, 2022, Meeting (Motion Required)
3. Guest Communications (2-minute limit) Oral
4. General Manager's Report Attachment 4
5. Committee Reports Scheduled to Meet 8/25
 - a. Administration Scheduled to Meet 8/23
 - b. Finance Did Not Meet
 - c. Operations Did Not Meet
 - d. Personnel
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Resolution - Roll Call Approval Required

#2022-08-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (*PARTA*) BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (KCHD) FOR 201 EAST ERIE STREET, INCLUDING SUITE G AND SUITE E ON THE 2ND FLOOR AND GROUND FLOOR.
9. Executive Session (if needed) - Roll Call Approval Required
10. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting:

September 22, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

PARTA
PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES**

July 28, 2022

Board Members Present:

Karen Beck
Marge Bjerregaard
Richard Brockett
Jeff Childers

Debbie Davison
Virginia Harris
R. T. Mansfield
Jack Murphy

Frank Vitale
Stacey Wilson
Karen Wise
Marvin Woods

Staff Present:

Claudia Amrhein
Denise Baba

Marcia Fletcher
Justin Markey, Roetzel & Andress

Rebecca Schrader

Board Members Not Present:

Dave Gynn (1st excused absence) Mike Lewis (1st excused absence)

Guests Present:

Lorrain McCarty, Kent

Judy Nelson, Kent

Morgan Tipton

CALL TO ORDER

Temporary Presiding Officer Karen Wise called the July 28, 2022, *PARTA* Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7 p.m. and indicated this was also the Annual Meeting. She noted that she was filling in tonight in the absence of Mr. Dave Gynn and Mr. Mike Lewis. She then asked Ms. Marcia Fletcher to call the roll. After roll call, it was determined that **a quorum was participating.**

Ms. Claudia Amrhein thanked Ms. Lorrain McCarty and Ms. Judy Nelson for coming. She said they are part of the city of Kent's Sustainability Commission that conducted the greenhouse gas emission study in the Zero Emission Fleet Transition (ZEFT) Plan that was included in the Board packet. They met about a month or so ago, compared notes, talked about how the project was going, and discussed next steps.

Moving on, Ms. Wise welcomed new Board member Ms. Stacey Wilson and said the first order of business was for Ms. Amrhein to introduce her. Afterwards, Ms. Wilson would be sworn into service.

Ms. Amrhein said she was thrilled to have Ms. Wilson join the Board as a member from the city of Kent. Sadly, Ms. Morgan Tipton, who served for the previous three years, decided that it was best to not reup again. Ms. Tipton knew Ms. Wilson and recruited her. She's very interesting, has a great background, and has ridden public transit regularly to get to work in systems far larger than *PARTA*.

Ms. Wise asked Ms. Wilson if she had anything to say before she was sworn in.

Ms. Wilson thanked everyone and said she was happy to be here.

Ms. Fletcher then gave the oath of office to Ms. Wilson.

Following the oath of office, Ms. Wise thanked Ms. Tipton for her service. She said Ms. Tipton was on the Board for three tough years as some of the meetings were remote and she still managed to always bring a smile and good questions. She will be missed.

Moving on, Ms. Wise said Mr. Gynn asked her to thank Ms. Karen Beck for presiding over the May meeting and the *PARTA* staff for coordinating attendance at the RubberDucks game in lieu of the June Board meeting. It was a fun night and in the top five highlights for her so far this summer.

Moving on, Ms. Wise asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 26, 2022, meeting. **Mr. Marvin Woods** made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by **Ms. Virginia Harris**. The motion to approve the minutes, as presented, passed unanimously.

GUEST COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Wise asked the guests attending the meeting if they had any comments. Hearing none, she asked Ms. Amrhein to give the General Manager's report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Amrhein thanked Ms. Wise and said it's good to see everyone since the Board hasn't met since May. There were no resolutions, but she would have a presentation later in the meeting. Ms. McCarty and Ms. Nelson have actively been working on the city of Kent's greenhouse gas emissions status and *PARTA* is a part of that. Ms. Rebecca Schrader earlier passed out copies of the state financial audit, which once again was clean with no findings for the 20th year. Unfortunately, the three trolley buses haven't arrived yet and will not all arrive at the same time. They have been caught in the glut of parts and supply chain problems. One is very near completion though. A launch is tentatively planned for Friday, August 19, but hasn't been publicized yet. The Board will be notified if something comes together before the next meeting. Next month, the Board will be hearing about the Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued this month for transit operations software. This is a very large undertaking. *PARTA* has been with Trapeze for its primary software for about 20 years. Over the years a lot has changed and *PARTA* is committed to finding a better solution for the next 10 years or so. Now there are newer systems that are probably a better fit for *PARTA*. Trapeze is a large package used by large systems like Cleveland and New York. Once all the proposals have been vetted and scored and the best proposal selected, it will be brought to the Board in October. She concluded by saying she would be happy to answer any questions.

Hearing none, Ms. Wise thanked Ms. Amrhein and moved on to the committee reports.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Wise said the Administration Committee did not meet but the business in front of it is to seat the next slate of officers. For the last couple months, the committee has been calling for nominations or interest in serving as officers. The slate for consideration, and eventually roll call later in the meeting, is Mr. Dave Gynn for President, Mr. Mike Lewis for Vice President, and Ms. Karen Wise for Temporary Presiding Officer. For the record, she asked Ms. Fletcher if anyone else had expressed interest.

Ms. Fletcher said no one else expressed interest to her.

Ms. Wise said if anyone would like to be considered or would like to make an additional nomination, they can still do that during the election portion of the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Moving on, Ms. Wise asked Mr. Jeff Childers to give the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Childers said the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, and Ms. Schrader reported that *PARTA* was in good shape financially. KSU Revenues and Farebox & Ticket Sales were down yet there was still a surplus of \$102,996 for the month and a surplus of \$702,936 for the year. Senior staff and the General Manager continue to keep *PARTA* in good shape. The Kent Central Gateway (KCG) report was unremarkable. He congratulated Ms. Schrader on the 20 years of clean audits. There was some concern expressed about the reduction in federal funds over the next couple years. In the last three years, *PARTA* managed to collect about \$13 million in additional operating federal funds to keep the operation going. Restricted funds were doing well with almost \$6 million. There were no resolutions to consider. He referred any technical questions to Ms. Schrader.

Ms. Wise asked if there were any questions for Mr. Childers or Ms. Schrader. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Childers for filling in and giving the report.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Moving on, Ms. Wise said the Operations Committee did not meet.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Wise said the Personnel Committee did not meet.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Wise said there was no Old Business and moved on to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Wise asked Ms. Amrhein to give her presentation on the ZEFT Plan.

Ms. Amrhein presented her PowerPoint, which is attached. Following her presentation, she asked if there were any comments.

Ms. Judy Nelson thanked Ms. Amrhein for reaching out and sharing the ZEFT Plan. She said since 2017 when the nation was taken out of the Paris Accord Agreement, the city of Kent Sustainability Commission worked with City Council on a resolution to create a Climate Action Plan. The commission completed the greenhouse gas inventory and is now ready to move forward. They are excited to have partners like *PARTA*, which is critical because transportation is one of the larger greenhouse gas producers. She was excited when she read through the plan that one of the components was using Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) instead of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). RNG still makes emissions, but they are accounted for at point of production instead of at point of usage, which enables it to be a zero-emission procedure.

Ms. Amrhein asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Jack Murphy said the plan noted that RNG was almost three times cleaner than Electric Vehicles (EVs). He asked if that considered any carbon that's produced in mining and in producing batteries.

Ms. Amrhein said she believes that is included in the analysis. It's cradle to grave analysis; Clean Energy knows what regions are using coal and at what percentage. In a different part of the country, that analysis would look different because more electricity is being generated from renewable sources. This was for Ohio, which is a region where approximately 80% of electricity is produced from coal.

Mr. Richard Brockett asked if RNG would be as attractive as an EV when applying for this grant.

Ms. Amrhein said she hoped so. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines consider battery electric to be zero emission, but they've carved out low emission vehicles for 25% of the full funding so they know that not everyone can go to electric. It's a long-term process. Buses can't be replaced until they are 12 years old so the earliest PARTA could even begin to think about it would be in 2038 because some buses will be purchased in 2026.

Mr. Frank Vitale asked where the country stood with RNG.

Ms. Amrhein said according to Clean Energy, the reason they can't promise RNG until 2025 is that they are still developing methane capture sites. They must acquire contracts with cow farms, wastewater plants, and other places that produce the necessary emissions and then put the infrastructure in place. Having the letter of intent from Clean Energy, which was submitted with the grant application, is awesome. If awarded, buses will be running on RNG in 2025. To apply for a no emission vehicle, the ZEFT Plan is required. To apply for low emission vehicles, it's not required but it's a good thing to have. As buses come in, the plan will be updated.

Ms. Wise said it's good to be a part of an organization that is proactive, voluntarily looking ahead, positioning the fleet for the future, and being good environmental stewards. She pointed out the Environmental Conservation Award in the room on the back wall from the Portage Park District Foundation and said if PARTA isn't careful, it will get nominated for another one.

RESOLUTION

Moving on, Ms. Wise said there were no resolutions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Wise then moved on to the election of Board officers. Hearing no additional nominations, she asked for a motion to close the nominations.

Motion:	<u>Jeff Childers</u>	Second:	<u>R. T. Mansfield</u>	
Roll Call:	<u>Yes</u> <u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</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	<u>X</u> <u> </u>	Richard Brockett	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Stacey Wilson	<u>X</u> <u> </u>	Marge Bjerregaard	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Jack Murphy	<u>X</u> <u> </u>	Karen Beck	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Mike Lewis	<u>EXCUSED</u>	R. T. Mansfield	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Virginia Harris	<u>X</u> <u> </u>	David Gynn	<u>EXCUSED</u>	

Ms. Wise noted that the term for officers is one year effective immediately. She then asked for a motion to accept and elect the following slate of officers:

- Dave Gynn President
- Mike Lewis Vice President
- Karen Wise Temporary Presiding Officer

Motion: **Jack Murphy** **Second:** **Karen Beck**

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

Ms. Wise said this is also the time of year for committee assignments. The four committees are Administration, Finance, Operations, and Personnel. Each committee has three members.

Mr. Childers said Mr. Gynn already approached Board members about serving on committees.

Ms. Amrhein said Mr. Gynn asked that this be brought up today. She suggested emailing or calling Mr. Gynn if anyone was interested in serving on a committee.

Ms. Wise asked if committee assignments would be finalized at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Amrhein said she can't answer that because Mr. Gynn does the appointing. The Finance Committee meets every month, and she doesn't think there's any change in that committee. The other committees may change especially since Ms. Tipton served on the Administration Committee and will have to be replaced.

Moving on, Ms. Wise said the Board packet included a listing of the 2023 Board and Finance Committee meetings. Unless there is any objection, those will be published and formally adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, as needed

Hearing no objections, Ms. Wise said there was no need for an Executive Session.

Lastly, Ms. Wise asked Ms. Denise Baba to talk about the Randolph Fair.

Ms. Baba said the fair starts August 23 and runs through August 28. PARTA has been a fixture at the fair for nearly two decades and will be there again this year. Hopefully a trolley will be there but if not, one of the big buses will be there. One of the requirements of having a booth at the fair is it must be manned all day from opening day through the end of the fair. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth, particularly for the evenings and weekends. There's a sign-up sheet available and she asked Board members to check their calendars and sign up this evening for at least one shift. She said volunteers get free admission to the fair for the day they volunteer. It's a great opportunity to meet the public and talk about PARTA. No special knowledge is required - just be friendly, hand out tchotchkes, welcome people to the fair, and show the trolley/bus if anyone is interested. If someone can't make a commitment this evening, she asked them to give her a call. The shifts are two hours, and they fly by. She thanked everyone in advance for signing up.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing nothing further, Ms. Wise entertained a motion to adjourn. **Ms. Karen Beck** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Ms. Debbie Davison**. Ms. Wise asked all in favor to say aye. She asked any opposed to say no. Hearing no opposition, the **motion to adjourn passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia Fletcher
Executive Assistant

PARTA
2000 Summit Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: **PARTA Board of Trustees**

FROM: **Claudia B. Amrhein, General Manager**



DATE: **August 2022**

Committee Meetings and Resolutions. The August meeting agenda includes a resolution to accept and approve the renegotiated lease agreement with Kent City Health Department for the second floor and ground level office spaces in the Kent Central Gateway.

The finance committee will meet on **Tuesday, August 23, at 11:30 a.m.** to review July financial reports. Lunch will be provided.

The administration committee will meet at **6:30 p.m. just before the board meeting on Thursday, August 25,** to review Resolution #2022-08-01.

Presentation. The presentation portion of the August board meeting may become a trolley ride instead. With the official launch of "Polly the Trolley" occurring on Friday, August 19, at 5 p.m., we are planning to offer board members a ride on the trolley from one of its stops on Thursday, August 25. Barring unforeseen problems with running the trolley bus, we anticipate taking a bus to a stop along the Downtowner route and boarding the trolley for a loop along the route. Information about the Downtowner is included in this packet.

#2022-08-01: A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (KCHD) FOR 201 EAST ERIE STREET, INCLUDING SUITE G AND SUITE E ON THE 2ND FLOOR AND GROUND FLOOR.

Lease Agreement Finalized with KCHD. I am pleased to report that the Kent City Health Department (KCHD) intends to occupy the second floor and ground level office spaces at the Kent Central Gateway (KCG) on a long-term basis. Resolution #2022-08-01 confirms the new lease and terms and replaces the short-term agreements established in 2020 for the second-floor office spaces (Resolution #2020-01-01) and in 2021 for the ground level clinic space (Resolution #2021-01-01).

The new agreement will renew annually on April 1 for both spaces with rent determined by a consumer price index calculation. It assigns responsibility for electricity in the ground level spaces to KCHD, resolving the matter stemming from the 2021 RLB Phoenix lease dispute. The agreement provides predictable and stable rent for the foreseeable future and a reliable anchor tenant for the largest spaces at KCG.

FTA Awards PARTA \$3.2 Million in Competitive Low-No Emission Funding. I am pleased to report that FTA awarded PARTA \$3.2 million to replace five (5) legacy diesel buses in 2025. PARTA is one of only 150 transit providers in the nation selected to receive funding through the FTA's first round of [Buses and Bus Facilities](#) and [Low- and No-Emission Vehicle](#) programs under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) passed in November 2021.

The award will fund 85% of the cost for five (5) CNG buses that will launch the use of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) to fuel our CNG fleet and the vehicles that utilize the CNG fueling station. In all, FTA awarded \$1.66 billion in grants after reviewing 530 eligible project proposals totaling \$7.72 billion.

Cleveland Express Route Resumes Service. The Cleveland Express bus returns to service on Monday, August 29. The first trip of the day will leave the Kent State Student Center at 6:05 a.m. and service KCG at 6:15 a.m. Bus fare to and from Cleveland is \$5 each way. Express service on the Route 100 is available Monday through Friday with two (2) round trips daily.

The Cleveland Express had been suspended since summer of 2020. The bus will service Streetsboro on Market Square Drive. The city of Streetsboro is working with employers seeking workers to promote the route as a daily connection between Ravenna, Kent, and Streetsboro.

Randolph Fair Begins Tuesday, August 23. It's not too late to sign up as a volunteer at this year's county fair. Volunteers fill two-hour slots and receive a free all-day pass. Contact Denise at 330-678-7745 for more information.

Service Reports. Ridership. (*Coronavirus closures began March 2020*). Total county fixed route and DART ridership increased by 19.82% through July, as compared to July 2021 with total county service performing 127,588 trips as compared to 106,485 trips performed through July 2021.

County fixed route service increased by approximately 22.70% as compared to last year, with 102,635 trips completed through July as compared to 83,647 trips completed through July 2021.

DART service increased by 9.26% through July as compared to July 2021, with 24,953 trips completed as compared to 22,838 trips completed through July 2021.

Overall ridership, including campus service, increased by 107.75%, with campus up by 497.97%. Total system ridership totaled 278,038 as compared to 133,833 through July 2021.

On-Time Compliance. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service. ADA on-time compliance was 97.42% in July as compared to 97.82% in June 2022. Of the 698 trips, 18 were performed late, with the latest running 18 minutes behind due to the route being overbooked as rides were scheduled. There was not enough time between trips.

General Public (non-ADA) DART. On-time performance for general public, non-ADA trips decreased to 92% for July, as compared to 98% in June 2022.

Vehicle Preventative Maintenance (PM). On-time compliance with established PM inspection schedules was 100% in July as compared to 100% in June 2022.

Parking Deck. The number of cars utilizing the deck increased by 1% in July as compared to June, with 8,009 cars in July 2022 as compared to 7,762 in June 2021. Parking totals increased by 31.8% year-to-date as compared to July 2021, with 58,531 parkers thus far in 2022 as compared to 44,416 parkers through July 2021.

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.

PARTA brings nostalgic charm to Portage County with Polly the Trolley and our Downtowner Route! Park at the Kent Central Gateway and receive a free day pass to ride Polly the Trolley to local entertainment destinations!

The Downtowner Route operates Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays starting at 4:30 pm. Park at the Kent Central Gateway and ride the Downtowner route to your favorite restaurant, breweries, and entertainment locations along the route.

The Downtowner Thursday-Saturday Operates 4:30PM-11:09PM	Kent Central Gateway North Bay 4	Ashton & Campus Pointe (Office)	Summit & Willow	Kent Marc's	Franklin & Hall	Water & Main	Kent Central Gateway North Bay 4
	4:30	4:36	4:42	4:48	4:58	5:00	5:09
	5:10	5:16	5:22	5:28	5:38	5:40	5:49
	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:18	6:20	6:29
	6:30	6:36	6:42	6:48	6:58	7:00	7:09
	7:10	7:16	7:22	7:28	7:38	7:40	7:49
	7:50	7:56	8:02	8:08	8:18	8:20	8:29
	8:30	8:36	8:42	8:48	8:58	9:00	9:09
	9:10	9:16	9:22	9:28	9:38	9:40	9:49
	9:50	9:56	10:02	10:08	10:18	10:20	10:29
10:30	10:36	10:42	10:48	10:58	11:00	11:09	

POLLY THE TROLLEY

PARK & RIDE

Park at the Kent Central Gateway & ride Polly the Trolley to all your downtown destinations.



Show your KCG Parking ticket at the Ticket window to receive (1) FREE all-day ride pass*.

**One free all-day pass per parking ticket. Valid only for the date of arrival.*

PLUS, from August 25, 2022 – October 8, 2022, show your KCG Parking Ticket at the businesses below to receive a special promotion!



Bell Tower Brewing:
North Water Brewing:
Kent Lanes/ 11th Frame:
MovieScoop Kent Plaza Cinema:
Outrage Rage Room:

Receive 15 % off Food , Beer & Apparel
Receive \$1.00 off your first Draft Beer
Free appetizer w/ purchase of 2 entrees
Free large popcorn with ticket purchase
Free 12pk bottles w/purchase of package



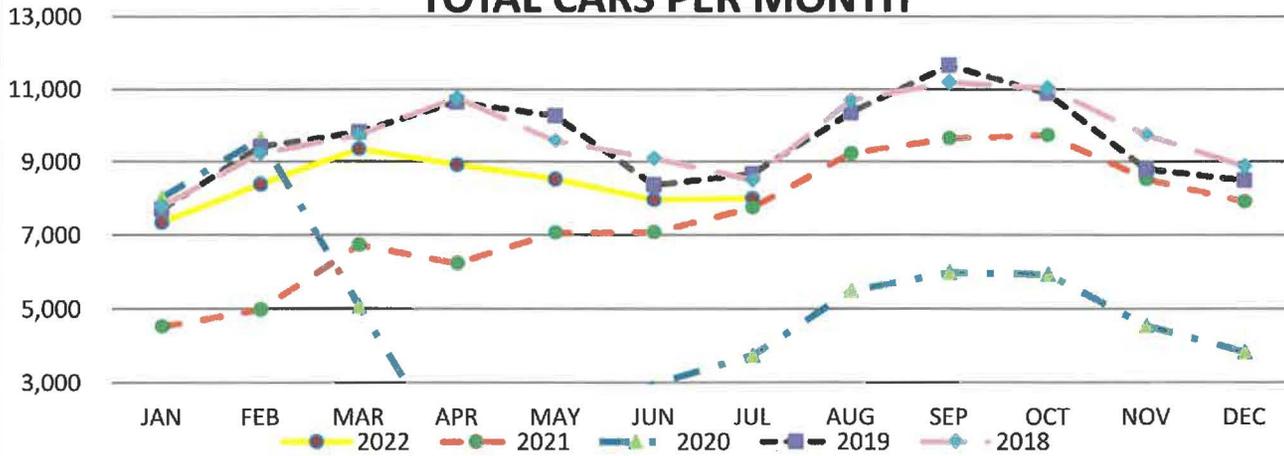
KENT CENTRAL GATEWAY PARKING SUMMARY - July 2022

6 Month Lookback						
	Monthly	Transient	Total	Cars/Day	Last	Last Year
Feb-22	4,331	4,060	8,391	300	14%	68%
Mar-22	4,665	4,698	9,363	302	12%	39%
Apr-22	4,296	4,627	8,923	297	-5%	43%
May-22	3,878	4,651	8,529	275	-4%	21%
Jun-22	3,057	4,910	7,967	266	-7%	12%
Jul-22	2,921	5,088	8,009	258	1%	3%

Annual Comparison

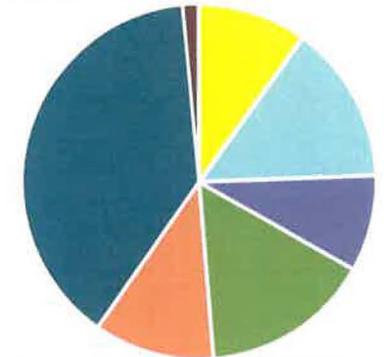
	2022	2021	2020
JAN	7,349	4,534	8,024
FEB	8,391	4,982	9,642
MAR	9,363	6,738	5,082
APR	8,923	6,249	785
MAY	8,529	7,067	1,535
JUN	7,967	7,084	2,961
JUL	8,009	7,762	3,730
AUG		9,248	5,502
SEP		9,665	5,996
OCT		9,749	5,938
NOV		8,538	4,538
DEC		7,919	3,828
TOTAL	58,531	89,535	57,561
	31.8%	55.5%	

TOTAL CARS PER MONTH

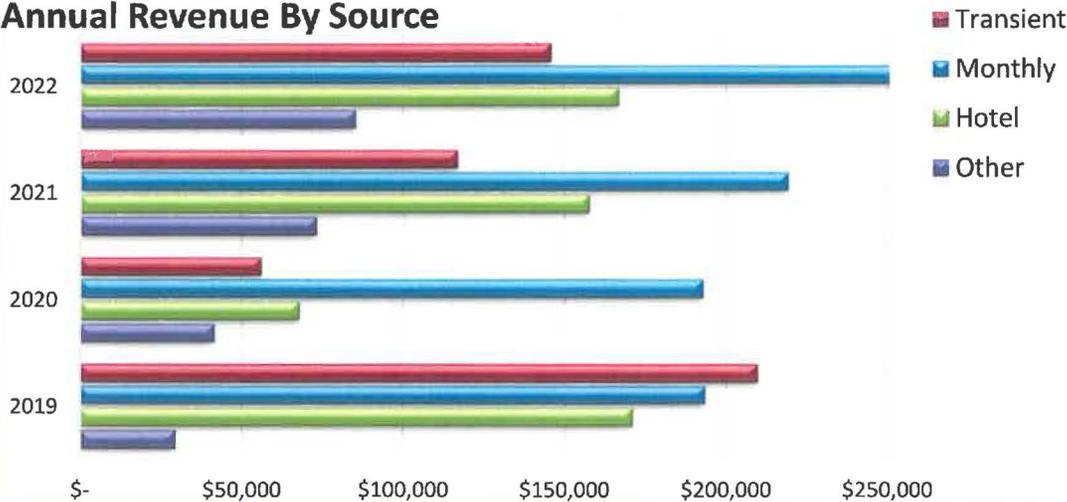


Rate Types Collected

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

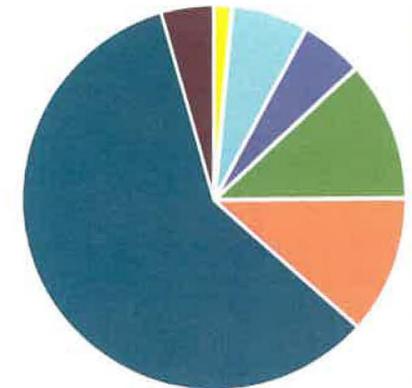


Annual Revenue By Source



\$ Rate Types Collected

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



RESOLUTION #2022-08-01

A RESOLUTION BY THE PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PARTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE KENT CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (KCHD) FOR 201 EAST ERIE STREET, INCLUDING SUITE G AND SUITE E ON THE 2ND FLOOR AND GROUND FLOOR.

WHEREAS, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) constructed, owns, and operates the Kent Central Gateway (KCG) Multimodal Facility at 201 East Erie Street, Kent, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, PARTA established a 10-year lease agreement with the Kent City Health Department (KCHD) in August 2020; and

WHEREAS, KCHD was in need of additional space to support COVID-19 vaccination clinic space in 2021 and potentially for a longer term; and

WHEREAS, the ground level retail spaces formerly occupied by Cutler Realty/Group Ten Gallery were vacant and provided 2,200 square feet of usable space for public health clinics; and

WHEREAS, PARTA and KCHD amended the lease agreement in May 2021 increasing the annual base rent, adding a maintenance fee, and adding additional space known as Suite E; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to enter into a more permanent lease agreement for 201 East Erie Street, including Suite G and Suite E on the 2nd floor and ground floor, on a year-to-year basis commencing July 1, 2022, and ending in 2028; and

WHEREAS, consistent with FTA regulations, this lease agreement will not disrupt PARTA's public transportation services, will not interfere with the intended purpose of the multimodal facility, and will ensure that PARTA, as lessor, shall maintain satisfactory continuing control of the property during the term of use by KCHD.

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

The lease agreement commencing July 1, 2022, and ending in 2028 between the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) and the Kent City Health Department (KCHD) for 201 East Erie Street, including Suite G and Suite E on the 2nd floor and ground floor, on a year-to-year basis is hereby approved and accepted.

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 on August 25, 2022.

Date

David Gynn, President
Board of Trustees

Attested

OPINION

Polly the Trolley coming to historic downtowns in Portage



Along the Way

David E. Dix
Columnist

The architecturally late 19th and early 20th century downtowns of Kent and Ravenna and the nostalgic feel they offer will soon be complemented by a pilot project to launch the first of three new trolley buses, innovations about to be introduced by PARTA, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority.

Claudia Amrhein, general manager and CEO of PARTA, speaking to Kent Rotarians last Tuesday, described the new trolley streetcars, each dubbed Polly the Trolley, as a fleet of transit vehicles that adhere to the rigor of modern standards, but incorporate the look of the early 20th century, a time when streetcars on rails connected downtowns throughout Northeast Ohio when automobiles were prohibitively expensive and mass transit was a practical necessity.

Amrhein said the first of seven trolleys is currently being built by Hometown Manufacturing in Crandon, Wisconsin. It and two more trolleys are scheduled for delivery this year. Four more will join the PARTA fleet next year.

The trolleys, she said, will have a historically authentic look and the feel

of the earlier streetcar era and yet benefit from modern improvements: air-conditioning, ADA compliance and easy access, as well as modern propulsion systems that provide the environmentally green alternatives of compressed natural gas, hybrid electric or clean diesel.

The trolley interiors, reflecting earlier times, will have handcrafted wooden seating and paneling along the walls and ceilings with removable window panels that offer open air riding in nice weather.

The nostalgic looking trolleys initially will operate on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings along a Downtowner Route, a pilot project and rebranding of PARTA's existing Suburban 40 and 45 fixed routes to connect entertainment venues around Kent. As more trolleys arrive, they will operate along other regular fixed routes, such as the Interurban route that has historically run through Ravenna to Kent and Stow.

Rider fares will be innovative and affordable also, equal to the fare charged to ride other fixed routes. An all-day pass will cost \$2 and a one-way trip \$1. Those who use the Kent Central Gateway can turn in their parking voucher to receive one free all-day Polly the Trolley pass.

Predictably, downtown stores and services are responding favorably to the introduction of the charming, historical-looking trolleys. "They say it will add to the downtown experience," Amrhein said.

"PARTA is excited to be able to introduce the nostalgic charm of trolley buses that evoke memories of days gone by as we all work to restore healthy economies and vital communities," she said. "Trolleys are fun and attract people to local venues."

The Federal Transit Administration awarded PARTA grant funding to support 80 percent of the \$625,000 cost for each new hand-built trolley, slightly more than a traditional transit bus. They are built to last a minimum of 12 years, which Amrhein says, is the depreciation schedule PARTA vehicles operate on.

PARTA, funded by a one-quarter of a percent sales and use tax, federal and state transportation grants, revenue service grants, and rider fees, was organized in 1975 as an Ohio regional transit authority. In addition to fixed bus route service, PARTA provides on-call, scheduled transportation throughout Portage County helping people commute to work or reach essential destinations, such as dialysis treatments, medical services, community activities, and grocery stores. Its operating budget this year is approximately \$10 million.

PARTA in 2009, working with the city of Kent, Kent State University and the offices of U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, obtained a \$20 million TIGER grant that with a \$4 million grant from the city enabled the construction of the multi-storied parking deck, the Kent Central Gateway that has been key to downtown Kent's revival.

Record Courier Aug. 11, 2022

Federal funding announced for PARTA buses

Staff report

[View Comments](#)

The Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority is getting \$3.2 million in federal money to replace five older diesel buses with more environmentally friendly vehicles.

The funds are coming from the Low-No Emissions Bus and Bus Facilities Program administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

PARTA plans to use the money in 2025 to buy five environmentally friendly CNG (compressed natural gas) buses that use renewable natural gas, General Manager and CEO Claudia Amrhein said in a press release.

Renewable natural gas is captured and derived from methane-causing organic material, such as food or farm waste, and turned into a clean-burning fuel.

The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program makes federal resources available to states and others to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment, as well as for bus-related facilities

In March, the Federal Transit Administration announced about \$409.3 million in grants to 70 projects in 39 states to improve the safety and reliability of America's bus systems.

“Public transportation helps Ohioans get to school, work, the grocery store, and everywhere in between. It is a vital component of our communities,” said Rep. Tim Ryan, (D-Niles). “I am proud of the work PARTA does in providing seniors, people with disabilities and Kent State University students with the transportation they need. I will always work hard to provide the necessary funding to ensure that dependable public transportation is available for all.”

Portman Announces Over \$32 Million to Modernize Ohio's Bus Fleets and Facilities

August 11, 2022 | Press Releases

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) applauded the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announcement that \$32.3 million in grants have been made available to help modernize Ohio's bus fleets and facilities by helping transit agencies purchase or lease low- or no- emission vehicles.

"This is great news for Ohio. Thanks to the bipartisan infrastructure law, these additional funds will help transit authorities all around Ohio improve their bus fleets – leading to not only lower carbon emissions nationwide, but also good-paying jobs and better transportation," **said Portman.**

The FTA investments announced today include:

1. Stark Area Regional Transit Authority will receive \$2.4 million for low and no emissions vehicles replacement and the construction of an on-site hydrogen production facility.
2. Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) will receive \$3.2 million for their 2025 CNG Replacement Bus Buy: Near-Zero Technology fueled with Renewable Natural Gas.
3. Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) will receive \$26.7 million for their FY 2022 Low-No Emissions: Replace Diesel Buses with Battery Electric Buses & Charging Infrastructure

The [Low or No Emission \(Low-No\) Grant Program](#) provides funding to state and local governments to purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities such as recharging, refueling, and maintenance facilities. A minimum 25 percent of the awards must go toward low emission projects other than zero emission/electric vehicles and related facilities. The bipartisan infrastructure law provides \$5.5 billion over five years for the Low-No Program — more than 10 times greater than the previous five years of funding. For FY 2022, approximately \$1.1 billion will be available for grants under this program.

NOTE: In May, Portman sent letters to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg in support of [PARTA](#) and [COTA](#)'s application for the Low or No Emission grant.

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PORTAGE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Trolley buses added to fleet; ribbon-cutting set for Friday

Ravenna Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

Patrons of downtown Kent businesses soon will have a new way to get around the area while traveling back in time.

Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m. Friday to introduce trolley buses to its fleet.

The event will take place at on East Eric Street, adjacent to the Kent Central Gateway Transit Center in downtown Kent. Free trolley rides on PARTA's pilot Downtowner route will be available after the ceremony, which is open to the public.

"We're really excited to bring trolley buses to Portage County," said PARTA General Manager Claudia Amrhein. "We expect the trolleys to attract new riders and enhance the transit experience for those who regularly use our service."

Initially, the trolley buses will operate Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings on PARTA's pilot Downtowner route, a modification and rebranding of the existing Suburban fixed route.

The pilot is designed to allow patrons to park at the Kent Central Gateway parking deck and use the trolley to access local restaurants, breweries and

See TROLLEYS, Page 3A

Trolleys

Continued from Page 1A

other entertainment destinations where parking may be limited.

Each car parked at the deck will be entitled to one free day pass to ride the trolley. Additional single ride and day passes can be purchased in the transit center's lobby. Single ride passes cost \$1, and a day pass can be purchased for \$2.

PARTA's new trolley buses feature the sound of authentic trolley bells, real wood paneled walls and ceilings, hand-crafted wooden seats, and removable window panels for open air riding, weather permitting.

Although they look old fashioned, PARTA's new trolley buses are built to withstand the demands of modern transit service. The trolleys are compliant with access standards for the dis-



Historic-looking trolleys are joining the PARTA fleet in Portage County. The service kicks off Friday. PROVIDED

abled, offer air conditioning and are powered by low-emission Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel.

PARTA will place three trolley buses into service this year and expects to take delivery of four more trolley buses in 2023-24

\$3.2 million in federal funds to go toward replacing buses

Ravenna Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority is getting \$3.2 million in federal money to replace five older diesel buses with more environmentally friendly vehicles.

The funds are coming from the Low-No Emissions Bus and Bus Facilities Program administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

PARTA plans to use the money in 2025 to buy five environmentally friendly CNG (compressed natural gas) buses that use renewable natural gas, General Manager and CEO Claudia Amrhein said in a press release.

Renewable natural gas is captured and derived from methane-causing organic material, such as food or farm waste, and turned into a clean-burning fuel.

The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program makes federal resources available to states and others to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment, as well as for bus-related facilities

In March, the Federal Transit Administration announced about \$409.3 million in grants to 70 projects in 39 states to improve the safety and reliability of America's bus systems.

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Funding

Continued from Page 1A

“Public transportation helps Ohioans get to school, work, the grocery store, and everywhere in between. It is a vital component of our communities,” said Rep. Tim Ryan, (D-Niles). “I am proud of the work PARTA does in providing seniors, people with disabilities and Kent State University students with the transportation they need. I will always work hard to provide the necessary funding to ensure that dependable public transportation is available for all.”



A PARTA bus leaves the Kent Central Gateway. PARTA is getting \$3.2 million in federal money to replace five older diesel buses with more environmentally friendly vehicles.

LISA SCALFARO/RECORD-COURIER

The Portager

Today is Aug. 17, 2022.

- **PARTA** will soon replace five diesel buses with more eco-friendly models that use compressed natural gas. The \$3.2 million in funding for the replacement comes from the Low-No Emissions Bus and Bus Facilities Program administered by the **Federal Transit Administration**.