

PRESS RELEASE

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COTA breaks ground on CMAX BRT line

Construction begins on COTA's first bus rapid transit line

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) hosted a groundbreaking celebration for their CMAX Cleveland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line.

The celebration, held at Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center, included remarks from community leaders, and a ceremonial groundbreaking at the future location of a CMAX BRT station.

"We're pleased to celebrate construction of CMAX, central Ohio's first bus rapid transit line," said W. Curtis Stitt, COTA President/CEO. "The high frequency service with improved travel times and upgraded customer amenities will enhance access to jobs, education and training opportunities, healthcare and other services in our community. CMAX will not only improve transportation in central Ohio, it has the potential to change lives."



Launching in 2018, COTA's first Bus Rapid Transit line, CMAX, will connect more than 211,000 residents and 170,000 workers along Cleveland Avenue to jobs, healthcare and educational resources and encourage economic development in the corridor. The 15.6-mile route will serve customers every 10 minutes between Downtown Columbus and SR-161 during rush hours, with service to Polaris Parkway/Africa Road every 30 minutes.

For more information about COTA's CMAX, visit www.cota.com/brt.

Attached Image

COTA CMAX Groundbreaking Event: (pictured left to right) **William Murdock**, Executive Director, MORPC; **Kathy Cocuzzi**, Mayor, City of Westerville; **Dave Norstrom**, COTA Board of Trustees; **Jim Schimmer**, Franklin County Economic Development & Planning Department; **The Honorable Joyce Beatty**, U.S. Congresswoman, 3rd District of Ohio; **W. Curtis Stitt**, President/CEO, COTA; State Representative **David Leland**; **Emmanuel Remy**, Chair, Northland Community Council; **Marisol Simon**, Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration; **The Honorable Shannon Hardin**, Councilmember, Columbus City Council; **Jennifer Gallagher**, City of Columbus; and **Dr. Milton Ruffin**, Principal, Fort Hayes Education Center.

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The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) is the regional public transit provider for greater Columbus and central Ohio. With a service area of 1.2 million residents, COTA employs more than 950 people, and provided more than 19 million passenger trips in 2015. COTA operates throughout Franklin County, and parts of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking and Union counties. For more information about COTA, visit COTA.com or call (614) 228-1776.



To request this information in an alternative format, call (614) 228-1776.