

COTA Hosting CMAX Community Celebration This Saturday at Linden STEM Academy

COLUMBUS, OH—This Sat., Jan. 6, the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) will host a Community Celebration at Linden STEM Academy in honor of the launch of CMAX. CMAX is a high-frequency, limited-stop service along Cleveland Avenue that launched on Jan. 1.

CMAX Community Celebration

Sat., Jan. 6, 2018

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Linden STEM Academy

2626 Cleveland Avenue

Columbus, OH 43211

Free and open to the public



The free event is open to the public and will feature family-friendly activities, access to community resources, music from Radio One, raffles, giveaways, food and more! Brief remarks will be given at 12 p.m.

Visit with community organizations, including the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus Urban League, IMPACT Community Action, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Action for Children, Smart Columbus, Franklin County Job & Family Services, City of Columbus Mobile City Hall, Columbus Fire Department, Dress for Success, Celebrate One, City Year and more!

COTA is offering free fares on CMAX through Sun., Jan. 7, so take advantage and ride CMAX to the event!

About CMAX

CMAX is the first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line in central Ohio. The 15.6-mile route transports riders along Cleveland Avenue between downtown Columbus and the Ohio Health Westerville Medical Campus at Polaris Parkway and Africa Road. CMAX provides high-frequency, limited-stop service between downtown Columbus and SR-161, and enhanced local bus service between SR-161 and Polaris Parkway and Africa Road.

CMAX provides an advanced transit option in one of COTA's busiest corridors. The service combines convenience, reliability and technology to get customers where they need to go quickly. CMAX features: free on-board Wi-Fi; USB charging ports on buses; enhanced passenger stations with real-time information screens; and buses that sync with traffic signals to stay on time.

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CMAX represents a \$48.6 million investment in central Ohio. COTA leveraged \$11.2 million in local funds to attract \$37.45 million from the Federal Transit Administration to fund CMAX. COTA purchased 15 specially-branded BRT coaches that are powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for the service. The project also included the construction of more than 60 enhanced passenger stations, the new Northland Transit Center, and a new Northern Lights Park & Ride that will open later in 2018. More than 30 of the stations on the CMAX line feature artwork produced by local artists.

The project, which has been in development since 2010, is designed to serve as a catalyst for economic and community development in the Cleveland Avenue corridor. CMAX will link more than 211,000 residents and 170,000 employees to jobs, healthcare and educational resources. The success of CMAX will lay the groundwork for future transit development throughout our growing region.

For more information about CMAX, visit COTA.com/CMAX.

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Photo: CMAX at COTA's new Northland Transit Center

Credit: Emma Parker Photography

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 provides more than 18 million passenger trips per year, and employs more than 1,000 people. 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.