



SARTA

STARK AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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PRESS RELEASE

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*** For Immediate Release ***

SARTA to Provide Free Rides on Valentine's Day

Transit authority celebrates state's OHIO LOVES TRANSIT effort promoting the use of Public Transit

Canton, Ohio – The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) today announced it will provide free rides Friday, Feb. 14, on fixed route services only (Cleveland Rt. 4 not included). The initiative is part of the statewide *OHIO LOVES TRANSIT* campaign.

This year, SARTA and the Canton Charge partnered up to use Ohio Love Transit Week to showcase just how important public transit is to Stark County. On Wednesday, as part of the partnership, "Pozzie", the Canton Charge mascot, utilized SARTA's new mobile ticketing app, EZFare, and several fixed routes to learn about SARTA and just what the service means to the community. Throughout the day, "Pozzie" and his Canton Charge team visited businesses, Transit Centers and popular destinations for riders in Stark County.

Thousands of Stark County residents rely on SARTA each day to provide rides to work, school, medical appointments and other important destinations.

"Many Stark County residents depend on SARTA to provide consistent and reliable transportation," said Kirt Conrad, SARTA executive director. "Without public transit services, many Ohioans would not have access to work, school, medical care and much more. SARTA proudly provides services and programs that encourage an independent, happy and healthy lifestyle for all those in Stark County."

Over 3 million Ohioans rely on public transportation every weekday—primarily for work trips—as they take advantage of safe, affordable transportation services. Public Transit allows mobility independence for veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, commuters, and students.

SARTA is able to:

- Provide more than 2.5 million rides annually
- Provide more than 160,000 Proline rides to disabled residents each year
- Provide approximately 5,000 rides to work each day

- Provide nearly 10,000 free rides to veterans to the Cleveland VA Clinic yearly
- Operate over 30 fixed routes daily
- Employ more than 200 people

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The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) was established in 1997 to meet the public transportation needs of Stark County, Ohio residents. SARTA provides more than 2.5 million rides annually to commuters, seniors, individuals with disabilities, students, and veterans through the system's fixed routes, Proline, MedLine, veterans, and campus bus services.

Along with providing safe, reliable, affordable transportation to destinations in Stark and beyond, SARTA is a nationally-recognized leader in the use of transit technology. Receiving numerous awards for its clean energy initiatives which include the acquisition and deployment of one of the world's largest fleets of hydrogen fuel-powered buses. To learn more, please visit sartaonline.com or contact Latrice Virola by phone at 330-477-2782 x511 or via email at lvirola@sartaonline.com.