



Congressman
Dennis J. Kucinich
Ohio's 10th Congressional District

kucinich.house.gov

July 24, 2009

Mr. Joseph A. Calabrese
General Manager
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1331

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

I strongly oppose the service cuts the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is proposing without further involvement of the people who will be most affected.

Many people depend on the Circulator buses and several of the bus lines slated for elimination or curtailment. While there may be room to cut some of the Circulator lines with very little passenger use and high costs-per-passenger, other lines are widely used with quite low costs-per-passenger.

The people of Northeast Ohio also deserve a public explanation of the justification for the elimination of such important bus lines at the same time that RTA is enjoying new subsidies in taxpayer-funded programs such as the Euclid Corridor. Just today I received word from the U.S. Department of Transportation that the Federal Transit Administration is lavishing \$23.4 million on new RTA projects such as transit centers, paratransit vehicles, bus-rapid transit systems, and rail crossing upgrades. Considered in isolation, these capital improvements may be good for our region. However, without adequate utilization, new capital programs will soon gather dust as will the expensive Circulator buses once eliminated from RTA's fleet.

While RTA held public meetings last year, the proposed cuts are for this year. The people of Northeast Ohio, who pay for RTA with their fares and tax dollars, are entitled to an explanation this year. I strongly recommend that RTA hold public meetings throughout its service area to explain its intentions before a single line is cut or eliminated.

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