

Innovation and Collaboration Highlighted at COTA's Annual Luncheon

Transportation for America Official Delivers Keynote Address

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, more than 500 community stakeholders attended the Central Ohio Transit Authority's (COTA) 2017 Annual Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The event, themed, "It's A Journey...Not Just A Ride: Smart Technology Driving Public Transportation," advanced the conversation about Columbus as a Smart City, the opportunities for innovation in public transportation, and its potential impact on economic growth and the greater community.

W. Curtis Stitt, COTA president/CEO, reflected on COTA's major initiatives, and spoke about how technology will move COTA and our community forward in the coming years.

"COTA is embracing technology to improve public transportation and make it more convenient and attractive," Stitt said. "Our call to action today is to think and act boldly. Let's look beyond simply using technology to build a modern high capacity system, and use technology to ensure that every job is accessible to every resident and every neighborhood in our service area is well connected to our entire community."

Beth Osborne, Vice President for Technical Assistance and Senior Policy Advisor at Transportation for America, delivered the keynote address. Osborne leads Transportation for America's technical assistance for state and local departments of transportation and is a senior advisor for Transportation for America. She previously served at the U.S. Department of Transportation as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.

During Osborne's keynote address, she shared that political, business and civic leadership must work together to build high-quality transportation projects that help make great places.

"Success requires a clear vision, strong leadership from across your community, investment in high quality transit, coordination with development, and creative funding," Osborne stated.

The Annual Luncheon is COTA's signature event where community leaders, business partners, and those passionate about transit come together to hear national trends, local action and future plans related to public transportation.

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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 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.



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