

## COTA named Grand Champion at the 2015 APTA International Bus Roadeo

**COLUMBUS**—On Tues., May 5, the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) was named Grand Champion at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual International Bus Roadeo, an event that highlights the best bus operators and bus maintenance teams in North America.

The Grand Champion Award recognizes the transit system with the highest combined bus operator and maintenance team score. COTA staff members who competed in the event include Bus Operator **Howard Yoder**, and Vehicle Maintenance Team members **Tom Belcher**, **Don Readnour** and **Steve Woods**.

“We’re thrilled COTA was named Grand Champion at the International Bus Roadeo,” said Curtis Stitt, COTA President/CEO. “I congratulate our talented team members who competed and won this well-deserved honor. We have the best employees in the industry working at COTA, and this award is a testament to that.”

The 2015 International Bus Roadeo was held in conjunction with the American Public Transportation Association’s (APTA) Bus and Paratransit Conference in Fort Worth, TX this week. The event is comprised of bus operators and mechanics from public transit systems across North America who participate in competitions that showcase their skills in safe driving and vehicle maintenance. The Operator Competition includes events such as judgment stops, turning and clearing obstacles. The Maintenance Competition requires skills in the identification of defects in engine, transmission, brake and HVAC modules.



“Our industry has highlighted the best of the best of talented drivers and maintenance professionals over the past 40 years and this year’s winners are shining examples that continue that legacy,” said APTA President and CEO Michael Melaniphy. “I appreciate all the work these professionals put into maintaining and operating a safe and reliable fleet day in and day out. Thanks to all who competed and congratulations to the winners.”

Yoder took second place in the 35-foot bus competition, a category with 20 competitors. Thirty-five teams competed in the Maintenance Competition, and COTA’s team placed first in the HVAC category.

Local bus roadeo competitions are held throughout North America to select the competitors in this prestigious competition. COTA’s local qualifying competition was held June 7, 2014. The operator and maintenance team members who competed at the 2015 International Bus Roadeo were awarded first place at the local event.

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**Image:** Roadeo Grand Champion 2015

**Caption:** Representatives of the Central Ohio Transit Authority accept the Grand Champion Award at the 2015 International Bus Roadeo.



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