
Funding for COTA's CMAX Bus Rapid Transit Approved by Congress

COLUMBUS, OH—The Central Ohio Transit Authority's (COTA) Cleveland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, called CMAX, has received federal funding. On Fri., Dec. 18, Congress approved the Fiscal Year 2016 omnibus appropriations bill, and sent it to President Barack Obama, who is expected to sign it in to law. The bill includes \$38 million in funding for the CMAX.

"We are pleased that funding for COTA's CMAX Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) has been included in the transportation appropriations bill," said Curtis Stitt, COTA President/CEO. "This first of its kind transit technology in central Ohio will provide a significant improvement to our transportation system while connecting people to jobs and stimulating economic development."

A grant agreement between COTA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is expected to be executed in spring 2016.

The final design phase of the CMAX project was recently completed. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2016, and service is projected to start in September 2017.

About the CMAX

CMAX, the first BRT line in central Ohio, will transport riders between downtown Columbus north on Cleveland Avenue to the Ohio Health Medical Center at Polaris Parkway/Africa Road. The project includes high-frequency, limited stop service between downtown Columbus and SR-161 (10.3 mi.) and Enhanced Local Bus service. Riders will enjoy an estimated 21 percent travel time savings over current Line 1 service. COTA expects a projected 15-20 percent increase in ridership in this corridor over the first five years of operation.

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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 19 million passenger trips per year, and employs more than 950 people. COTA operates throughout Franklin County, and parts of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking and Union counties. For more information about COTA, visit www.cota.com or call (614) 228-1776.



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